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THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2014

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75 CENTS

Lawrence Bros. expands into WF, Amarillo

By Wayne Hodgins
The Knox County News-Courier

Sweetwater-based Lawrence Brothers is scheduled to open a new store in Wichita Falls and Amarillo later this month, capitalizing on a stipulation a federal agency placed on two of its competitors before allowing their merger last fall.

Documents recently released by the Federal Trade Commission reveal the Albertsons supermarket company paid \$385 million to buy the 51 United Supermarket locations in North and West Texas, including those properties in Post and Childress.

When the proposed merger of the two companies was filed, federal overseers re-

sponded in a complaint filed by the FTC that the merger would reduce supermarket competition in Wichita Falls, where both Albertsons and United Supermarkets are located.

To pursue the acquisition of the United stores, Albertsons agreed to sell its existing store in Wichita Falls to Lawrence Brothers. The Amarillo Albertson's store also was acquired by Lawrence Brothers.

Albertsons also agreed to not interfere with the potential employment of current Albertson's stores employees by Lawrence Brothers or make counter offers of employment to workers who have been offered employment by Lawrence Brothers.

See **LAWRENCE**, Page 8



Geoffrey Baumgartner/The News-Courier

Lawrence Brothers supermarket will gain two new stores from the Albertson's-United merger announced last fall. Because federal authorities said the merger would leave a lack of competition in the Amarillo and Wichita Falls markets that could drive up food costs, Albertson's sold properties in those two markets to Sweetwater-based Lawrence Brothers. The chain's two newest and likely largest stores will join the fleet of others in West Texas, including this one in Knox City and its sister store in Munday, and eastern New Mexico.

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 kcnescourier@gmail.com.

Taxpayer Clinic

Students at the Texas Tech School of Law conduct free clinic for low-income taxpayers throughout the year to assist them with federal tax issues related to individual tax matters. Eligibility is determined by the federal poverty guidelines. For information or schedule an appointment, call Nancy Mojica at 806-834-7972 or 800-420-8037.

Military exhibit

New military warplane exhibit at the Garza Museum commemorates the 72nd anniversary of the 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor. Purple Heart recipient Patrick Reilly donated the 154-airplane exhibit to the museum. For information, call 495-2207

O.S. Museum

Beautiful and unusual Nativities and Crèches are the stars of the "Reflections of Christmas" exhibit on display at the O.S. Museum. Viewing hours are 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For information, call 495-3570.

Wichita-Brazos Museum

The Wichita-Brazos Museum and Cultural Center, 200 E. Hays, Benjamin, houses much of Knox County's colorful history. The museum, open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, exhibits feature a barbed-wire collection and other relics of early settlers. For information, call 940-459-2229.

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.

Veteran's benefits

Wartime veterans or surviving spouses may be entitled to monthly income from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. For information, contact Marsha Mahurin at West Texas Senior Resources at 806-781-3901 or email marsha.mahurin@yahoo.com.

Corrections

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

News on the go



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Knox County News-Courier
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Volume 36 No. 23
USPS 439-620



Jason Woodward/Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

After pollination, peanut flowers form a peg that rapidly grows downward and buries itself in the soil.

Despite drought, peanut yields a little above average

By Robert Burns
Special to the News-Courier

With about 120,000 to 125,000 acres harvested, and about average yields, this year's peanut crop is certainly much better than it has been the past few growing seasons, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

"Starting off, it was geared to be an above-average year, but I feel a rough August cost us a little bit of yield," said Jason Woodward, AgriLife Extension plant pathologist and statewide peanut specialist, Lubbock.

Peanuts require a lot of water, as much as 2 feet per acre, much of which usually comes from irrigation, he said. But given pumping costs and water table levels and the need for higher quality, growers also rely on rainfall to supplement irrigation, and August was drier and hotter than normal.

Still, Woodward expects yields to be in the range of 3,800 to 4,200 pounds per acre.

See **YIELDS**, Page 8



Geoffrey Baumgartner/The News-Courier

Mogulettes Kaylan Urbanczyk, Tatum Bufkin, Maria Vega, Raci Dillard, Mayte Torres, Rylie Decker, and Kimberly Shahan.

Mogulettes selected for All-District teams

The Knox County News-Courier

MUNDAY — Certain Munday Mogulettes have been selected for All-District first and second teams, MVP's and academic honors.

Last month several of coach Kim Kuehler's volleyball girls' statistical and academic performances qualified them to be honored by the district- for both their volleyball play and their high grades.

The District 6A Volleyball honors were Kaylan Urbanczyk as senior Co-MVP, Maria Vega as junior Defensive MVP and Raci Dillard as junior Offensive MVP. Tatum Bufkin was named senior Outstanding Setter for the third consecutive year. Seniors Mayte Torres and Rylie Decker qualified for the All-District first team while sophomore Kimberly Shahan made the All-District second team.

The Academic All District Mogulettes were Tatum Bufkin, Rylie Decker, Raci Dillard, Kimberly Shahan, Kaylan Urbanczyk, and Ana Vega.

Geoffrey Baumgartner

Living nativity



Photos by Geoffrey Baumgartner

Top left: Marlie Steele is perched atop the manger, standing under the North Star while she sings Christian-themed songs to open the production. Marlie says she loves participating in the Living Nativity and it gives her a chance to demonstrate her singing talents. Top right: The manger being prepared for the birth of Jesus Christ during the O'Brien Baptist's Church performance of "O Little Town" the Living Nativity. Top: The full Nativity scene together, complete with the donkeys on the right. Several members of the O'Brien Baptist church participated in the play. Middle: One of the Wise Men narrating the scene from atop the Manger, under the giant, brightly illuminated North Star. Bottom: The Three Wise Men gather around to witness the birth of Jesus Christ. The set was colorfully illuminated for the audience to receive the full dramatic effect during the nighttime performance.

Christmas retold through pageantry

By Geoffrey Baumgartner
The Knox County News-Courier

O'BRIEN — The O'Brien Baptist Church put on what was to be the last of a month full of live nativity scene performances Dec. 22, the weekend before Christmas. Titled "O Little

Town," the play is a living Nativity about the birth of Jesus Christ.

Live narration, music and interactions with the wise men, shepherds, animals and townspeople all took place as the story unfolded.

See **CHRISTMAS**, Page 8

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The Knox County News-Courier (ISSN 8750-6750) is published every Thursday, including holidays, by Blackburn Media Group Inc., P.O. Box 1260, Childress, Texas, 79201-1260. Entered at U.S. Post Office, Munday, Texas, for transmission through the mail as a Second-Class matter, according to an Act of Congress, March 3, 1879. Periodical Rate Postage Paid at Munday, Texas, 76371. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Knox County News-Courier, P.O. Box 151, Munday, TX 76371.

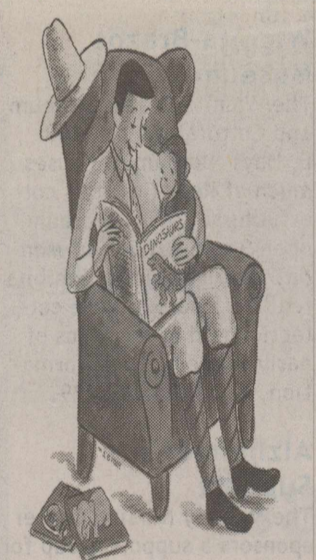
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The Knox County News-Courier

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

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Knox Notebook

Munday CISD

The Munday Consolidated Independent School District Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, December 16, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room in the Administration Building.

1) Call to Order – Roll Call. The following board members were present: Nancy Birkenfeld, Sam Hunter, Bill Longan, Bob Moore, Todd Thompson and Superintendent Robert Dillard. Jason Redwine and Rebecca Araujo were absent. Guests present were Kristi Bufkin, John Berry, and Patrick Corcoran.

2) Public Forum, Comments: None
3) Consent Items: Minutes. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by general consent.

4) MCISD Goals – Quarterly Report. Motion by Todd Thompson seconded by Bill Longan to approve the Quarterly Evaluation of District Goals as recommended by Supt. Dillard. All voted for.

5) Knox County Appraisal District Property Held in Trust: Motion by Nancy Birkenfeld seconded by Bob Moore to approve offers for trust properties that have already been duly accepted by the KCAD Board and recommended by Supt. Dillard. All voted for.

6) West Texas Food Cooperative Agreement. Motion by Nancy Birkenfeld seconded by Sam Hunter to approve the continued participation in the West Texas Food Service Co-Op as recommended by Supt. Dillard. All voted for.

7) James E. Rodgers and Company, PC Audit Engagement Agreement. Motion by Bill Longan seconded by Sam Hunter to approve the Audit Engagement Agreement with James E. Rodgers and Company, PC for the 2013-2014 school year as recommended by Supt. Dillard. All voted for.

8) Financial and Investment Review & Report. Motion by Todd Thompson seconded by Bill Longan to approve the Financial Investment Review & Report as presented by Supt. Dillard. All voted for.

9) Administrative Reports. The administrators gave reports on student activities, student programs, student performance, and facilities.

10) Board Training Opportunities. Bob Moore, board president, announced that all board members have met or exceeded their training requirements for the year.

11) Adjournment. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Retired teachers



Members of the Knox County Retired Teachers met for their annual Christmas Dinner on Dec. 17 in the Fellowship Hall of the First Baptist Church in Munday. Members brought bingo prizes for our nursing homes and children's books for their Collection Drive. Shown are some of the members who enjoyed the abundant and delicious pot luck meal including Homer Lowrance, Dorothy Myers, Terry Benner, Leona Partridge, District President Dale Thomas, Local President Joanna Delgado, Hostess Judy Burnett, Frankie Baker, Billie Ruth Walker, Frances King and Margaret Hill.

Luck of the draw



Some of the Knox County Republican candidates for the March 4 general election primary drew for their place on the ballot Dec. 17 at the Knox County Courthouse in Benjamin. Pictured is Travis Floyd drawing for his place in the county judge race. Looking on is Lisa Cypert, candidate for district/county clerk; Anthony Logsdon, write-in candidate for Precinct 2 Chairman; and Augie Rodriguez, candidate for Justice of the Peace. Also present for the drawing was Lou Vail, candidate for Republican County chair.

Snakes alive!



Stonewall County Sheriff Bill Mullen tries to get a good count on a rhumba of rattlesnakes unearthed Friday by workers with Fraser Concrete Contractors while working at a site just east of Aspermont. About 70 of the deadly, good-sized, slithery critters were removed from the site and destroyed.

Menus Week of Jan 6-10

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, 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: Italian lasagna or antipasto salad with salami or bologna and cheese, green peas, corn, fruit, slushy, milk

Tuesday: Chicken fried steak or fajita chicken salad or turkey and cheese, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, mixed fruit, slushy, milk

Wednesday: Crispy beef taco or garden pasta salad or ham and cheese, Mexican style beans, lettuce, orange, slushy, milk

Thursday: Cheeseburger or zesty tuna salad or tuna salad glazed carrots, lettuce, pineapple, slushy, milk

Friday: Pizza or chef salad or po-boy sandwich, tator tots, pork n beans, grapes, slushy, milk

Munday

Breakfast

Monday: school holiday

Tuesday: Cereal bowl with sausage, mixed, fruit, slushy, juice, milk

Wednesday: Mini corndogs, honey graham, apple slices, slushy, juice, milk

Thursday: Cereal bowl with sausage pineapple tidbits, slushy, juice, milk

Friday: Pancakes with syrup, honey graham, peaches, slushy, juice, milk

Lunch

Monday: school holiday

Tuesday: Chicken fried steak or turkey and cheese, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, mixed fruit, slushy, milk

Wednesday: Crispy beef tacos or ham and cheese, Mexican style beans, lettuce, orange, slushy, milk

Thursday: Cheeseburger or tuna salad, glazed carrots, lettuce, pineapple, slushy, milk

Friday: Pizza or po-boy, tator tots, pork n beans, grapes, slushy, milk

Knox County Aging Services

Monday January 6th

Chicken Tenders, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Whole Wheat Rolls, Mandarin Oranges

Tuesday January 7th

Lasagna, Brussell Sprouts, Peas, Pears

Wednesday January 8th

Baked Chicken & Dumplings, Corn, Tossed Salad, Whole Wheat Rolls, Fruit Cocktail

Thursday January 9th

Polish Sausage, Pinto Beans, Coleslaw, Cornbread, Peaches

Friday January 10th

Hamburgers, Potato Wedges, Tomato/Wedge/Salad, Melon Medley

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2014!



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Sunday

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

Worship: 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Awanas, Pre-K to 6th grade:

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Youth: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

Has everyone had a good Christmas? I know I have—Enjoyed a full week of visiting, cooking, eating, and all the other things that go with this time of the year. I didn't get a column in last week because I was so busy, so some of today's news is pre-Christmas happenings. The weather was pretty nice, and so, everything considered, I think things went well for most.

Reports on the ill of the community are better today. Imagean Young came home from the hospital a few days before Christmas (after several days being treated for double pneumonia). She's getting stronger every day and was able to prepare Christmas dinner for her family. Of course, she had some help, but she did a large part of it and made it fine.

Mike Young still has some days better than others. He stays pretty close to home, other than trips to the doctor.

Weldon Gideon was admitted to the Knox County Hospital late last week, and at last report, he was doing better. He had gotten dehydrated, and that caused several problems. He should be home soon.

There are colds, sinus infections, and other ailments that go with this time of the year. As long as we can keep away from the flu, I think we are faring pretty well.

Jill Jackson's dad passed away on Saturday morning after a long battle with leukemia. He lived in Cleburne but died in Houston, where had been off and on for several months receiving treatment. The funeral is set for Thursday in Cleburne. Jill is an elementary school aide here and is the wife of James Jackson, the supply pastor at First Baptist Church here and also dispatcher for the Knox County Sheriff's Office. They moved to Benjamin from Munday about a month ago. Of course, our most sincere sympathy goes to the Jackson family during this time.

Here 'N There

As I said in the beginning, there were some things before Christmas that interested many. Santa Claus made it down our way and stopped over for a visit with the kids to hear their requests to be filled before he arrived back on Christmas Eve. This visit was arranged by the Benjamin Volunteer Fire Department, and everyone enjoyed it.

On the 21st of December, Dennis and Pam Duke again held open house at their home—A great time to visit and share holiday greetings with friends from all over the area. And the refreshments are great, as well! A festive event, indeed.

My Christmas Day guests were Liz, Nathan, Taylor, and Westin Herring, and Beckie and Kevin Smith and Randi of Munday, Peyton and Piper Smith of Haskell, Dillon Keys and Cody Taylor of Knox City, Lexie, Katy, and Blaze Taylor of Amarillo, Becca Raynes, who lives near Dodge City, Kansas, and Mike and Debi Moorhouse of Benjamin. On Saturday we had a second Christmas with daughter, Diane Evans, and Ashlee of Childress. (Her husband, Mike, didn't make it—he was stripping cotton), Beckie Smith, and Mike and Debi were also here for a meal of the non-traditional Christmas food—We had enchiladas and all the accompaniments. It was again fun for everyone.

Imagean Young's Christmas company included Jessica Lamb and Eric Glaze and Laura Benson and Mason of Seymour, and Kinsey Benson, Will Pierce, Mike Young, Patti Kendrick, Charles Lampe, and Deann Lamb, all of Benjamin.

Don Ervin, former Benjamin resident, passed away recently in Ft. Worth after being diagnosed with lung cancer just a short time ago. A memorial service was held in Springtown a few days before Christmas. Don was the son of the late Wayne and Itha Straley Ervin, who lived here several years ago. My sympathy to his family.

Keith and Pam Conner and Casey, Lacy, and Carson Conner of Midland and Stepha-

nie Brannan and family of Lubbock were here Sunday before Christmas for a visit with Hazel Stockton, Kim Lyles and girls, and Bud Conner. Steve and Judy Watson of Durant, Oklahoma also visited after Christmas.

Kent and Elizabeth Hertel and children were in Benjamin Sunday and stopped by the Methodist Church for a brief visit with friends and relatives. They were on their way to the cemetery. He is the youngest son of the late Don and Louise Hertel.

Judy and Randolph Barnett spent a few days before Christmas with their son, Rusty, and his wife, Alice, and their children, Elissa and Peter. While in the area, they all attended a surprise birthday party in Baytown for Randy's brother, Gerald, who was celebrating his 80th. Another brother, Dicky, also visited briefly, although his wife is not well, and he couldn't stay long. Dicky lives at Mt. Belview. Judy said that was fun, and Gerald was surprised, and that makes it doubly enjoyable. Another highlight of the trip was Randy and Rusty attending the Texans and Broncos football game. Seeing Payton Manning in action had to be an "alright deal"—one may not like him, but gotta admit he's a good quarterback. While they were at the game, Judy and Alice toured the Galleria, and Judy said she really enjoyed that. Judy and Randolph are in Lubbock today (Monday) for a post Christmas visit with sons, Jeff and Jim Bob Conner, and their families.

Kim and Tina Sealy have moved into their home and had Christmas with all the family there. I haven't talked to them, but Jakey told me they all had a great time.

Tom Lyles of Amistad, New Mexico, spent Christmas here with his grandmother, Betty Lyles, and dad, Mike, and family.

Christmas visitors of Betty and Roger Bohannon were Craig and Bonnie Howell and family, who live in Nebraska. They came the 23rd and said they came through pretty heavy snow on their way down this way. But they made it fine. Other visitors were Chance and Chase Bohannon of Eastland, Lonnie Bohannon of Abilene, Jamie Brumley and family and Tyler Ford and Tiffany Moore, all of Munday.

Christmas guests of Jan and Fred Carver were Stasia and Gary Antilley and Ryan Antilley of Wingate, Callie Laird and Tyler of Knox City, Jacy, Jara, Talon, and Lexie Collins of Munday, Tyler Collins and a friend, Kelly, of Lubbock, Cassie Wainscott of Georgetown, Tom Lyles of New Mexico, Bella and Ash Carver of Irving, and Mike and Tammy Lyles of Benjamin. They all had Christmas dinner at the home of Callie Laird in Knox City. Bella and Ash remained for a longer visit with Jan and Fred.

Reports on Carol Dickson and Janice Tolson are that they are doing pretty well. Carol goes back to Houston in January to see her doctors and find out where and when she will have her treatments. Janice goes on January 6 to see what doctors say about her and when she will have her surgery.

Mike and Debi Moorhouse and Kim Lyles were in Lubbock Sunday to help Kim's daughter, Shelby, get into her new apartment. Shelby came home with her mom for a few days' visit.

Christmas Day guests of Charles and Linda Griffith were Lori and Rickey LaShomb of Lubbock, Amy and Vince Tyson of Clovis, Kate Tyson of Minneapolis, Abby Tyson of Cleveland, Ohio, Becky and Kemp Jones, Brooke and Kamryn, of Knox City, Devon of Wichita Falls, and Blake of Sweetwater. Also present was Matt Tyson, who just graduated from the Texas Tech School of Law and will be moving to Amarillo and joining the law office of Blackburn and Brown later this spring.

I'm sure this is not nearly all the holiday news. I'll try to get more gathered up by next Monday.

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

Old Glory News

First of all, I want to congratulate the Stamford Bulldogs on winning State. How great is that!!! I know they are very proud of their accomplishment and so are their many fans. What a great Christmas present.

We also got a wonderful Christmas present from our Heavenly Father, a wonderful slow nice rain, no ice and no snow, but a nice soaking rain. We have been Blessed.

I do hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. No one around here had to worry about travel conditions as so many up north did. It was a pretty nice day.

So now we are going into another year and another month of activities to mark down. Wednesday will be the first of 2014 and I wish everyone a Very Happy New Year, may it be the best for all. It will be hard to get use to writing 2014.



ANITA DOZIER

Sunday, January 5, Old Glory Lodge Meeting will be held at the Old Glory Lodge Hall beginning at 4 P M. Ladies are asked to bring a vegetable and dessert.

Wednesday, January 8, the Multi County Retired Teachers and School Personnel will have their luncheon and meeting at the

First United Methodist Church in Anson beginning at 11:30 A M. All volunteer hour reports are due at this time. All members are urged to attend.

Thursday, January 9, the Senior Citizens Dance will be held at the Old Glory Community Center from 7 P M until 10 P M with a live band and snacks will be furnished. Everyone is invited to attend.

Thursday, January 16, The Hobby Club will be meeting at the Sagerton Community Center at 2 P M.

On Saturday, January 25, will be the first musical of the year at the Old Glory Community Center if weather permits. More details later.

The Monday Playgirls bowling league had their Christmas Party at the bowling lanes in Abilene on Monday, Dec. 16. All the ladies enjoyed bowling, plenty of food and exchanging gifts.

The Hobby Club had their Christmas celebration at the Sagerton Community Center on Monday, Dec. 16, at 6 P M. Enjoying the food and games together were Michael and Tommie Steele, David and Nancy Griffith, Jack and Peggy Tabor, Skylar Steele, Pastor Anna and Lew Robbins, J B and Dorothy Toney, Anita Dozier, Tristan Steele, and Delbert and Joyce Leferve. Lots of fun.

Earlier in the month, Bernice Rhoads went to Waxahachie to attend the graduation of her grandson, Adam Rhoads, from the Southwestern Assembly of God University. Adam is the son of Tom Lee and Angie Rhoads.

I enjoyed having an early breakfast in Stamford on Thursday, Dec. 19, with Viva Turnbow, Bobbie Connally, Maxi Kahout, Barbara Terrell, Dorothy Lungdren, and Joyce Newman.

Phyllis Letz spent several days with her daughter and family, Jana and Kevin Conner, Deanne and Troy in Crowell earlier in the month. She got to watch Crowell win State. On Monday, Dec 16, she saw granddaughter, Deanne Conner play basketball and she made 25 points. Deanne is a Freshman at Crow-

ell ISD. She made the sports page in the Wichita Falls paper. On Tues, Dec. 17, she watched grandson, Troy, in the elementary Christmas Play, following the play they all had dinner together and Phyllis returned home. Thursday, Phyllis attended the Aspermont Faculty Christmas dinner at the Homemaking Cottage in Aspermont. On Friday, Phyllis and Danny drove to San Angelo where Danny and his band played for a dance.

Danny and Phyllis Letz had their family Christmas gathering on the 24 with Kevin and Jana Conner, Deanne and Troy from Crowell and Casey and Embery Letz, Madisyn, Rylan and Cale from Stamford.

Stan and Jeannie Tucker from New Braunfels and I are so proud to announce the arrival of a new great grand daughter. Little Miss Adalyn Jean Kern arrived on Friday, December 20 around 5:30 P M in Abilene weighing 9 pounds and 9 ounces and was 21 inches long. The beaming grandparents are Tom and Dianna Kern of Weatherford and Marcie Tucker of Hamby. (Oh my, their first grandchild). Bryan and Amanda are very happy to be the parents of the precious little girl.

I enjoyed having most of my family here on Sunday, 22, for our family Christmas celebration, it was a very nice day for traveling. Then I spent Christmas Day holding Adalyn while the Tuckers had their family Christmas gifts and dinner.

Grandson Chris Baldree from Abilene, escorted me to the famous Cowboy Christmas Ball at the Pioneer Hall in Anson on Friday evening. Chris and I were surprised but truly honored when they ask us to lead the Grand March forthat evening. A fun time.

Pide and Mittie Dunham were in Hamlin on Dec 21, to celebrate Christmas with their son and family, Rodney and Tracy Dunham, Sonja Dunham, Alec, Dylan and Cooper from Abilene, Dusty Dunham, Branson, Brooklyn, and Braylon from Grand Praire, Eddie and Sammie Offield from Knox City, Scooter Offield and his daughter, Tarra and her children all of Hamlin.

On Dec. 23, Mittie Dunham went to Lubbock and on her return home she stopped in Aspermont and visited with Donna Graham. On Dec. 24, Pide and Mittie attended the employees Christmas Party in Aspermont hosted by Dan and Susan Rosenberg. Others attending were Fern Rash, Bill and Stephanie Mullen, Steve Duncan, Doyle and Neice Robertson, Martha Jones and Brenda Hawkins.

Christmas Day, Pide and Mittie drove to Abilene to have Christmas with their daughter, Shelly Dunham from Rising Star and Dusty Dunham and her family at the home of Dusty and her family.

Happy Birthday Wishes go to Lorene Dowell, M'Lynn Johnson, Andrew Hertel, Iona Baldree, Beverly Davis, Robert Tribbey, Randy Wilks, Brian Lehrmann, Jack Redd, Melvin Thane, Randy Schonstedt, Ruby Olson, Jim Alexander, Doug McEwen, Clancy Lehrmann, Joe Sam Stubbs, Alvin Hertel, Kim Lowack, Glen Dunham, Justin Corzine, Cody Baker and Robert Diers. We wish you many more.

Anniversary greetings go to Trapper and Morgan Rae Dixon. Have a great day.

Anita Dozier is the longtime Old Glory correspondent for the Stonewall Courier.

Thanks for reading!

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All signups during the month of January will be eligible for a drawing of 3 months of free SRTV or 6 months of free DSL service!



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The Paperboy

New year; new beginning

My wife made the comment that we needed to eat black-eyed peas on New Year's Day.

My retort was that it had been along time since I had them on that day and I'd lost both my parents and listed other negative things that we'd been through.



CHRIS BLACKBURN

Of course, I was linking the lack of peas to bad events. And while those events did indeed happen, there were a heck of a lot of positives that have happened during that span as well.

So perhaps it is a mindset. For three of the past six weeks, I've battled a stomach illness, a cold and bronchial issues. If you've been down in your health, you know it can affect your mindset. Frankly, it's hard to be positive when you feel lousy day after day.

For Christmas, my wife got me P90X. For those of you who aren't familiar, it's a work-

out program geared to get you in shape. That is something I certainly need and I've got a target date to begin the workouts. I also have the desire.

It's not that I have some death wish or some desire to break my body, but the simple fact is I need to lose 30 to 40 pounds and get in the type of shape to be more active. About the only exercise I get right now is tossing the football around with my boys. That's pathetic. I spend far too much time behind the computer and not living life.

My focus is to get this old body back in shape and be able to do some of the things I used to like to do without it killing me.

For instance, I wrote a number of months of my desire to climb a certain mountain. That mountain has been a dream of mine since I first laid eyes on it nearly 40 years ago. There is no way I can physically make that climb to over 14,000 feet in my current condition. Ninety days from now, I hope to be singing a different tune.

It's not just about being in better physical condition. I think being in shape will improve my mental well-being as well. I think I'll have a more positive outlook on most facets of my life.

At the very least, I'll have a strong sense of accomplishment. I should also have a healthy dose of self confidence.

Back to the black-eyed peas. Indeed, I decided that would be on the menu New Year's Day. The year 2014 is getting off to the start I want. It's an important year in many ways for me and for my family. Does it have anything to do with peas? No. It has everything to do with discipline and desire. The peas are simply a tradition I've rejoined. But it can't hurt...

Chris Blackburn is CEO of Blackburn Media Group, owner of The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon, Hall County Herald, The Hollis News, The Knox County News-Courier, The Post Dispatch, The Childress Index, Wellington Leader and The Stonewall Courier. He can be reached by email at chris@blackburnmediagroup.com and you can follow him on Twitter @WCSBlackburn.

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Old rivalry reignited: Munday Farm girls defeat KC team, 47-37

KNOX CITY — The Knox City varsity Houndettes hosted the Munday Mogulettes on Dec. 20. This regular season meeting was the first time these two teams have encountered each other, tournament or otherwise, in five years or so. What was once a heated rivalry eventually died down due to inactivity. However, the two teams are at it again, more reflecting each other's own size. While it was a close game and remained close all the way until the latter half of the fourth quarter, the Mogulettes eventually defeated the Houndettes 47-37.

The box score showed what each team put up during each quarter. During the first quarter Knox City put up seven points while Munday put up eight and during the second quarter Knox City put up eight points to Munday's 11. The Houndettes managed eight points during the third quarter, while the Mogulettes put up 12 and the Houndettes put up 14 points during the fourth quarter,

to the Mogulettes 16. Knox City was literally outscored every quarter of the game.

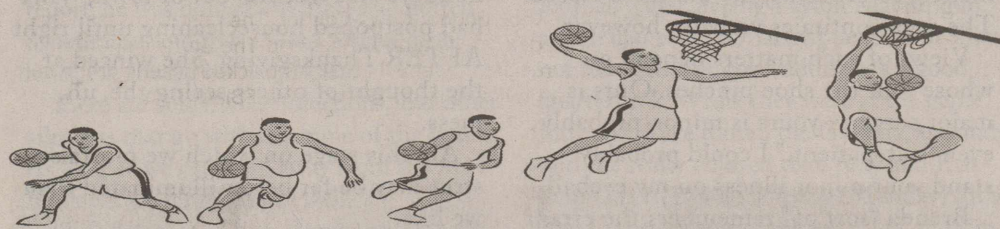
The individual standouts for the Mogulettes were Kaylan Urbanczyk with 22 points, four assists, 10 rebounds, and five steals and Tatum Bufkin with 15 points, two rebounds, and six steals.

The major contributors for the Houndettes were senior guard Kassandra Ledesma with 13 points and three rebounds while sophomore post Makaylie Steele managed 10 points and 17 rebounds. Also, point guard Shailee Manning managed four points, two assists, and one rebound.

The Knox City Houndettes are now 2-6 on the regular season and will be going up against the Rule Bobcats next on Jan. 3.

The Munday Mogulettes are now 2-6 as well on the regular season and will be taking on Haskell on Jan 7.

Geoffrey Baumgartner



FSA urges producers to vote in committee elections

The News-Courier

After an incorrect set of ballots were mailed out to agricultural producers across the country, the USDA Farm Service Agency re-issued new ballots for County Committee elections on Dec. 20 with a deadline of Jan. 17.

Producers have been instructed to destroy the FSA County Committee Election ballots (FSA-669's) mailed Nov. 4. The new ballots mailed to producers will have the word "corrected" printed on the outside of the mailing, the ballot itself, and the return envelope. Producers must complete and return the corrected FSA-669 to have their vote counted.

Eligible voters who do not receive a ballot in the coming week can obtain one from their local USDA Service Center. The last day for voters to submit corrected ballots in person to local USDA Service Centers is Jan. 17. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked no later than Jan. 17. Newly elected committee members and their alternates will take office Feb. 18.

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranch-

ers 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 on Aug. 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. Approximately one-third of county committee seats are up for election each year. More information on county committees, such as the 2013 fact sheet and brochures, can be found on the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections or at a local USDA Service Center.

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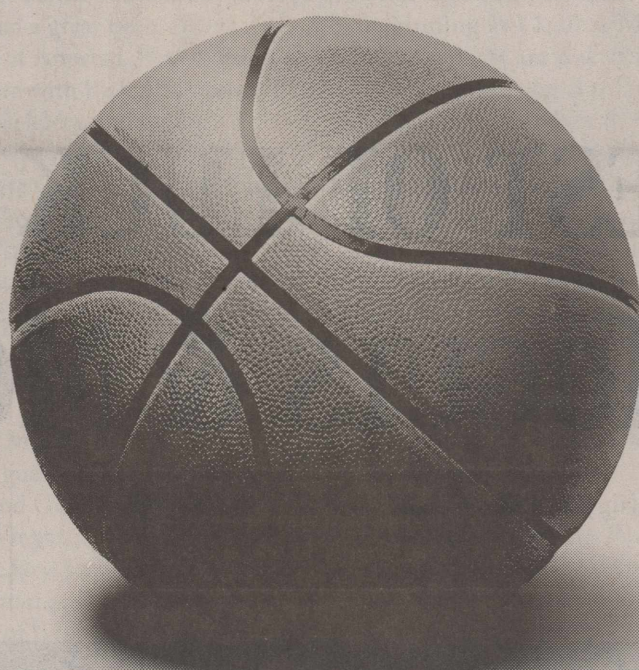
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The Idle American

Wherefore art thou, simpler stage?

In his play, "As You Like It," debuted some 410 years ago, Will Shakespeare said "all the world's a stage." We can only guess whether theatre audiences nodded in agreement or shook their heads vigorously to object. Most of them likely were ambivalent, much like "players" on the world's stage today, when we face more issues than anyone cares to count.



DON NEWBURY

So let us consider an addendum to his quote: "and cameras as well as microphones." We, the populace, may whimper, protest, mutter, lament or whatever. We are now at that place where sights and sounds are part of public records. Such has been stuffed into our collective pipes, ours to smoke, whether or not we inhale.

Nations spy on nations, corporations on competitors, political parties on each other, and, of course, traffic cameras on motorists.

We may "cry uncle" or not, but it is clear that "uncle's" intrusions have taken over like kudzu, tentacles fully engaged. More info whizzes about in cyberspace than mere mortals can imagine. The US mail, though, provides sobering reminders.

One came in a foreboding envelope from the City of Fort Worth the other day. It was addressed to me, and I opened it hastily, not dreaming that contents would apply to my wife, not to me. Lo — and throw in "behold," too — the document, somewhat harshly worded, alleged that a motorist driving a vehicle registered in my name "did then and there commit the following violation ... failure to stop at a red light." Supporting evidence included photos shot from three angles, as well as a video. The "knock-out" blow was unmistakable — a picture "front and center" of my car's license.

I did what any spouse with a lick of sense would do. Racing to my calendar, I prayed that it would provide proof of my being other-where on the fateful day.

Hallelujah! I was in Dallas — driving our "good" car. I was "committing" a speech in the morning and visiting with a friend's family gathered in a hospital surgery waiting room in the afternoon. After establishing innocence, it was mine to inform my wife that she had committed a grievous traffic infraction and to contact the county tax office. After all, it seems best to get both our vehicles in her name. That way, she can open future such notifications herself.

She doesn't believe she had done anything wrong, of course. After all, she's been driving for a full half-century, NEVER having received a citation.

Stopped just once for driving a "teensy-weensy" bit over the speed limit, she cried real tears that rolled down reddened cheeks. The officer put away his citation pad, apologizing for causing for causing any inconvenience.

Alas, while tears worked on the officer, they do no good for an emotionless camera. The \$75 check for the fine has been mailed, so officially, the matter is closed. The saga continues verbally, however.

Views of such matters depend on whose foot the shoe pinches. Ours is major surgery; yours is minor, probably even "out-patient." I could probably stand your minor illness on my eyeball.

Brenda "sort of" remembers the errant turn, vowing that the light was primarily amber, maybe with the slightest "pinkish" hue.

My guess is that it was at the epicenter

of red — the brightest hue sold at the paint store.

The recent holidays were joyous with convergence of kids and grandkids. At mid-morning, though, "technological overkill" tempered Thanksgiving joy. Daughter Jana and her hubby received frantic phone calls from Tyler. Police, they learned, had converged on their home, responding to a "911" call. Relax, it was a false alarm. After all, no one was home. Some phone line fault triggered the "911" call. (Emergency responders explained that such calls are often the result of such breaches.)

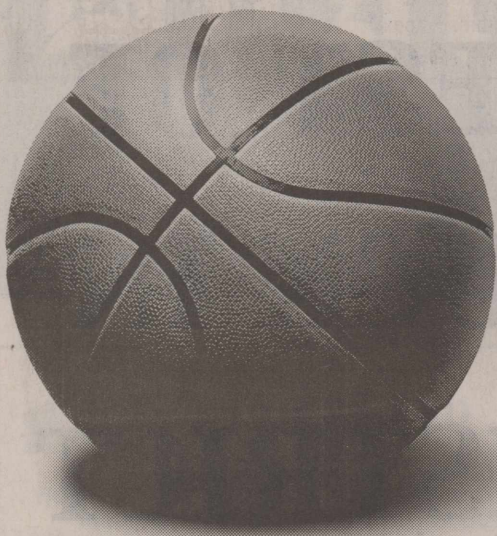
Jana was chagrined. Kinfolks and neighbors inspected every room, making sure the home was free of intruders. With disarray associated with both the holidays and "getting out of town," Jana had postponed housecleaning until right AFTER Thanksgiving. She winced at the thought of others seeing the, uh, mess.

Ah, this stage on which we mortals strut may be far better illuminated than we like."

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

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LAWRENCE

From Page 1

"The proposed merger would combine two of the only three retail sellers of food and other grocery products in full-line supermarkets," the FTC said in its complaint after the merger was proposed in September. The complaint pointed out the merger between Albertsons and United would limit the number of competing supermarkets in parts of Wichita Falls to two — the second being the Walmart super stores.

"The ultimate effect of the proposed merger would be to

increase the likelihood that the prices of food, groceries or services will increase, and that the quality and selection of food, groceries, or services will decrease, in the relevant sections of the country," the FTC claimed.

Lawrence Brothers Supermarkets operates under the corporate name of MAL Enterprises and has locations in Anson, Aspermont, Breckenridge, Clyde, Hamlin, Knox City, Merkel, Munday, Seymour, Spur, Stanton and Winters. It also has two locations in New Mexico — Roswell and Ruidoso.

Albertson's spokeswoman Christine Wilcox confirmed employees were notified in mid-December of the

change.

Wilcox said Albertson's anticipates a closing date of Jan. 12.

In a news release in September, United Supermarkets said its stores will continue to operate under the United name and operate as a separate business unit under Albertson's LLC, with the current United CEO continuing to head the company. Lubbock-based United has been in business since 1916.

Albertson's LLC is parent company to more than 600 supermarkets across the country.

With reports from the Times Record News.

CHRISTMAS

From Page 1

Complete with full costume, song and "debt collecting Roman soldiers," one of whom was Knox City head coach Charles Steele; the show was quite a detailed production.

"I was a Roman soldier, I

had to be greedy and collect the taxes! It was fun though," said Steele of his role in the play.

With hot chocolate being served up and seats laid out for the audience, it was not long before they were filled, even in the near freezing weather. Steel's daughter Marley opened the performance atop the manger with

Christian song celebrating the life and birth of Jesus Christ. Although it was a complete display, the animals were substituted with children in costumes. There was even a giant, well-lit North Star.

Visitors from throughout the Knox and Haskell county region and beyond were said to have been in attendance this year.

YIELDS

From Page 1

"Still a little above-average year, and much better off than we've been the last two years," he said.

Peanut production in Texas peaked in the 1990s, with as much as 300,000 acres grown annually, he said. For the last 10 years, competition for other crops, such as cotton, and the water needs of peanuts, have brought the average yearly production down to about

125,000 acres.

Increasing feral hog damage has also been a discouragement for peanut growers, he said. A troop of feral hogs, which is called a sounder, can root up several acres overnight. They may attack the crop at all stages of production, from planting to pegging to digging.

"Feral hogs like peanuts for the same reason people do," Woodward said. "They're high in protein and essential oils."

Most Texas peanuts are grown in the High Plains

and Rolling Plains, including Haskell and Knox counties; however, Frio and Atascosa counties account for 15 to 20 percent of acres, he said. Harvesting times for peanuts in Texas are opposite of other crops. Harvesting begins first in the High Plains, followed shortly thereafter in the Rolling Plains.

"Central Texas is later, and harvesting typically concludes in South Texas, as they can plant later," he said.

"Overall, I would say peanut harvest is nearly complete."

Dixie Divas
Resolutely carrying on

For those of you who are faithful to this column, you will, no doubt, recall that last year I made brand new resolutions. I tossed out the old ones that I had failed at repeatedly and trudged ahead to new ones, optimistically believing that success was mine for taking.

Let me just update you on a couple of those.

You remember, I'm sure, that in our home, the Civil War still looms large since our people were on opposing sides. Tink's great-great grandfather, Charlie Tinker, served in the auspices of the

White House telegraph office while my ancestors packed up their tattered, threadbare jackets, grabbed their hunting rifles and headed out to the battlefields to starve and nearly freeze to death.

Audaciously, I declared that in 2013 there would be a new day of reckoning and that there would be

more respect paid in our home for that great and mighty warrior Robert E. Lee. It was my intent to raise Gen. Lee to the lofty wartime status of Charlie Tinker. At least, in our home.

Here's how that worked: I don't recall that Gen. Lee was mentioned any more than just in passing, and when his birthday of Jan. 19th rolled around, Tink expressed no reverence whatsoever. Charlie Tinker, on the other hand, became a bigger hero, made so inadvertently by my own efforts.

A series of articles I wrote, taking excerpts from Charlie's hand-written diaries that we possess, made him something of a modern day rock star. Due to Charlie's friendship with President Lincoln and the views of that friendship he expressed in his diaries, one Lincoln historian wrote to say that Charlie Tinker's diaries marked the first time in over a hundred years that we had heard from anyone who personally knew the 16th president.

Then, historians of Brooklyn's Green-Wood cemetery, where Charlie and his family are interred, ran across the articles so they plunged into further revealing research, telling us that Charlie had testified at the impeachment trial of President

Andrew Johnson, a Southerner. Don't get me started on that.

Three other things happened when Green-Wood discovered Charlie Tinker through my stories: 1.) When a volunteer group was looking for a historic gravesite to restore, Charlie's family site was chosen; 2.) The New York Times discovered Charlie and wrote an article on "Lincoln's favorite telegrapher"; 3.) Green-Wood's Jeff Richman invited me to New York to speak on Charlie Tinker.

Are you getting a good sense of how my New Year's resolution went?

Tink, of course, was excited. "Baby!" he exclaimed happily. "You made Charlie famous!"

By that time, the sound of Gen. Lee's name was a rapidly diminishing whisper. I shook my head and rolled my eyes comically. "Imagine that. It took this Confederate to make a hero out of that Yankee."

"Remarkable," said my father-in-law when we told him of Charlie's growing legacy. Then, we three launched into a discussion of what possibly could have happened to the \$2 million that Charlie claimed in his diaries to have profited through an investment with famed financier Jay Gould in a company called American Telephone and Telegraph. We don't know the answer to that one yet but since Charlie continues to speak from beyond his grave, I think we'll probably know one day.

Like Gen. Lee's Southern armies, I have been beaten back, but I have not retreated nor surrendered. I still believe I can rise from the ashes to taste victory in that resolution.

My audacity also led me to proclaim that my adorable husband would learn how to use a check register in 2013 and become responsible for his own record keeping. That resolution, too, flashed and burned when I picked up his checkbook and discovered that debits, deposits and balances were all in the same column.

"You told me to write everything down and I did," he explained.

Obviously, Tink inherited Charlie's money-recording skills.

Or lack of.

Ronda Rich is a Southern humorist and storyteller. A television movie based on her best-selling novel, "The Town that Came A-Courtin'," which is based on a true story, will be aired at 7 p.m. Jan. 19 on UP.



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Wichita Falls to host Cattle Trails conference

By Donald Stotts
Oklahoma State University
Special to The News-Courier

WICHITA FALLS — Former Haskell-Knox County veterinarian Dr. Tom Hairgrove will be one of several guests speakers for the Cattle Trails Cow-Calf Conference on Jan. 14 in Wichita Falls.

Hairgrove is now the program coordinator for livestock and food animal systems for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in College Station. He is expected to share insights about what every cattle producer should know about biosecurity concerns and management.

The annual conference is a joint effort between the Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, with the intent of helping producers drive their operations toward profit.

Lawrence Tomah, Harmon County (Okla.) Extension agricultural educator, said profit margins can be tight in the best of times, and years of drought and its effects on today's cattle industry have made staying abreast of the latest developments more important than ever for producers.

"Think of the conference as one-stop shopping. The most up-to-date information will be presented and participants will have the opportunity to ask questions of and interact with some of the region's premier cattle-management experts, as well as other producers who are in positions similar to them," he said.

Justin Talley, OSU Cooperative Extension entomologist, will provide the latest insights about external parasite control for the cowherd.

Ted McCollum, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist, will detail key considerations about merging supplemental nutrition with pasture conditions to promote optimal animal performance.

David Anderson, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension livestock marketing specialist, will showcase what producers can expect relative to 2014 cattle markets.

Stan Bevers, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension agricultural economist, will lead a session about new insurance products for cattle producers.

Jason Pace, OSU Cooperative Extension agricultural economist, will detail important management considerations relative to evaluating female replacement alternatives for the herd.

Industry sponsors will have products on display as part of the conference trade show.

The conference, which alternates between Oklahoma and Texas each year, will be from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Wichita Falls Multi-Purpose Events Center, 1000 Fifth St. Registration is \$25 per participant and covers the cost of a noon meal, break refreshments and conference materials. Registration materials are available at all Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension county offices, listed under "county government" in most local directories.

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