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MARY JANE YOUNG

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BENJAMIN, TX 79505-0095

# THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

HOME OF ARTHUR N. ROBERTSON JR. AND ARTHUR B. ROBERTSON III

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2014

KCNEWSCOURIER.COM

75 CENTS

## County mulls cloud seeding for relief

By Geoffrey Baumgartner  
The Knox County News-Courier

BENJAMIN — Knox County commissioners are considering an invitation from Wichita Falls officials to join a regional task force that is looking at cloud-seeding for drought relief.

No longer considered pseudoscience as it was in the mid-20th century, the proven scientific process is gaining traction in an area of Texas most impacted by the historic drought.

Several officials and others from Wichita Falls recently heard a state expert's proposal on a viable

cloud-seeding project for a 13-county region that would include Archer, Baylor, Clay, Cottle, Dickens, Foard, King, Knox, Motley, Throckmorton, Wichita, Wilbarger and Young counties.

Knox County commissioners took up the item during their regular meeting last week but tabled it in order for individual commissioners to research the matter and, no doubt, for local residents to consider and weigh in with elected leaders.

This past Tuesday, Wichita Falls city councilors unanimously approved measures that would allow the cloud-seeding project to begin as early as March 1.

Although still in the early stages of discussion,

Wichita Falls officials were told the cost to seed for a six-month period from April through July and October through November — typically the region's best months for rainfall — would cost upward of \$300,000, a price tag that would be shared by the county entities choosing to participate.

During last week's Knox County commissioners meeting, however, County Judge Travis Floyd said the local portion of funding would be closer to \$40,000 a month.

Prior to the meeting, Travis seemed to lean against the proposal.

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## 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.

### Candidates forum

Republican primary candidates for Knox County Judge, Knox County Commissioner Precinct 2, Knox County Commissioner Precinct 4, Knox County District and County Clerk, Knox County Justice of the Peace are expected at a meet-and-greet event at 5:30 p.m. today at the Munday Church of Christ Auditorium, 330 N. Third Ave. Refreshments provided. For information, call the church office at 940-422-4731.

### Support Group Meetings

AA and Al-Anon meetings are 7 p.m. Tuesdays at the Doug Meiner Activity Center, 203 SW Fourth St., Knox City. Call JoAnn at 940-658-3926 for information.

### Relay for Life

This year's event will be May 3 at the Munday High School track. Volunteers needed. For information, contact Leann Harlan at mawharlan@yahoo.com.

### KCAC Raffle

Knox County Aging Center members are selling \$1 tickets for a \$250 gift card to Walmart as a fundraising project. The drawing will be held during the center's Mother's Day luncheon on May 11. Call the Center at 940-657-3618 for information.

### Car seat program

Knox County Hospital District is now providing child car seats to low income families at no cost. Classes are being held on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. and the third Thursday at 10 a.m. Call Linda Hearn at the Knox City Clinic at 940-657-3906 for more information and to register for a class. Classes are held in Spanish and English.

### Diabetes management

Knox County Hospital District and the Knox County AgriLife Extension Agency are offering a five-class series "Do Well, Be Well With Diabetes" from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursdays from March 6-April 3 at the Knox City Clinic, 712 S. Fifth St. Texas every Thursday evening from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Health professionals will provide class members with the latest information to manage Type 2 diabetes. Free class. Call the Knox City Clinic at 940-657-3906 or Gayle Hudson at 940-203-0035 to enroll.

### Sausage dinner

The annual St. Joseph's Catholic Church Sausage Dinner in Rhineland will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 16. To-go plates will be available. Country Store Gift Shop will be open. Tickets are \$12 for adults; \$6 for children. Call 940-422-4501 for more information or pre-sale tickets.

## Corrections

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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## Alumni name golf tourney for longtime schools chief

The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — The Knox City-O'Brien Exes Association and the Classes of 1976 and 1977 have announced the second annual all-class reunion July 4-5 and the group's accompanying golf tournament will be named for the school's longtime and beloved superintendent, who died just this past fall.

The Bill Baker Memorial golf tournament for former students of Knox City-O'Brien schools will be a two-person scramble. Last year's event was a sellout with 20 teams entered and more than 200 attending the reunion dinner.

"As a graduate of KCHS over 35 years ago and a huge fan of Mr. Bill Baker, I can't tell you how pleased and excited I am to know we will be honoring this great man as we participate in the Bill Baker Memorial," said Robinson (Class of 1977). "I hope you will join us to make the 2014 event even more fun and even more rewarding than last year's inaugural one was."

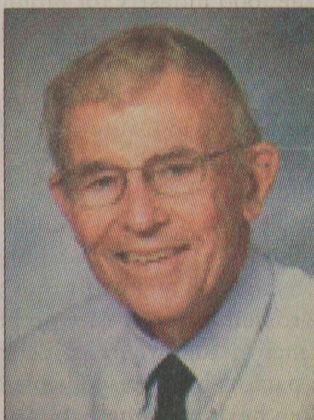
Also planned will be a scholarship award ceremony, volleyball tournament, barbecue, silent auction, raffle and more — all to raise funds for the group's scholarship program.

"Everybody is welcome and if your class would like to get at least five classmates to commit to attending, contact us and we'll recognize your class as a host along with the Classes of 1976 and 1977 and other supporters," organizer J.D. Moore (Class of 1976) said.

Ex-students and supporters who attended last summer's events raised about \$3,000 for scholarships for Knox City High School graduating seniors, board member Patti Lain Currie (Class of 1977) said. At this year's event, three \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded at the group's Saturday night dinner.

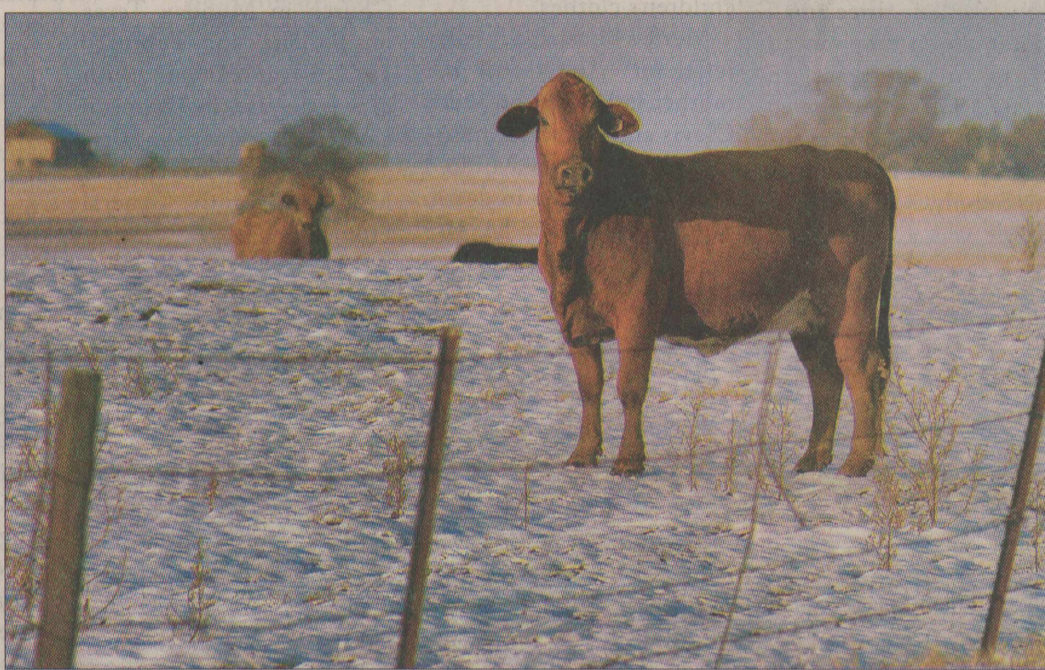
"Please get your tickets to the reunion dinner soon and support our seniors, and let's all have some fun with family and old friends," Currie said.

See TOURNEY, Page 8



Bill Baker

## Climate



Robert Burns/Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Many parts of Texas continued to get wintry precipitation this week, but from a moisture standpoint the winter has generally been drier than normal, says the state's top weather expert.

## State climatologist: Moisture relief possible — next fall

By Robert Burns  
Special to the News-Courier

The state's top weather expert says there's a chance that a cooler, wetter weather pattern might develop later this year, but even if it does, its effects will not be in time to offset another dry, hot summer.

"Most of the forecast models are pointing in a positive direction for an El Niño. It's still way too early to say, but there's a potential for it," said State Climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon.

But even if with a strong El Niño, which usually brings more moisture to parts of the Southwest and Midwest, its effects would not be felt until this fall, he said.

As for this summer, there's been a trend for hotter summers in the last several years, and that's likely to continue.

"That's not good for drought conditions, because that means more evaporation and more water demand," Nielsen-Gammon said.

The recent wet fall has been followed by a fairly dry December and an especially dry January, he noted.

"The thing about the dry winter is that we've had some fall moisture issues already," he said. "Depending upon how much rain we get in the spring, that basically determines how rapidly things dry out in

the summertime. Even with a normal rainfall, summer is a time in just about all areas of the state when we're water-stressed because evapotranspiration is so high. So we're going to hit the summertime dry conditions earlier than normal, unless we make up this winter moisture deficit in the next couple of months."

And making up that winter deficit in February and March seems unlikely at this time, he said.

"We still don't have a good jet-stream pattern to bring us plentiful moisture, and there's no sign of it developing," Nielsen-Gammon said.

Reports of up to 10 inches of snow across most of the northern Rolling Plains three weeks ago brought some much-needed moisture to that region of the state, but along with it came subfreezing temperatures with lows in the single digits.

Wheat in this area was in poor condition due to drought stress, yet livestock was in fair condition with continued supplemental feeding. Some producers were breaking ice daily, while others continued to haul water to cattle due to the drought.

### On the web

More information on the current Texas drought and wildfire alerts can be found on the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's Agricultural Drought Task Force website at agrilife.tamu.edu/drought.

## Local author tells father's WWII stories

By Geoffrey Baumgartner  
The Knox County News-Courier



The cover art for the book, "The Three-Cornered Kid." The jacket's photograph has author Arthur B. Robertson III holding onto his father, Lt. Col. Arthur B. Robertson Jr., while dressed in his military uniform.

KNOX CITY — Knox City native Arthur Robertson has written a book about his father's World War II combat missions. The book is titled "The Three-Cornered Kid: Lt. Col. A.B. Robertson Jr.'s WWII War Stories," and is significant not only because Robertson is now actually a published author from Knox City, but because Knox City is also featured in the book several times.

While the book details his father's time during the war, Robertson himself has led a very interesting life. He was born in the Shaver House in Knox City in 1943 while his father was

still conducting anti-German long-range U-boat missions in the Air Force off the coast of Galveston. His grandfather Ed Shaver moved here from Bell and Williamson counties in 1915 where he made a living as a farmer utilizing mule-drawn implements — as was the custom at the time.

He graduated from SMU in 1965 with a degree in biology and was in graduate school in New Mexico one year before being drafted into the Vietnam War. Since he already had a degree in biology, the Army had him perform chemical warfare research and research weapons technology stateside during that time.

After his discharge, Robertson married Cindy Tucker, had three children and got his master's degree in biology from West Texas A&M University, where he was later a biology instructor. In addition to WTA&M, he also taught biology for a year at Knox City High School in 1980.

Since 1980, he has primarily made his living as a long-haul truck driver, currently working for Dunagin in Knox City.

Robertson was initially inspired to begin writing because his children suggested he do so. He would tell them such detailed bedtime stories, they eventually encouraged him to write them

See AUTHOR, Page 8



Geoffrey Baumgartner/The Knox County News-Courier

The author of "The Three-Cornered Kid: Lt. Col. A. B. Robertson Jr.'s WW II War Stories," and Knox County native Arthur B. Robertson III.

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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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**Deaths**

**Merle Elizabeth Anderson**

Merle Elizabeth Anderson finished her earthly life February 14, 2014 in the Munday Nursing Center, to join her sweetheart, Jeff of 69 years. Born the fourth child to Alonzo McElmurray and Elsie Kegans McElmurray, Merle Elizabeth was born July 3, 1927 in their White Flat home. She was taught and perfected the art of sewing, cooking and being a homemaker while attending school. It was at school where she met the love of her life and married 18 year old Riley Jefferson Anderson at the age of 16 on February 4, 1944 in the home of her parents. The couple immediately left for California where Jeff was stationed in the Navy. As soon as World War II was over they headed back to Texas and lived in the weaning house on her in laws ranch. Jeff and Merle eventually moved to Colorado with their three small children. Soon they moved back to Merle Texas. In the late 1950's they moved to Munday, Texas and eventually opened the Munday Auto Supply.

Merle was a member of



**MERLE ANDERSON**

the First United Methodist Church and spent years serving on committees. She was very active in the lives of her three children as a room mother, Cub Scout leader and brownie leader. Merle took pride in her flowers as she worked hard perfecting the art of gardening. Home cook meals were always on the table with fresh food from the food her and Jeff grew. She was an exceptional seamstress and took pride in sewing her husband and children's clothes.

Merle's husband, Riley Jefferson Anderson, her mother, father, two brothers, Clovis and Max McElmurray and a sister, Mildred Snow precede her in death. She is survived by her sis-

ter, Lonelle Teaft of Merkle, Texas, daughter Judy Massey and son-in-law John Massey of Amarillo, Texas; son Andy Anderson and daughter-in-law Susan Anderson of Decatur, Texas; son Max Anderson and daughter-in-law Toni of Tyler, Texas. Nine grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren also survive her.

Merle is also survived by many wonderful friends of Munday, Texas who she loved dearly.

The family expresses their sincere gratitude to the staff at the Munday Nursing Center for their unconditional love, service and excellent care of their matriarch, Merle Anderson. They are truly appreciative of the many volunteers who assisted Merle with kind, dedicated love.

Services were held at the First United Methodist Church in Munday, Texas on Sunday, and February 16, 2014 at 2:00p.m. with graveside at the Johnson Cemetery, Munday, Texas under the direction of McCauley-Smith Funeral Home.

**The Paperboy  
The home of the irresponsible**

The age of personal responsibility is officially over! What are you waiting on? There's no need to work. No need to get an education. No reason to hope or dream.

Just sit back, relax and let good old Uncle Sam take care of you. Get free money for doing nothing.

You don't like that idea?

Get over it!

Haven't you heard, we're not responsible for anything anymore. Pretty soon, we'll be able to get even more money from the food industry because we're too overweight as a country.



**CHRIS BLACKBURN**

Oh yes. In this world where personal responsibility no longer matters, lawyers around the country are beginning to salivate at the notion that they can do to "big food" what was done to Big Tobacco.

"I believe that this is the most promising strategy to lighten the economic burden of obesity on states and taxpayers and to negotiate broader public health policy objectives," said Paul

McDonald, a partner at Valorem Law Group in Chicago.

Lawyers have approached state attorney generals in 16 states with the idea to make the food industry pay for obesity-related health care costs.

They are hoping to take a page out of the Big Tobacco settlement of the 1990s which netted 46 states \$246 billion.

But, as we know, food is not tobacco. And to compare the two is preposterous.

I'll be the first to admit that I need to drop a few pounds. Do I blame Kellogg's Pop Tarts? No! I blame myself!

I'm the one with the mouth and the big eyes. Or maybe that's the eyes and the big mouth ... Either way, whether I'm fat or skinny is up to me.

The way this potential lawsuit is going down, it sounds to me like the lawyers are scheming so they can get rich.

The Valorem Law Group has actually sent proposals to AGs from California to Mississippi explaining how suing "big food" can help their states close budget shortfalls or help eliminate their debt entirely.

For example, McDonald informed Pennsylvania Attorney General Kathleen Kane that the state faced a \$3.7 billion budget shortfall in 2012. The state's total Medicaid burden that year was \$10 billion. He feels that if the state sues the food industry for billions and wins a settlement, the poor decisions which have landed the state in financial problems can be absorbed.

Forget fixing the financial problems caused by leftist idiots in Michigan and California, let's just sue and get money that way.

And by the way, who would foot the bill if the food industry had to cough up half a trillion dollars? You and I.

How would having to pay much higher prices at the grocery store and restaurants fit into your budget?

The way to defeat our obesity problem is not through laws. Like many issues we have, it starts at home. It starts with parents being responsible enough to teach their children healthy eating habits and making them get outside and play.

But I forgot. This is America. We do what we like and then we blame others when things don't work out for us. That's what we learn from our elected officials so it must be the right thing to do.

So go ahead and eat the bad stuff. What difference does it make? Someone else will get the bill for your irresponsibility.

Who cares how bad we bankrupt this country. That's for another generation to worry about.

Chris Blackburn serves as CEO at Blackburn Media Group, proud 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.

**Cotton-Pickin' Quilt Show is this weekend**

By Geoff Baumgartner  
The Knox County-News Courier

GOREE — The 20th annual Knox Prairie Cotton-Pickin' Quilt Show and Cookin' Show is planned from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Knox Prairie Event Center in Goree.

Coordinated by Councilwoman Vickie Huffman and jointly sponsored by the Going for Greatness Group of Goree as well as the Munday Chamber of Commerce, members of the Brazos Valley Quilt Guild from Benjamin and the Paducah Quilt Shop also will be on hand for the event. Popular quilt-maker Susan Spake also is expected in attendance.

Held in Munday for years, the event was moved to Goree three years ago and, Huffman said, continues to growing in popularity every year. The cooking show will be in the form of a cupcake competition with

other food preparation demonstrations going on as well.

Huffman urged area residents to enter their quilts — old and new — into the event.

"We would like to show off your quilts old and new alike, so be sure to attend the event and enter them in the competition," Huffman said.

In addition to the quilt and cupcake competition, a number of vendors showcasing a variety of cooking techniques will be offered as well as more than 100 quilts on display.

A Best of Show prize is one of the event's most-anticipated awards.

"Quilting is coming back and beginning to grow in popularity," Huffman said. "There are now quilting stores in Abilene, Benjamin, Haskell and Clyde."

For information, contact Huffman at 940-203-0463.

Take the First Step to a Heart-Healthy Life.

**Start! Walking. Start! Something.**

Heart disease is the number one killer of men and women in America. But did you know that just 30 minutes a day of physical activity can improve your health and decrease your risk of heart disease?

An easy way to work physical activity into your regular routine is to start walking. For every single hour of regular, vigorous exercise, you can add two hours to your life expectancy.

It's easy to Start! whether you're by yourself or with friends, family and co-workers. You'll all feel a difference and live longer, heart-healthier lives.

Join the movement.

heart.org/myheartmylife

American Heart Association  
My Heart. My Life.

**Vote for EXPERIENCE**

My name is **Travis Floyd** and I am graciously asking for your vote to re-elect me as **Knox County Judge in the Primary Election on March 4th.**

First, I want to thank you for allowing me to serve you as County Judge for the last 9 plus years. For those that don't know me, allow me give you a little background. I was born in Knox County and grew up in and around Munday. I graduated from Munday High School in 1965, and almost immediately went to work for AT&T. I married my school sweetheart, Brenda, in 1965, and we have been happily married for 48 years. We have two married daughters and six grandchildren. I am an active member, and I lead worship in my church. I worked for AT&T as a middle level manager for 30 years. After retiring from AT&T, we moved to Knox County and I helped establish the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation Program as the District Manager. I left that position to return to the Telecommunications field by serving as a consultant in places like Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Poland, The Netherlands, Herndon, Virginia, Omaha, Nebraska, and Cisco Systems in Plano, Texas.

I believe after having successfully managed diverse groups of people in the U.S. as well as other countries, I am equipped to continue to meet the challenges as County Judge. I have strong interpersonal skills and I communicate well with people on a professional and mutually respectable level. Much of my work with AT&T and in the consulting arena has used these skills to bring people together to solve problems. I respectfully submit to you that my background as stated above and the progress that Knox County has made since I took office in 2004, clearly indicate that I am the best qualified candidate for this important office.

Travis Floyd

Pol. Adv. paid for by Travis Floyd

**FBC**  
First Baptist Church  
Munday, Texas

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

Pastor Shane Kendrix

**Service Times:**

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

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

*It seems some people have a way  
That very few possess—  
A way of being gracious,  
With special thoughtfulness.  
A way of giving all they do  
A warm and loving touch,  
By sharing acts of kindness  
That mean so very much.*

*It seems some people touch our lives  
In all they say and do—  
The very dearest people,  
People just like YOU!!*

*Words cannot express our appreciation to everyone who came by to visit, sent cards, called, brought food, sent plants and flowers, made memorial donations and especially prayed for our family the last few weeks. A special thank you to the Munday Nursing Center for your loving care and comfort of our beloved Momma and Grandma. Your love and concern is deeply appreciated. We are lucky to live in a loving, caring town!*

*In Christian Love,  
George & Linda Custad  
Greg & Sindy Custad & family  
Kent & Leann Harlan & family  
Kevin & Cindy Custad & family*

# Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

After several days (that seemed like several weeks!) of cold, snowy, icy weather, spring-like temperatures have returned to our "neck of the woods." Very welcome relief from what we had around here for a week or so. Any moisture we may have gotten from the snow may be already gone as we had some real March-like wind on Thursday, and likely will have more. Then we will have the fire danger which is always a dread. But we are used to those type of conditions, so we deal with them.

## About Our Ill

Mike Young has moved from HMC to the League House across the street and goes daily back to the hospital for his therapy. Still no set time for his release from the doctors in Abilene, and he's kinda dreading getting home as he has some water leaks that possibly caused more damage that was thought when they were first discovered. Friends found the problem after things began to thaw after the freeze. It will just have to be "looked into" to see what can be done to fix it. Otherwise, things with Mike are going pretty well.

Linda Griffith is still wearing the boot on her foot following her recent surgery. She got the stitches out last week and hopes after about another couple of weeks, she will be out of her boot and back into shoes. She's doing well,

however.

Judy Barnett was telling me that Randolph's son's sister-in-law (his wife's brother's wife) has been diagnosed with advanced breast cancer, and they were asking for prayer for her. She has two young children and times are pretty hard for them right now. I'm not sure what treatment she will be having or where she will be going to have it.

Philomae Roberson will be in Wichita Falls tomorrow (Tuesday) to see her cardiologist. She has had to cancel twice due to the bad weather, so needless to say, she's ready to get this over with. She's feeling fine and doesn't expect doctors to find any real problem that can't be fixed pretty easily. We hope and pray that will be the situation after these tests are made.

Several have inquired about my great grandson, Dillon, who had a problem a couple of weeks ago. He's much better now. He has finished the round of antibiotics, and hopefully that will be all he has to take for a while. Thanks for asking, and above all, thank you all for your prayers for him.

No other illness that I am aware of other than the usual aches and pains. Those of us with arthritis problems have certainly been aware of the cold weather the past few days. It has really made our joints "act up."

My sympathy today to the families of Alene Beaty and Merle Anderson. Both these ladies were from Munday and passed away last week. I was not as well

acquainted with Alene as I was Merle, but did know them both and am sorry to learn of their deaths. Merle's funeral was Sunday and services for Alene are pending.

## Here 'N There

Johnny and Patti Carver of Taft were here for the weekend to visit his Mom, Dorothy, in the Munday Nursing Center, and his brother, Fred (and Jan), and other relatives. On Friday they and other members of the Carver family attended a party at the Nursing Center where Dorothy was crowned Valentine Queen, and her "King" was Buster Lowery. Both are former Knox City residents and have resided in Munday several months. Other family members to visit and attend the party were Jan and Fred Carver of Benjamin, Stasia and Gary Antilley of Wingate, Susan Carver of Knox City, and Jacy, Jara, Lexie and Talon Collins of Munday.

And on Friday I had a nice visit with Barbara Carver (her married name escapes me!). She lives in Lubbock, as she has for several years. I don't see her very often, but I always enjoy our visit when we do meet. She was in the area to visit her mom, Stella Carver, who lives in Knox City.

Shelby Russell of Lubbock was home for a weekend visit with her mom, Kim Moore, her sister, Samijo, and great grandmother, Hazel Stockton.

Several locals had lunch at the

Methodist Church in Knox City on Sunday. This third Sunday of the month meal is provided by the church members, and the cost to eat is a donation only. The proceeds go into a benevolent fund, which is used solely to help people in need. That's a great project, and I think it's great the way the people support it. And the food's good, too!

The City Manager, Kim Sealy, has been kept busy with the water leaks here in town lately. Some of the lines are so old, and as quick as one is fixed, another one shows up. We sure appreciate Kim. He has kept us in water, and that is very important to us all.

I just talked to Betty Bohannon, and she told me her granddaughter, Liddy Brumley, will be having some stomach tests run very soon. Liddy has had problems for a while, and they thought it was time to get it checked out. Hopefully it will be something that medication will help. Liddy says she does not want to have surgery! She's about 10 years old, and her mom is Jamie. She will be having her tests in Abilene.

I talked to Mike Lyles Saturday, and he said his mom, Betty, is doing real well now. I haven't talked to her in two or three weeks, but he said since she's had her heart stints, she has felt so much better. That's good to hear.

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

## ESL students excel



Submitted photo  
First United Church of Munday offers English as Second Language lessons at 1 p.m. Wednesdays during the school year. This year's class members include (back row) instructors Debbie Pankhurst, Judy Hubbard, Dorothy Myers; (front row) and students Ana Morales, Guadalupe Marmolejo, Marlene Lopez, Felipa Marmolejo, Marcela Martinez, Diane Martinez, Dora Hernandez and Nina Vega. Volunteer instructors are needed and new students are welcome. For information about the classes, contact the Rev. Susan Felty at 940-422-5144 or email firstumc@srcaccess.net.

## Guthrie Students of the Month



Submitted by Kaylee Adams and Carli Maxwell  
Noe Sandoval is the son of Daniel and Teresa Sandoval. He also goes by the nickname of yes-way. Noe participates in cross country, basketball, and track. His favorite hobbies are doing math and watching TV. When asked to describe himself in three words he came up with smart, happy, and loyal! Something he couldn't live without would be his phone, and his favorite quote is, "It is better to be hated for what you are than to be loved for what you are not."



Gina Cheyne is the daughter of Sug and Shana Cheyne. Gina participates in cross country, basketball and one act play. In her spare time Gina's favorite thing to do is to hang out with friends. She also goes by the nickname of G.G., and when asked to describe herself in three words she came up with fun, funny, and awkward. Something she couldn't live without would be her sisters, and her favorite quote is "You get out of it what you put into it."

VOOTE Steve Shahan

for  
**Knox County Judge**

Steve has been a Knox County resident for 3 1/2 years. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Karen. They have one daughter and three grandchildren. He has five years law enforcement experience and 20 years business management experience.

*Whether you vote for Steve or another candidate, please get out and vote. Make your voice be heard. Get out and vote in the March 4, 2014 primaries.*

(940) 203-1407  
irishsteve63@gmail.com  
P.O. Box 21 • Munday • 76371

*Raid for by the committee to elect Steve Shahan.*

WICHITA BRAZOS MUSEUM THANKS YOU!

A volunteer is a person who unselfishly gives of time and service to the community and its projects. This was evident at our Museum Fundraising Meal and Auction held on February 9, 2014. Naming everyone who helped us is impossible so we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to ALL volunteers who helped us make our fundraiser a success. A community is only as strong as its people.

The Museum represents the history of people of Knox County and our area and everyone is welcome to visit and/or participate in all projects of the Museum. Again, our most grateful thanks.

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# The 501

## A (fledgling) snowbird in Venice — Florida

Fort Lauderdale is the Venice of the Americas. I'm not sure what that means for the real Venice, Florida, but now that I've spent a few days in Fort Lauderdale, I get it. Canals are everywhere.



HANABA MUNN WELCH

But instead of gondolas, yachts are the rule. Big shiny yachts.

I'm here thanks to an invitation from my cousin Liz. Nice cousin.

Liz also has adopted a homeless woman who sleeps on the beach. I've yet to meet her. Soft-hearted Liz gave her some money.

And those are the extremes of society in

Fort Lauderdale — the ultra rich and the yachtless homeless, both attracted to the great weather here. So am I.

Liz's son, Brewster, lives here. If he weren't her son already, I'd adopt him.

It wouldn't be a no-strings adoption. I'd make it clear he'd have to house me in the dead of winter if Texas ever has another one like 2013-2014. Brrrrrr.

Never have I thought much of snowbirds -- people too lazy to stay home and shovel snow. Wimps. They use places like Florida and the Rio Grande Valley the way we regular Texans use Colorado in August. Users.

Now I am one. I'm not proud to have abandoned my husband to feed 43 cows and thaw out the frozen well without me. I make that confession as the ocean breezes turn the palm fronds into hula dancers and my hair

into something it's not in Texas. I would say what, but there's not a word for it.

If there's a drawback here, the effect on hair is it, at least for anyone who tries to stay coiffed. I don't.

Travelogue-wise, I've little to say. Aside from visits with Liz and Brewster, my experiences have been bus rides, sort of like my first adventures in Paris, when I spent two days on the Metro. Nothing beats public transit for seeing both the seamier and ritzier side of things and for rubbing shoulders with the natives, especially during rush hour. One bus lurch here sent me into the lap of a sickly fellow who was riding the bus in his wheelchair. And he asked me if I was OK!

So far, even on the crowded buses, no one has picked my pocket. That's more than I can say for Lisbon.

Yesterday, after some cursory online research, I took the bus to a used apparel store in a better (understatement) part of town, hoping to supplement my spare travel wardrobe. Prices started at \$150. I felt the discerning eyes of the clerks on my basic black Wal-Mart canvas shoes — the very same shoes confiscated and inspected by airport security. At least at the airport, they passed.

Clerks' opinions aside (not that anyone said anything), my cheap basic shoes have served me well here. Maybe I'll get them bronzed for spite.

Better yet, I should save them for trips to other places called Venice -- Bruges, Amsterdam, Manchester, St. Petersburg. Or even Venice.

Perk up little shoes. You know you want to go.

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# Early lead gives Spur edge over Houndettes

The Knox County News-Courier

HAMLIN — The Knox City High School varsity girls basketball team suffered their final loss of the season this past week against Spur.

Even though both teams hammered their full-court press for the entire game, Spur sprung a big lead early and did not relent, paving the way for a Spurette win, 50-37.

The loss knocked the Houndettes out of the playoffs and brings a close to their season.

While there were offensive struggles in the game, both teams remained diligent on defense, with multiple steals and blocks being thrown up on both sides.

Spur was to advance to a regional match-up against Roby that was played Tuesday.

Geoffrey Baumgartner

# All-District team Houndettes recognized for the season

By Geoffrey Baumgartner  
The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — Some members of the Knox City Houndettes varsity squad have been selected for the 2013-2014 Girls Basketball All District Team, with some members receiving additional honors.

Overall MVP of the Year was awarded to Harrold senior Madison Templeton while Knox City sophomore Makaylie Steele was awarded the Offensive MVP of the year. Senior Blair Wilkinson from Northside received Defensive MVP of the Year while Knox City freshman Amy Harrington and Crowell freshman Deanne Connor were named Newcomers of the Year.

On first team all district from Knox City are senior Cassandra Ledesma and Sophomore Jordyn Eaton. Additional first team district qualifiers were junior Keelie Smith

from Northside, Senior Trebby Thrash from Chillicothe, and senior Jessica Chavez from Northside.

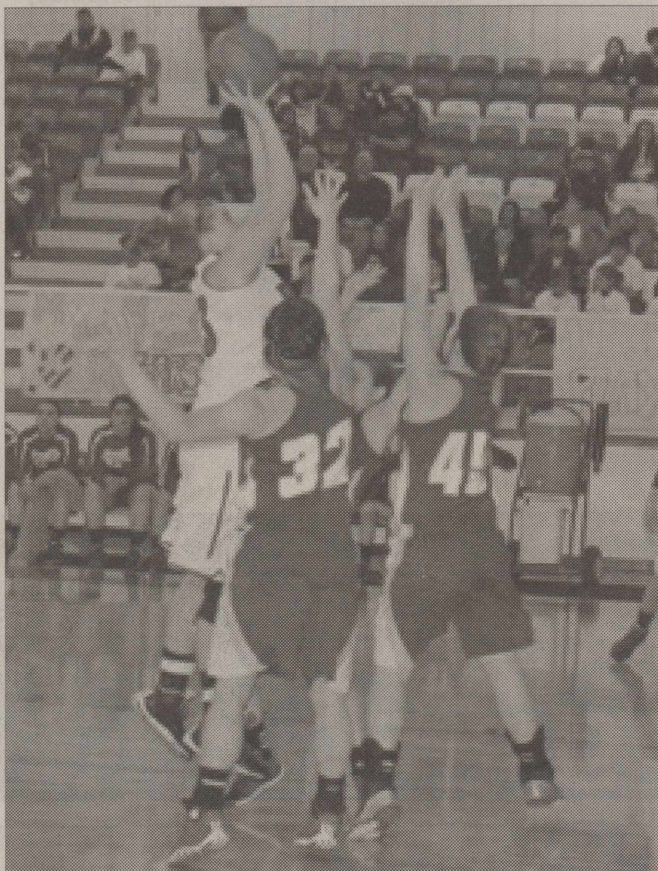
Junior Leighton Pepper was the only Knox City player to make the all district second team. Other girls from the district to make second team were Brittany Faulkner, a senior from Northside, senior Jordan Morales from Harrold, junior Lindsey Price from Harrold also, and senior Caitlynn Wilson from Chillicothe.

The Knox City Houndettes that received Honorable Mention were senior Kelsey Vasquez and sophomore Shailee Manning. Other Honorable Mention qualifiers were Harrold junior Shelby May and Harrold sophomores Josephine Muncrief and Mary Nobriga. Northside honorable mentions are Haley Smith, Kelsie Holcomb, and Marcy Zuniga while the Crowell honorable mentions are Mardi Wisdom and Kentie Rhodes.



Senior Kelsey Vasquez (32) leaps up more than a foot in the air for a well-formed jump shot toward the side of the key during the Houndettes' game Feb. 11 against Spur in Hamlin. The 50-37 area title loss brings a close to Knox City's season.

Sheri Baty/For the News-Courier



Sophomore Makaylie Steele (23) goes well above the arms of the girls attempting to block her jump shot during the Houndettes' Feb. 11 playoff game against Spur in Hamlin. Knox City fell short,

50-37. Sheri Baty/For the News-Courier

*Congrats  
on a great  
season,  
Houndettes!*

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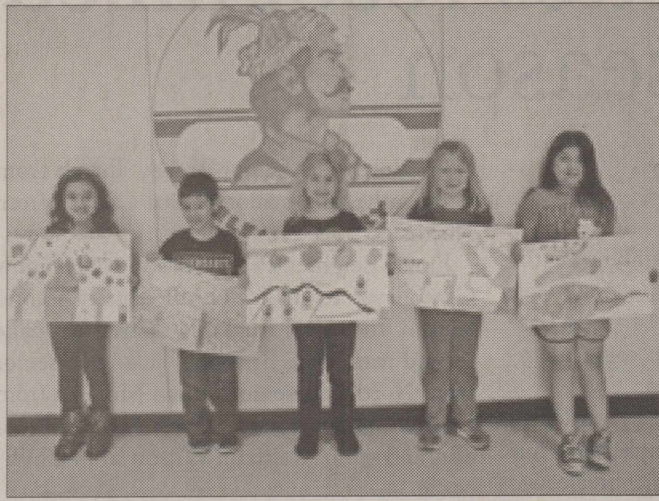
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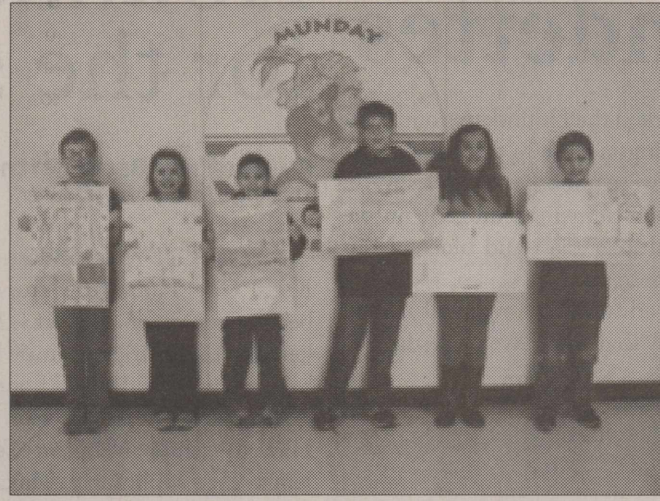
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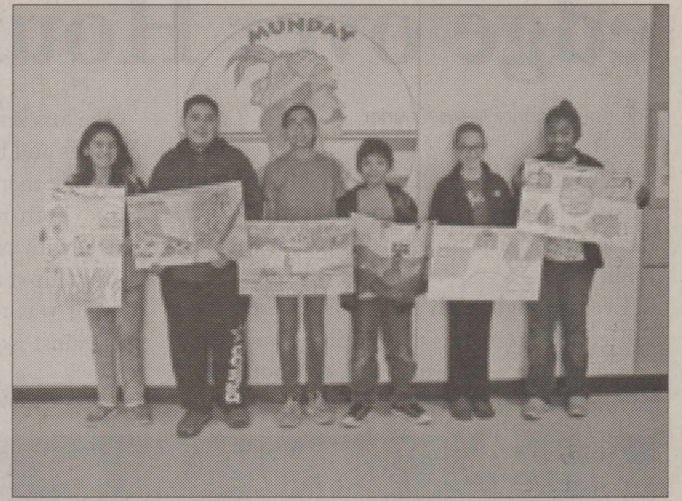
# Water Conservation Poster Winners



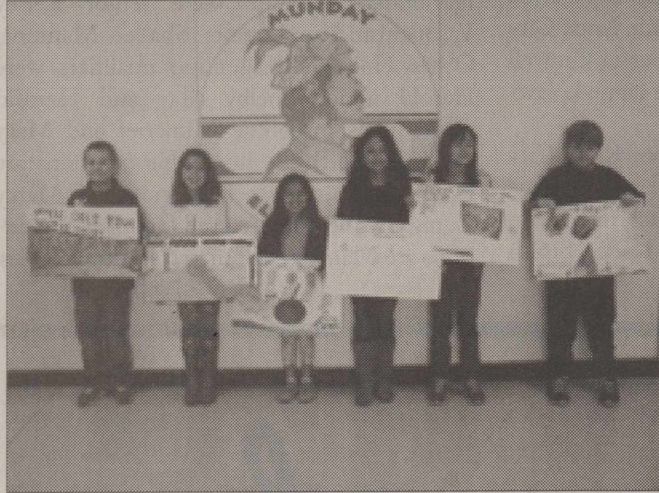
First Grade



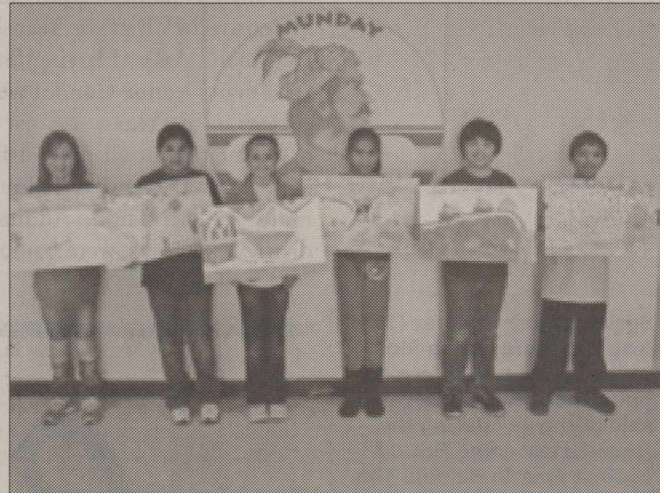
Third Grade



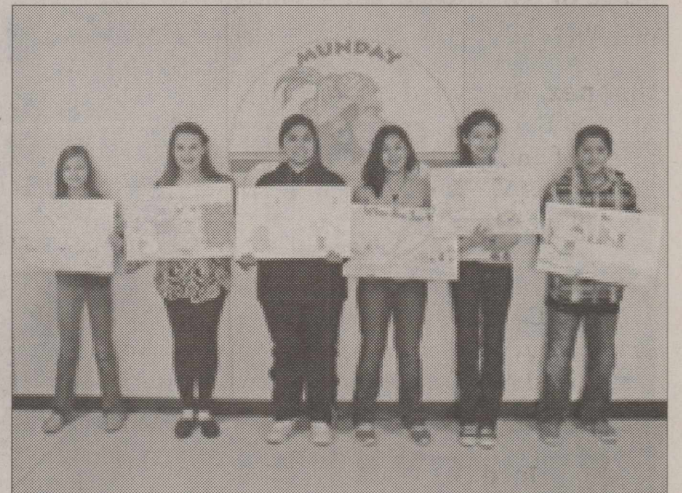
Fifth Grade



Second Grade



Fourth Grade



Sixth Grade

	1st grade	2nd grade	3rd grade	4th grade	5th grade	6th grade
First	Campbell Corcoran	Kayton Shahan	Jaxon Bowman	Elli Oustad	Trinity Rodriguez	Evan Hunter
Second	Paisley Perez	Dalaney Leija	Stephanie Scott	Korina Hilario	Kelvin Martinez	Sydney Thompson
Third	Eryn Cottingham	Brooklyn Rodriguez	Hunter Jagers	Alyssa Willison	Alexa Vega	Isabella Nunez
Fourth	Christina Zavala	Caremy Ledezma	Jase Brown	Paola Llamas	Richie Perez	Ana Sanchez
Fifth	Abby Aguilar	Melissa Carmona	Alondra Gonzalez	Jose Garcia	Carlie Willison	Monse Cedillo
Sixth	Evelyn Garcia	Lynn Strebeck	Caleb Quintana	Chris Rodriguez	Ashia Swearingin	Ricardo Carranza

## Archer City stuns Munday in double OT

SEYMOUR — In an edge-of-your-seat double overtime for bi-district bragging rights, the Munday High School girls varsity basketball squad lost a heartbreaking 51-42 game to Archer City this past week, eliminating the Mogulettes from playoff competition and bringing their season to a close.

Munday started out very strong, gaining an 11-point lead over Archer

City within the first minutes of the first quarter. However, Archer City continued to plug away, eventually tying up the game and sending it to overtime.

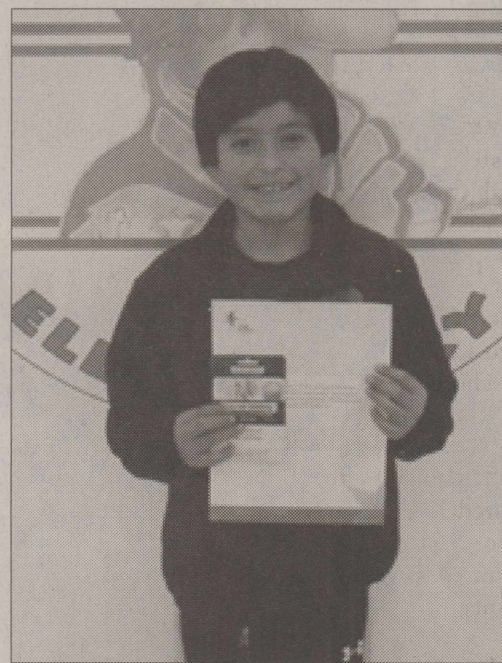
Even with great offense plays by Tatum Bufkin and Raci Dillard and a strong defensive presence by Tiffany Serrato, the Lady Cats continued to persist at the basket and jump on the boards. That energy in the gym was palpable when they tied up the Mogulettes

again to send it to a second overtime.

The extra effort from Archer City paid off and the Mogulettes eventually ran out of steam on defense, allowing the Lady Cats to break away in the final minutes of the second overtime.

Munday eventually fell short, 51-42, advancing the Archer City Lady Cats to the area playoff.

Geoffrey Baumgartner



Joe Jasso of Munday Elementary is the winner of the Knox County Farm Bureau 4th grade essay contest.

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# Arrests

Following is a list of arrests made by Knox County sheriff's officials between Dec. 11 and Feb. 10. The information here is public record and made available to the newspaper by Sheriff Dean Homstad under the Texas Open Records Act.

**Lockhart, Jordan (DOB 1990).** Arrested Dec. 5 in Plano on a Knox County motion to revoke warrant with an original charge of a class B misdemeanor of possession of marijuana.

**Masias, Mary Alice (DOB 1964).** Arrested Dec. 11 in Knox County for a parole violation with an original charge of possession of a controlled substance, which is a state fail felony.

**Jimenez, Brittany (DOB 1990).** Arrested Dec. 12 on a state jail felony charge of endangering a child and a class C misdemeanor charge of no proof of insurance.

**Barrioz, Ronnie (DOB 1980).** Arrested Dec. 13 in Lamesa on a Knox County warrant for failure to appear on six charges of failure to pay child support, a state jail felony.

**Reese, Jordan Chase (DOB 1985).** Arrested Dec. 14 in Lubbock on a Knox County motion to revoke warrant with original charge of driving while intoxicated with a child passenger, a state jail felony.

**Rubio, Armando Wayne (DOB 1981).** Arrested Dec. 15 in Knox County for public intoxication, failure to signal turn and no driver license, all class C misdemeanors.

**Ford, Richard (DOB 1965).** Arrested in Foard County for a class B misdemeanor charge of falsifying a drug test.

**Rubio, Armando Wayne (DOB 1981).** Arrested Dec. 20 on a class B misdemeanor charge of theft by check. Also wanted for a warrant out of Baylor County.

**Gonzales, Marco (DOB 1996).** Arrested Dec. 20 on a class A misdemeanor charge of assault under the Family Violence Act.

**Gutierrez, Misty Dawn (DOB 1979).** Arrested Dec. 21 for a Foard County motion to revoke warrant with original charges of possession of drugs with intent to manufacture and transport, second-degree felony.

**Dockins, Jermain, (DOB 1990).** Arrested Dec. 27 in Knox County on charges of assault under the Family Violence Act.

Hamor, Mindy R. (DOB 1981).

Arrested Dec. 28 on a Foard County charge of possession of a dangerous drug, a class A misdemeanor, and possession of drug paraphernalia, a class C misdemeanor.

**Plume, Cleborn (DOB 1994).** Arrested Dec. 31 on three charges of disorderly conduct, a charge of tobacco possession by a minor and for "dog running at large," all class C misdemeanors.

**Esquivel, Michelle (DOB 1970).** Arrested Jan. 2 on third-degree felony charge of theft out of Knox County.

**Moreno, Jose (DOB 1981).** Arrested Jan. 3 on a third-degree felony charge of driving while intoxicated with three or more prior convictions.

**Dockins, Demarcus (DOB 1987).** Arrested Jan. 7 on a Knox County probation violation charge for engaging in organized criminal activity.

**McGinis, Eric Gerard (DOB 1975).** Arrested Jan. 7 on a Knox County warrant for failure to appear with an original state jail felony charge of nonpayment of child support.

**Hodge, Ray Anthong (DOB 1979).** Arrested on bench warrant for possession of a controlled substance out of Knox County.

**Lingar, Mindy Richelle (DOB 1981).** Arrested on a Foard County charge of driving while intoxicated with three or more prior convictions.

**Arriola, Jeffery (DOB 1976).** Arrested Jan. 12 on a class C charge of public intoxication in Knox County.

**Sherrard, Bobby (DOB 1965).** Arrested Jan. 13 on Haskell County warrants for assault against a disabled person and interference with an emergency call, both class A misdemeanors.

**Fitts, Justin (DOB 1991).** Arrested Jan. 13 on a probation violation (class A misdemeanor) out of Baylor County.

**Price, Stevie Jr. (DOB 1972).** Arrested Jan. 14 in Knox County on a motion to revoke bond associated with an original charge of assault with bodily injury. Also had warrants out of Ector County.

**Sipe, Freddie (DOB 1983).** Arrested on a motion to revoke bond associated with an original charge of cruelty to non-livestock animals, a third-degree felony, out of Baylor County.

**Gonzales, Jose (DOB 1987).** Arrested Jan. 13 on a Knox County charge of driving while intoxicated with three or more prior convictions.

**Gates, Lesley L. (DOB 1986).** Arrested on Baylor County charges of evading arrest and interference with an emergency call, both class A misdemeanors, and a third-degree felony charge of assault against a public officer.

**Gutierrez, Savannah (DOB 1984).** Arrested Jan. 20 on a Knox County charge of driving on an invalid license with at least one previous conviction, a class B misdemeanor.

**Sullivan, Chelsea Dawn (DOB 1991).** Arrested Jan. 22 on Knox County charges of evading arrest (class A misdemeanor) and resisting arrest (class B misdemeanor); and on two motion to revoke bond warrants out of Haskell and Taylor counties, which are class B misdemeanors.

**Hernandez, Joe Lee (DOB 1984).** Arrested Jan. 25 on a Knox County charge of driving while intoxicated, first offense (class B misdemeanor) and on a warrant out of Foard County.

**Collins, Christopher Lee (DOB 1977).** Arrested Jan. 26 on a second-degree felony charge of burglary of a habitation out of Knox County.

**Holmes, Adam Wesley (DOB 1992).** Arrested Jan. 30 on a charge of manufacturing and delivery of a controlled substance (second-degree felony) out of Knox County.

**Macias, Michael Ray (DOB 1988).** Arrested Feb. 1 on a class C misdemeanor charge of public intoxication out of Knox County.

**Vaughn, Michael Paul (DOB 1977).** Arrested Feb. 3 on a class A misdemeanor charge of making a terroristic threat out of Foard County.

**Jimenez, Gloria Jean (DOB 1962).** Arrested Feb. 2 on a Foard County charge of driving while license invalid, a class B misdemeanor.

**Estrada, April (DOB 1991).** Arrested Feb. 9 on a Knox County charge of making a terroristic threat, a class B misdemeanor.

**Moore, Lee Andrew Jr. (DOB 1967).** Arrested Feb. 10 on a Baylor County charge of criminal mischief, a class A misdemeanor.

Wayne Hodgin

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### LEGAL NOTICE

An Election is hereby ordered to be held on May 10, 2014 for the purpose of:

- Electing one (1) Mayor for a two year term.
- Electing two (2) Council members for two (2) year terms.

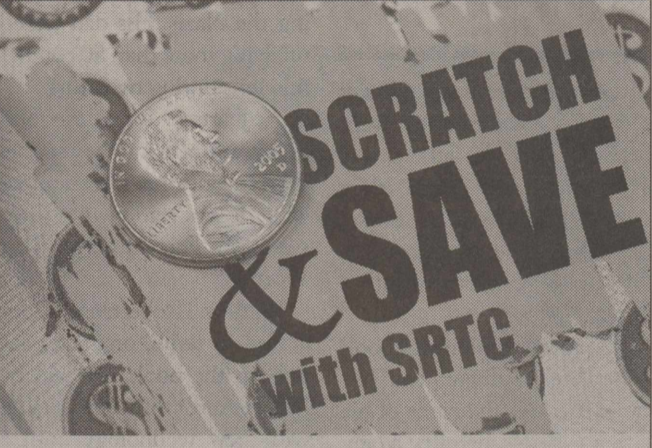
Applications for a place on the ballot shall be filed by February 28, 2014. Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at Knox County Clerk's office - 100 W. Cedar - Benjamin, Texas between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. beginning on April 28, 2014 and ending on May 6, 2014.

Application for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:

Annette Offutt  
100 W. Cedar  
Benjamin, Texas 79505

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on May 1, 2014. Issued this 13th day of February, 2014.

Tami Gaddis, City Secretary



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# Menus

## Week of Feb. 24-28

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**Tuesday:** Biscuits with sausage gravy or cereal bowl, toast, pears, juice, milk  
**Wednesday:** Breakfast pancake wrap or cereal bowl with sausage, cinnamon apples, juice, milk  
**Thursday:** Golden waffles with syrup or cereal bowl, toast, peaches, juice, milk  
**Friday:** Breakfast pizza or cereal bowl, toast apple-sauce, juice, milk
- Lunch**  
**Monday:** Rib sandwich or antipasto salad or bologna and cheese, corn, green beans, mixed fruit, slushy, milk  
**Tuesday:** Frito chili pie or fajita chicken salad or turkey and cheese, carrots, lettuce, fruit, slushy, milk  
**Wednesday:** Chicken quesadilla or garden pasta salad or ham and cheese, Mexicali corn, refried beans, applesauce, slushy, milk

- Thursday:** Steak fingers or zesty tuna salad or tuna salad, mashed potatoes, green beans, pears, slushy, milk  
**Friday:** Pizza or chef salad or po-boy combo, tator tots, baked beans, pineapple, slushy, milk
- Munday**  
**Breakfast**  
**Monday:** Waffles with syrup, honey graham, fruit, slushy, juice, milk  
**Tuesday:** Cereal bowl, honey graham, peaches, slushy, juice, milk  
**Wednesday:** Pancake wrap, applesauce, slushy, juice, milk  
**Thursday:** Cereal bowl, honey graham, pears, slushy, juice, milk  
**Friday:** Breakfast pizza, honey graham, pineapple, slushy, juice, milk
- Lunch**  
**Monday:** Rib sandwich or bologna and cheese, corn, green beans, mixed fruit, slushy, milk  
**Tuesday:** Frito chili pie or turkey and cheese, carrots, lettuce, honeydew,

- slushy, milk  
**Wednesday:** Chicken quesadilla or ham and cheese, Mexicali corn, refried beans, applesauce, slushy, milk  
**Thursday:** Steak fingers or tuna salad, gravy mashed potatoes, green beans, cantaloupe, slushy, milk  
**Friday:** Pizza or po-boy, tator tots, baked beans,

- pineapple, slushy, milk  
**Knox County Aging Center**  
 Menu not available.  
 Come eat with us and support your aging center program.  
 Please call in your orders by 10:00 a.m. to 657-3618.

AW1-2 9/2009  
Prescribed by Secretary of State  
Sections 3.004, 3.006, 4.008, 85.004, 85.007 Texas Election Code

### ORDER OF ELECTION

An election is hereby ordered to be held on **MAY 10, 2014** for the purpose of:

#### ELECTION OF 3 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at

**CITY HALL, 902 E MAIN ST. KNOX CITY TX**

between the hours of **8** a.m. and **5** p.m. beginning on **APRIL 28, 2014** and ending on **MAY 6, 2014**.

Early Voting extended hours will be 2 a.m. to 2 p.m. on **Monday April 28, 2014** and **Tuesday May 6, 2014**.

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:

**EARLY VOTING CLERK**  
**BETTY JOHNSTON**  
 902 E MAIN ST  
 KNOX CITY, TX 79529

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on **MAY 1, 2014**.

Issued this the **11<sup>TH</sup>** day of **FEBRUARY, 2014**.

 Mayor Kent DeVille	 Mayor Pro-Tem Ezekiel Duke
 Councilmember Greg Oliver	 Councilmember Augustine Rodriguez
 Councilmember Logan Morrow	 Councilmember Mark Tucker

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### Identification and Recruitment of Migrant Students

Federal law requires that the state identify and recruit every eligible migrant student residing in Texas (students from families working in agriculture). The Texas Education Agency has assured the U.S. Department of Education that migrant students would be actively recruited year-round in every school district in the State of Texas, including out of school youth (OSY). For the purpose of the Migrant Education Program, out of school youth are defined as youth up through age 21 not currently enrolled in a K-12 institution. They may have dropped out of school, are working on a GED outside of a K-12 institution or are "here to work in agriculture" only. Please contact the ESC Migrant Recruiters, Miriam Mas or Michelle Merrick, at Region 9 Education Service Center, 940-322-6928, if you know a young person that meets this eligibility criterion.

### AVISO PÚBLICO

#### Identificación y Reclutamiento de Estudiantes Migrantes

La ley federal requiere que le Estado de Texas identifique y reclute todo los estudiantes migratorios que califican y viven en el Estado de Texas. (Estudiantes de familias que trabajan en agricultura). La Agencia de Educación de Texas ha asegurado al Departamento de Educación de los Estado Unidos que estudiantes migratorios serán reclutados durante todo el año, en cada distrito escolar en todos los estados. Este esfuerzo se enfoca en jóvenes que no están atendiendo ninguna escuela. El joven que califica sería un joven hasta la edad de 21 años que no está atendiendo una escuela normal, ha dejado la escuela, está estudiando para el GED fuera de la escuela normal, o está aquí para trabajar en trabajos de agricultura. Por favor llame a Miriam Mas o Michelle Merrick, las personas responsables de este programa al número 940-322-6928 si sabe de algún joven que pueda calificar.



**COUNTY**  
From Page 1

"I don't know what the commissioners will think, but I would seriously doubt they would want to spend our constituents money (on a project such as this)," Travis said. "However, if the citizens of Knox County want to be involved, they should let their commissioner know."

New technology combined with years research has produced reliable results that

**TOURNEY**  
From Page 1

Entry fees for the Bill Baker Memorial Golf Tournament on July 5 are only \$100 per team, and entry fees to the volleyball tournament on July 4 will only be \$15 per person for coed teams. Committees are forming now.

If you would like to get involved or reserve a spot in the golf or volleyball tournament, call Currie at 325-721-3001, Michelle Stanfield at 940-256-0318 or Moore at 512-

**AUTHOR**  
From Page 1

down, and so he did. Well, some of these stories were derived from his father's war experiences and since they were already written down, he thought he would add a few and organize them into a book.

He ended up calling the book "The Three-Cornered Kid" because that was the name of his father's B-24 aircraft. Many

make cloud seeding a dependable and affordable water producing strategy for as many as 11 states that have recently developed cloud seeding programs.

This is backed by years of various university researches and numerous governments throughout the world successfully utilizing the practice. For instance, the University of Israel recently led a successful cloud seeding research project.

It is done by a chemical process of dropping either silver iodide or dry ice particles into the formation of existing

534-1785. More than at least half of the golf tournament spots have already been filled.

To make a cash scholarship donation to the Bill Baker Memorial, contact Moore at jd@byreferralrealty.net.

"Even though our supporters really stepped up last year and the events were a great success, this year there will be several seniors who we won't be able to provide scholarships to," Moore said. "Hopefully we can grow and raise enough money to award all of our seniors who apply a scholarship — that's our goal."

Note: Wayne, please see

of the missions his father flew were in Italy with the 15th Air Force Division, actively attacking the Nazis. His dad ended up flying more than 50 combat missions during two tours.

Robertson even has fond memories of his father sneaking him into his B36 bomber while it was stationed at Carswell Air Force Base in Fort Worth.

It took Robertson about a year to write, organize and publish the book. He said he had the most difficulty dealing with new technology until a

clouds by airplane or projecting them into the clouds via rocket, forming minute ice crystals within the cloud which in-turn causes more precipitation to occur. While cloud seeding does not create rain from thin air, it is a method of producing more rain from clouds already conducive to rainfall.

Major international airports within the United States use cloud seeding to reduce intense fog and other harmful weather conditions above runways, while other business such as a ski resorts use it to produce heavier snow falls for their slopes.

below, a quote from Kelly Robinson, one of our Board Members. Maybe you can squeeze in a line or 2 from this and weave it into the press release. "As a graduate of KCHS over 35 years ago and a huge fan of Mr. Bill Baker, I can't tell you how pleased and excited I am to know we will be honoring this great man as we participate in the Bill Baker Memorial. I hope you will join us to make the 2014 event even more fun and even more rewarding than last year's inaugural one was." - Kelly Robinson, 1977 KCHS Graduate

friend told him about e-books and instructed him to get an e-publisher, such as Kindle on Amazon.com. He eventually hired a software engineer to edit and submit the book to Kindle, where it is currently available for purchase.

Robinson said the book is narrow in scope, but makes a good read.

"The book is only about one man, but he led a very interesting life," he said. "It's just a Knox County boy's recollection of his dad's old war stories."

**Nancy's Notions**

**Are you at risk for heart disease?**

During the month of February, Americans see the human heart as the symbol of love. Since February is also American Heart Month, it is time to show yourself some love.

Fact: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cardiovascular disease, (CVD) including heart disease, stroke and high blood pressure, is the No. 1 killer of women and men in the United States.

Fact: It is a leading cause of disability, preventing Americans from working and enjoying family activities.

Fact: CVD costs the United States more than \$300 billion each year, including the cost of health care services, medications and lost productivity.

CVD does not affect all groups of people in the same way. Although the number of prevent-

able deaths has declined in people ages 65 to 74 years, it has remained unchanged in people younger than 65. Men are more than twice as likely as women to die from preventable CVD.

Having a close relative who has heart disease puts you at higher risk for CVD. Health disparities based on geography also exist. During 2007 to 2009, death rates due to heart disease were the highest in the South and lowest in the West.

Race and ethnicity also affect your risk. Nearly 44 percent of black men and 48 percent of black women have some form of CVD, and both are more likely than any other racial or ethnic group to have high blood pressure and to develop the condition earlier in life. About 2 in 5 black adults have high blood pressure, yet fewer than half of them have the condition under control.

Many CVD deaths could have been prevented through healthier habits, healthier living spaces, and better management of conditions

like high blood pressure and diabetes.

Take it one step at a time. You can control a number of risk factors for CVD, including:

- Diet
- Physical activity
- Tobacco use
- Obesity
- High blood pressure
- High blood cholesterol
- Diabetes

As you begin your journey to better heart health that can last a lifetime, keep these things in mind:

• Try not to become overwhelmed. Every step brings you closer to a healthier heart, and every healthy choice makes a difference!

• Don't get discouraged. You may not be able to take all of the steps at one time. Get a good night's sleep — also important for a healthy heart — and do what you can tomorrow.

• Reward yourself. Find fun things to do to decrease your stress. Round up some colleagues for a lunchtime walk, join a singing group, or have a healthy dinner with your family or friends.

• Partner up. The journey is more fun — and often more successful — when you have company. Ask friends and family to join you.

Step Up & Scale Down is a new 12-week program developed by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension nutrition specialists and is based on the USDA 2010 Dietary Guidelines intended to help Americans choose a healthy eating plan within their calorie requirements to achieve and maintain a healthy weight. The dietary guidelines provide sound scientific information about how proper dietary habits can promote health and reduce risk for major chronic diseases.

Spring is the perfect season to get active. For more information on Step Up & Scale Down, call the Garza County Extension Office at 806-495-4400, or your local Extension service office.

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



NANCY MCDONALD

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Chamber @ 940-889-2921 or  
bradnsis@swbell.net, 940-889-6638

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FUN0312

**New farm bill improves crop insurance program**

By Mary Jane Buerkle  
Special to the News-Courier

After three years of negotiating, farmers and ranchers across the nation finally have a farm bill that will guide U.S. ag policy over the next five years.

The U.S. Senate recently passed the Agricultural Act of 2014 by a vote of 68-32. President Obama signed the bill last week in Michigan, Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow's home state.

"We appreciate the Senate for coming together in bipartisan fashion to pass this bill and move it forward to the president for his signature," Plains Cotton Growers President Craig Heinrich, a cotton grower from Slaton, said. "We commend the House Agriculture Committee and Chairman Frank Lucas, along with the Senate Agriculture Committee and Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow, for creating a legislative package that saves money, cuts the deficit, and reforms and streamlines programs."

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the bill the prior week, 251-166.

PCG Executive Vice President Steve Verett noted the Agricultural Act of 2014 advanced relatively quickly through both the House and Senate because of excellent leadership, and congressional leaders from West Texas played key roles on the bill's creation and passage.

"We are fortunate to have strong West Texas representation on the farm bill conference committee," he said. "They understand why this bill is so important to our area and to the state, and have been actively working for agriculture, which is the cornerstone of our regional economy."

However, Verett said, PCG officials are disappointed that Texas Senators Ted Cruz and John Cornyn chose not to support the Agricultural Act of 2014.

"This bill saves billions of dollars while achieving meaningful reforms,

and is the best we could expect in today's budgetary and political climate," Verett said. "Our farmers need some assurance that they will have the tools they need to continue to grow our food and fiber."

Plains Cotton Growers will join with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Texas Tech University, and other ag-related organizations to host educational seminars regarding implementation of the farm bill.

The bill includes a transition program for cotton in the 2014 crop year, since enactment will come too late for USDA and the private sector to offer the new Stacked Income Protection Plan (STAX).

Crop insurance continues to be the backbone of the farm safety net for cotton, and the bill includes several important improvements in the crop insurance program that will allow farmers to better tailor their crop insurance to the appropriate risk.

THE KNOX COUNTY **News-Courier**

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## Wilder's Nature Journal



This Cholla cactus grows in the Comanche National Grassland in southwestern Colorado. In the background, the snow-covered Spanish Peaks can be seen more than 50 miles away.

S.J. Dahlstrom

By S.J. Dahlstrom

Nicknamed the chain-link cactus, these cacti grow in Colorado, Texas, New Mexico and Utah. They grow in deserts, on the plains and in cow pastures. When it dies, it turns into a hollow wooden cane with big holes in the wood.

In a drought, the Cholla can survive very well. Actually, it thrives, because some cows will eat these cacti when they run out

of grass. Then the cows spread the seeds in their manure. You can always tell an over-grazed pasture by too many cactus plants that are now crowding out the grass.

S.J. Dahlstrom is a Garza County resident and author of the young adult fiction book series "The Adventures of Wilder Good," based on a 12-year-old boy who enjoys hunting, fishing, cowboying and just about everything there is to do outdoors.

## FSA briefs

### Agency OKs TRC as a lender

Officials with the USDA Farm Service Agency this week announced the Texas Rural Communities organization has been approved as a nontraditional guaranteed loan lender for the FSA in the state of Texas.

A recently revised policy allows FSA to issue farm loan guarantees to nontraditional lenders. Nontraditional lenders can originate, hold and service guaranteed loans.

The goal of Texas Rural Communities is to improve and maintain the quality of rural communities. This goal is accomplished by assisting rural communities, individuals, groups and support organizations with viable rural development enterprises.

FSA has worked with traditional lenders in the past, but is now expanding to work with both traditional and nontraditional lenders. A nontraditional lender is one that does not typically hold deposit accounts and is not subject to oversight and supervision. The most common nontraditional lenders are those who are funded

under the U.S. Department of Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund.

FSA-guaranteed loans allow lenders to provide agricultural credit to farmers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria. Farmers and ranchers apply for a guaranteed loan through a lender, and the lender arranges for the guarantee. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. Guaranteed loans can be used for both farm ownership and operating purposes.

"The Agency has expanded its authority to extend guarantees to nontraditional lenders like Texas Rural Communities in order to provide credit to producers who operate in underserved locations," said Judith Canales, executive director of the Texas FSA.

For questions regarding the FSA Guaranteed Loan program, please contact your lender or your local FSA Office.

The Knox County News-Courier

## Dixie Divas

# What Charlie Tinker saw

(Editor's note: The following column from Ronda Rich is the third in a three-part series about her husband's grandfather, a White House telegrapher and confidant of President Abraham Lincoln.)

It is the summer of 1865 and, according to Charlie Tinker's diaries, it has been a summer of oppressive heat, its airless steaminess made more miserable by the heavy sorrow that he and his colleagues have shouldered since the death of the commander-in-chief, President Abraham Lincoln.



RONDA RICH

Lincoln, who made several visits daily to the telegraph office where Charlie and three others deciphered frequent dispatches from the Civil War battlefields, was like a family member, especially to Charlie whom Lincoln had befriended years before when both lived in Illinois. He was the first American president to be assassinated, the shock of which stunned a nation and devastated particularly those who knew him.

In the month that followed, Charlie, trying to assuage his grief, took time to return to Chicago and visit old friends. He later returned to Washington to watch a review of Sherman's army as they paraded through the city streets and to buy a beautiful bay horse with a white star on her forehead. The horse, to my chagrin, for which he paid a hundred dollars, participated in Sherman's brutal campaign through Georgia. There are still things about Charlie's diaries that make me cringe.

"She had taken the march from Atlanta to the sea," he wrote, "and though thin was full of mettle."

Through his entries, it is clear that Charlie loved that horse which he named Lizzie, after his wife.

It is his writing of a sweltering July day that brings forth an interesting piece of historical knowledge, perhaps unknown, until now. The morning of July 7, 1865, dawned hot and grew increasingly unbearable. It was a memorable aspect of a historic day. "Major Johnson attained a pass for himself and I to witness the execution of the assassins."

John Wilkes Booth was dead, but four others had been convicted in a military trial that ended 10 days earlier. Mary Surratt, who owned the boarding house where Booth and his co-conspirators met to plan the assassination of Lincoln and Secretary Seward (who lived despite a severe stabbing), would become the first woman in U.S. history to be executed.

"We went to the arsenal and were admitted to the penitentiary yard where we found the scaffolds already raised and a regiment of soldiers guarding the enclosure."

Mrs. Surratt and the others were brought from their cells, white hoods placed on their heads, and each prayed over by a minister of individual choice.

"At 12 p.m.," Charlie recorded, "all was ready and at a special signal from the officer in command, the props were removed and the drops fell launching all four into eternity with hardly a struggle. The closing scene was horrible, but it was an end of justice fully warranted. I was anxious to see this execution and am satisfied. I never want to witness another."

It was perhaps Charlie's obvious seriousness and complete devotion to Lincoln that brought to the 28-year-old an unexpected assignment. For reasons he doesn't detail and quite probably didn't know, Charlie was given the nooses that had strangled the co-conspirators and asked to dispose of them.

Imagine that? Perhaps no one in history has ever asked: What happened to the death-rendering nooses? Yet, now we know. Charlie Tinker, in his normal, matter-of-fact manner, took them home, chopped them into tiny pieces, and burned them for kindling in his fireplace.

In stoic Tinker manner — they are men of graceful determination — Charlie served his country then moved on. That afternoon, he rode out to the country to visit with Secretary Stanton, the man after whom he would name his son.

Charlie Tinker never forgot, though. He had a front row seat to history, ranging from a friendship with Lincoln to the Civil War to the hanging of those convicted.

Thanks to his diaries, we are able to see what he saw.

Ronda Rich is a Southern storyteller, humorist and best-selling author. Visit rondarich.com to purchase her books and sign up for her newsletter.

**VOTE  
DAN GODSEY  
COUNTY  
COMMISSIONER,  
PRECINCT 2  
MARCH 4, 2014**

It has been my pleasure to have resided in Knox County all of my adult life, having graduated from Knox City-O'Brien CISD in 1982 and entering the business of farming, ranching, and trucking shortly thereafter. I have been involved in these businesses now for over 34 years. During that time, I have been an observer of county government, how it works, what works best and even what doesn't work. During my 34 years of farming and ranching, I have probably driven over 300,000 miles on roads maintained by Knox County. I have seen the difference between a wise and judicious use of tax money and wasteful spending.

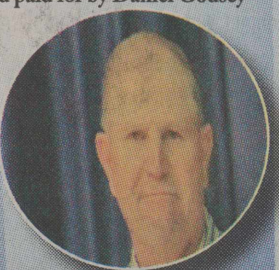
Knox County provides many critical services and among them are 911 Emergency Dispatch, Law Enforcement, Road Maintenance, and Aging Services, just to name a few. The challenge moving forward to Knox County is to maintain services while continually finding ways to deliver these services more efficiently and more cost effectively. I believe it is the responsibility of all elected officials to be diligent in doing just that.

In addition, I would like to see Knox County continue on the path of encouraging economic development. But county government can only take the lead in the promotion if a spirit of cooperation exists at the county level. And, in economic development, cooperation between the communities of Truscott, Benjamin, Knox City, Munday, Rhineland, Goree and Vera is of utmost importance. As a Commissioner, I will work to bring together all of these interests and continue to pursue economic development opportunities on a pro-active basis.

I would appreciate your vote and, if elected, will consider it an honor to represent each of you.

**VOTE FOR DAN GODSEY  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2  
MARCH 4, 2014**

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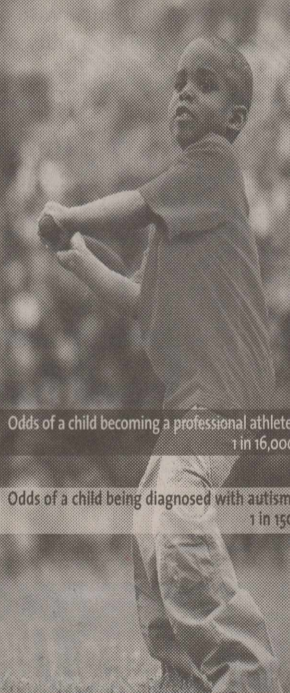
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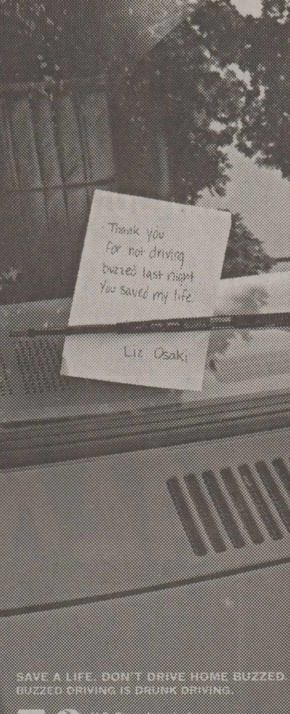
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Odds of a child becoming a professional athlete:  
1 in 16,000

Odds of a child being diagnosed with autism:  
1 in 150



Thank you for not driving beered last night. You saved my life.  
Liz Ozaki

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