

# THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

HOME OF JOSE MORENO

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2014

KCNEWSCOURIER.COM

75 CENTS

## Beloved butcher Bingham killed in wreck

By Geoffrey Baumgartner  
The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — Haskell and Knox county residents, friends and customers of local butcher Cecil Bingham awoke Monday to the news that earlier that morning he was killed in a two-vehicle accident on his way to work in Knox City.

Trooper Frederick Biddle, spokesman for the Texas Department of Public Safety regional headquarters in Abilene, said Bingham was northbound in a 2003 Dodge pickup on State Highway 6 about 2 miles south of O'Brien a little before 5:30 a.m. Monday when he was rear-ended.

Biddle said a second pickup, a 2012 Chevrolet driven by Shilo Ryan Wilkerson, 36, of Corinth, also northbound on State Highway 6 was traveling at or above the posted speed limit when he crashed into Bingham's truck, causing the fatal injuries.

Biddle also said Bingham likely was traveling well below the posted limit of 75 mph.

Bingham, 71, was pronounced by Judge Lynn Dodson, and his body taken to the Dallas County Medical Examiner in Dallas.

Biddle said Bingham was not wearing a safety belt.

Wilkerson, who was wearing a seat belt, was not injured in the wreck.

Bingham's fellow co-workers at the Knox City Lawrence Bros., where he was the meat department manager, were shocked and saddened by his sudden death.

"He was a good employee and just a kind-hearted human being," said Lawrence Bros. General Manager Jaime Lopez.

Produce Manager Jan Frost praised Bingham's customer-service skills and a passion for tending to their custom orders.

"The man was a dear, wonderful friend and a dedicated worker," Frost said through tears. "He would cut anything special for any customer."

See BINGHAM, Page 9



Cecil Bingham, standing beside the meat case at the Lawrence Brothers store in Knox City, where he was the longtime meat department manager, is shown in this December 2012 file photo taken for a feature story about his butchering skills. Bingham was killed early Monday morning in a two-vehicle accident while on his way to work.

## 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.

### Brisket Dinner

Annual Fund Raiser for Liberty Church will be held in Knox City at the Liberty fellowship hall, 302 N. Aspen on March 8 from 11:00 am to 2pm. Ticket for adults, \$10.00 children under 12, \$5.00. Call 940-657-3284 for pre-sale tickets

### Blood Drive

A blood drive will take place in Knox City on Tuesday, March 4 at Knox County Hospital from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Each donor will receive a long sleeve T-shirt and a complimentary total cholesterol test. Call the Meek Blood Center supervisor at 325-670-2880 if you have eligibility questions.

### Flea Market

1st Saturday of each month starting March 1 at the Munday Events Center. Open 8am to 3pm, pancake breakfast starts at 8:30am. Various merchandise, vendor booths available. For more information, contact Pat at 940-203-2497 or Exa Lee at 940-422-4097.

### Walk Across Texas

Knox County Hospital District is hosting their 4th annual Walk Across Texas, a friendly competition designed to promote a healthy lifestyle. Registration is scheduled for Feb 27 at 5:30pm at the hospital, 701 S 5th St., Knox City. \$5 member entry fee is requested, proceeds will be donated to a charity within the county of the winning team's choice. T-shirts available for \$10. For more information, contact Jamie at 940-657-3906.

### Support Group

AA and Al-Anon meetings are 7 pm Tuesdays, the Doug Meiner Activity Center, 203 SW Fourth St., Knox City, TX. Call if you have questions, JoAnn @ 940-658-3926.

### Relay for Life

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

## Corrections

If you spot an error of fact, contact Editor Wayne Hodgkin 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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## Primary election Two vie for CC2 spot on Democratic ticket

By Geoffrey Baumgartner  
The Knox County News-Courier

Several Democratic candidates have thrown their name in the ring for the March 4 primary in order to be on the ballot in the November elections. While four Democratic candidates will run unopposed in the primary, two vying for a seat on the County Commission should draw voters to the polls.

Those running unopposed including Charles Griffith for county judge; Rosie McElroy Ake, incumbent county treasurer; Precinct 4 commission candidate Robert Bowen; and incumbent County/District Clerk Annette Offutt.

The two candidates facing off for a spot on the Democratic ballot for Precinct 2 commissioner are Kim Sealy and Fred Cash.

Candidate Cash is a Knox County native who was born and raised in Gilliam. He has been married to LaNay Patterson for 43 years. Cash has worked construction around Knox County for more than 30 years. He has not only worked several jobs for the state highway department, but has worked for numerous private contractors as well.

"With my people and construction experience, I would be a valuable asset to our road system," he said. "I'm a farmer who knows the value of a dollar, am not afraid to work a machine myself, and will work hard to keep taxes low."

Candidate Sealy has resided in Knox County for 26 years and was the general manager of the Spike-Box Ranch for more than nine years. In addition to his farming and ranch management experience, Sealy is the city manager of Benjamin and has served that position for a year.

"If voters elect me, I'll fill the needs anywhere in the county. I want to continue keeping the taxes in check and work with the judges and commissioners," he said. "We need to look into more revenue for the county. I want to bring more wind technology here and work with local and state governments to push the Brine Lake Solar Pond through the red tape. Green energy is very important and produces needed revenue. I've worked with budgets as high as \$1.5 billion and know how to accurately balance such a budget."

See TWO, Page 9

## Greyhounds nab bi-district title



The Knox City varsity Greyhound basketball team, hoisting their bi-district win trophy in the air. The Greyhounds finished their season 19-9 overall.

## Playoff hopes dashed in area loss to Graford

By Geoffrey Baumgartner  
The Knox County News-Courier

Knox City's Greyhound varsity basketball team has recently progressed past bi-district with a win against Guthrie in a game held in Anson, but their season ended with a loss to Graford.

The Greyhounds won their bi-district game against the Guthrie Jaguars 64-48 to advance to the area round of the playoffs. Their season came to tragic close when they traveled to Wichita Falls to take on the Graford Jackrabbits on Friday, but came up short by 30 points, 83-53.

The box score report for the area game against Graford showed the Greyhounds scored 13 to Graford's 29 points during the first quarter, eight to Graford's 17 points during the second quarter, 10 points to Graford's 19 during the third, and 23 points to Graford's 18 during the fourth quarter.

The point scorers for the Greyhounds were Zach Carter with 22, Ryan Heard with six, Krys Campos with three, Tylyne Eaton with four, Skylar Neill with 12, and Ibn Lagway with seven points.

Head coach Josh Webb said he was proud of his team's resilience in the face of such a

fierce competitor.

"We got behind early but fought the entire game. Kids could've easily given it up when you're facing the number six team in the state. But even when they got the big lead early on we continued to fight back and never hung our heads or had any kind of let down. I was proud of the way we battled and the way our seniors finished their season which was more successful than we've had in a couple of years," said Coach Webb.

While he was proud of his team, he also gave credit to the Jackrabbits for their playing ability.

"We had a couple good runs but they just had more firepower than we could handle at times. Complete credit goes to them, the way they played, and their coaching staff. They are a very solid team," Webb continued.

The Greyhounds managed to finish their season 19-9 overall. With both the girls and boys basketball seasons at an end, Knox City High School is now preparing for track season beginning this week, with the first meet on Friday at Roby. Coach Jason Josselet will be coaching the Houndettes during this track and field season, while Coach Colin Howeth will be in charge of the Greyhounds.

## KC man killed, another injured in Sunday accident

By Wayne Hodgkin  
The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — The driver of a pickup hauling a trailer was killed and his passenger critically injured Sunday afternoon in a one-vehicle rollover about 7 miles west of Knox City.

Trooper Frederick Biddle, spokesman for the Texas Department of Public Safety regional headquarters in Abilene, said Ivan Espinal Orduna, 24, of Knox City, was traveling shortly before 1:30 p.m. Sunday in the eastbound lane of

FM 2270 in a 1999 Chevrolet pickup hauling a flatbed trailer when the truck drove off the edge of the pavement on the south side of the road.

Biddle said Orduna likely overcorrected to the left, causing the truck and trailer to skid across the northbound lane, and struck a utility pole.

The truck and trailer separated, and the truck rolled over multiple times, ejecting both driver and passenger. The truck came to a rest on its left side facing south in the barrow ditch.

Orduna was pronounced dead at the scene by

Judge Ronnie Ivey. His body was transported to Smith Funeral Home in Knox City.

The passenger, Jose Moreno, 33, of Knox City, was flown by helicopter to John Peter Smith Hospital in Dallas with critical injuries.

According to reports, neither man was wearing a seat belt.

The posted speed limit on the road is 75 mph. The road was dry, and weather was clear and cloudy.

The accident was being investigated by Trooper Daniel Manney.



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The Knox County News-Courier

It is the mission of this newspaper to promote the rights of individualism in the American Declaration of Independence. The right of life, liberty and the ownership of property are the cornerstone of freedom. Government's sole purpose is to enhance our liberty and freedom. Therefore, we hold every elected and appointed agent of government accountable to that standard.

**DEADLINES**

Advertising: 5 p.m. Fridays  
Editorial: Noon Mondays

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

\$30 a year in the county  
\$35 a year outside the county



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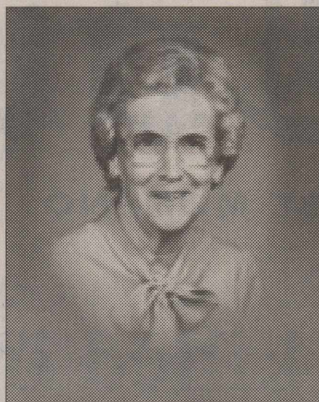
**Deaths**

**Allene Beaty**

Allene Beaty was born in 1922 as the first child to Jasper (Jay) & Drucilla Baker on a small farm in Hefner, Knox County, Texas. Allene departed this life on February 12, 2014 in Munday, Texas. She resided in Knox County for 91 years. George Harrison Beaty, Jr. and Allene Baker were married Aug. 1940 in Munday, Texas. Allene was preceded in death by her husband of 31 years upon his death in 1971. George & Allene had one son, Rev. Gary N. Beaty. Gary is married to Jan (Myers) Beaty also of Munday.

Preceding her in death, also, were her father and mother, Jay & Drucilla Baker and two brothers, Doyle & Boyd Baker.

The delight of her life were her two grandchildren,



**ALLENE BEATY**

Lt. Col Gary Lynn Beaty of Austin and Jill Browning of Lubbock. She had 4 great-grandchildren: Garrett H. Beaty & Connor B. Beaty and Trevor T. Browning & Madison F. Browning.

Allene enjoyed hand work of many kinds. She crocheted, did needle-point and cross-stitch.

Although Allene was

a stay-at-home Mom for Gary, she was very involved in the family business of Beaty Builders. She later had her own picture framing business. In addition, she worked @ the Munday Library for several years.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Munday.

On behalf of the family we thank you for your kindness and prayers. We rejoice that 'Mom' is now at home with her Heavenly Father.

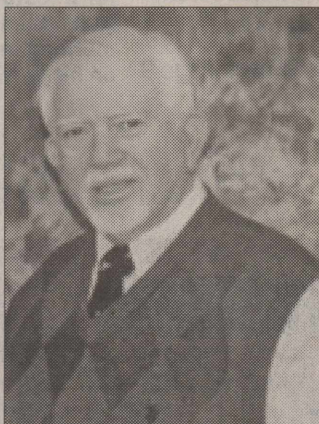
The family received guests on Saturday, February 22, from 9:30-11:00 A.M. at the funeral home in Munday. Graveside services were held at 2PM, Saturday, February 22, 2014 in Johnson Memorial Cemetery under the direction of McCauley-Smith Funeral Home.

**William Franklin Fitzgerald**

William Franklin Fitzgerald, 71, went home peacefully to be with his Savior on Wednesday, February 19, 2014, in Munday, Texas. His final wish was to donate his body for research to Texas Tech University School of Medicine. A celebration service for his life will be announced at a later date. Arrangements are with McCauley Smith Funeral Home.

William (Bill) was born August 24, 1942 in Knox County to Cecil and Mildred Fitzgerald. He graduated from Munday High School in 1960 and received degrees from UT Arlington, Perkins School of Theology, Texas Tech University and The University of Florida.

Bill and Barbara Fitzgerald were married for 48 years. As a Methodist minister, he



**WILLIAM FITZGERALD**

served churches in Carrollton, Brownfield, Abilene, Amarillo and Roby, Texas as well as Wellman, Florida. From 1978-1986, Bill was honored to serve as an agricultural missionary in Nigeria, Africa, which included teaching in a Bible School for pastors. This time in Nigeria had a profound spiri-

tual effect on each member of the family.

Survivors include his beloved wife and five children: Rachael, Angie, Joel, Aimée, and Mike (Jennifer); seven grandchildren: Braxton, Brittany, Camryn, Madeleine, Chloe, Makenna and Rylan; and two sisters, Wynelle Craft and Sharlene (Billy George) Drennan, and many more nephews, nieces and cousins, beloved friends, classmates and parishioners.

Preceding Bill on his last journey were his parents, Cecil Fitzgerald and Mildred Fitzgerald, a sister, Marquitta Ward, and a daughter, Celeste. In lieu of flowers, a donation to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation, 230 East Ohio Street, Suite 304, Chicago, Illinois 60611, would be appreciated.

**Letter to the editor**

**R4L benefits all in community**

If you live in Haskell or Knox counties and you have friends or family who have been tested, who have received treatment or who have had any procedure for cancer, they have received benefit from the Relay For Life. Most people don't realize 73 percent of the money raised goes directly to research.

Because of research, my dad lived an extra 25 years and got to see my son quarterback a state championship football team. Because of treatment, my good friend Glenna is back at work today and still trying to get me to buy a new oven. Because of testing, my neighbor Gary is a seven-year survivor, active in farming and allows me to take care of some of his business.

So you see, every day I reap the benefits of Relay for Life. Everyone in this county benefits, if you will only admit it.

Is it work? Yes. Is it fun? Yes. Is it worth the effort? Yes.

Join a team today, because tomorrow, you might be the one needing treatment, procedures, or testing. Then you will know first-hand if research is important.

May 3 is the date set for the Haskell/Knox County Relay For Life. Be there.

**BECKY OFFUTT  
Munday**

**Just Arrived!**  
**Printed Leggings**  
**20% off regular price**  
Sale prices good Feb 27-Mar 1

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The Drug Store in Haskell offer prescription delivery service to Knox City and Munday daily, Monday-Friday.  
Please call for details.

**THE DRUG STORE**  
100 SOUTH AVENUE E, HASKELL  
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You are **TWENTY THREE TIMES** more likely to crash when you text while driving. Is sending an **LOL** text message really worth killing someone? Park the phone when you drive.

**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.



**Ashlee Anne Dean**

**Woman faces capital murder in shooting death of 2-year-old daughter**

**By Wayne Hodgins  
The Post Dispatch**

**POST** — While a 34-year-old mother remained behind bars with a charge of capital murder in the shooting death of her 2-year-old daughter late last week, residents in Post City are left bewildered by the news and seeking answers in such a horrific crime.

Garza County Sheriff Terry Morgan said the local 911 operations center received a call a few minutes before 5:30 p.m. Feb. 20 from a woman reporting her child's death.

When deputies responded to the home in the 400 block of South Avenue H in Post, they found the woman alone in the home and the gruesome discovery of a toddler's body, dead from an apparent gunshot to the head.

Ashlee Anne Dean, 34, was arrested and taken to the Garza County jail. She was arraigned Saturday from the jail via teleconference before Justice of the Peace Gordon Terry and charged with capital murder, which is mandatory in homicide cases involving children younger than the age of 10 in the state of Texas.

Her bond was set at \$1 million. At the arraignment, Dean was represented by private counsel, Lubbock attorney David M. Guinn Jr. of Hurley & Guinn. Guinn is formerly with the Lubbock Division of the Federal Public Defender's Office for the Northern District of Texas.

Dean's live-in partner and father of the child, authorities say, was at work at the time of the incident. No one else was at home, they said.

No other arrests are pending at this time, Sheriff Morgan said. Less than a half-hour later after arriving on the scene, Morgan called in the Texas Rangers to assist in the investigation.

"In smaller communities, this practice is common in cases like these because of limited resources of local law enforcement and to ensure a thorough investigation," Morgan said.

Although formal toxicology reports were pending, Morgan said, friends and family reported the woman had a history of abuse with a designer synthetic drug commonly referred to as "bath salts," so called because of its appearance to Epsom salt and in instances in which the drug is sold under that guise.

Only outlawed within the last two years, the drug often contains substituted cathinones, which have similar effects to amphetamines and cocaine, and is known to cause hallucinations, paranoia and violent behavior in some users.

Investigators with the Texas Rangers continue their probe of the case, Morgan said, and would be turning it over to the district attorney when complete.

Morgan said to his knowledge this case is the first of its kind ever in Garza County.

**Valentine royalty**



Submitted photos

Each year on Valentine's Day, Munday Nursing Center residents and staff vote for their favorites to crown King and Queen for the Day. Munday Nursing Center residents Dorothy Carver and Buster Lowrey are the 2014 King and Queen winners adorned with red robes of royalty and a bouquet of fresh flowers.

**Vendor's Flea Market**  
Now the **FIRST** Saturday of each month!  
**Saturday, March 1, 2014**

**Munday Events Center**  
near the Grain Elevator

Crosses, furniture, knives, new and older collectibles, hand-designed jewelry, crafts, gifts, books, jellies, tamales, baked goods, jalapeno powder, glassware, ladies clothing, purses, designer jewelry, items for our male customers and children! A LOT MORE!

**8:30 am pancake breakfast \$5.**  
New vendors are welcome!  
For more information  
Contact Pat @ 940-203-2497  
or Exa Lee @ 940-422-4097



# Moya wins top prize at KC rodeo

The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — Haskell resident Henry Moya received the top prize saddle in last weekend's round robin team calf-roping event hosted by Ronaldo "Ray Ray" Reynosa. Moya also was able to win the second and third rounds as well for which he received a cash prize.

Moya was thrilled with his winnings and is also looking forward to future events.

"We want people to come because we offer good prizes that include saddles,

riding tack, and prize money. We encourage local participation, and we will be having more events," said Moya.

While this was the first calf-roping event of the year, there will be several more events planned for not only Knox City, but Aspermont as well.

Other participants in the event were Travis Martin of O'Brien, Bucky Cooper of Hamlin and Levi and Shorty Martin of Aspermont.

Geoff Baumgartner



Several cowboys line up in a row as they prepare to pair off for the round robin team roping competition.



Benjamin resident Seth Kuehler cuts a tight angle on his horse as he prepares to sling the rope around the calf. Although Seth demonstrated some skill, it was ultimately Henry Moya who was the primary bread winner of the competition.



Local resident Robert Estrada jumps out of the gate and vigorously prepares to throw the lasso after the calf his team is chasing

# The Paperboy Olympians, heroes, tech dependency, apathy

Some Olympic thoughts:  
I cannot imagine doing a tenth of what I saw athletes do on skis, snowboards, skates or sleds during the past two weeks. It's just unbelievable what they achieve and the manner they achieve it.

Watching the Olympics, I'm really surprised we don't see some deaths in some of these sports.

I wonder what the parents of the athletes feel when they see their children in these events? I'm not sure I could take it.

I thought NBC did a good job in their coverage. I'm not a big Matt Lauer fan, but he did a better job than Bob Costas while filling in.

Perhaps I'm just growing tired of Costas bringing his opinion into things. Really, Bob, we don't care about your opinion on gun control. Just give us the sports.

I'd like to publicly thank our first-responders for the job they do. It's been brutally cold this winter, but you've answered the call.

In addition to first-responders, the power people need a slap on the shoulder as well.

We live in times where we are absolutely dependent on certain things. If we're in trouble, we expect the police or deputies to be there in a hurry.

If there's a wreck, the fire department and EMS are there ready to save lives.

You've got DPS troopers watching the highways and TxDOT personnel trying to stay ahead of the weather.

The men and women who work any number of emergencies we might find ourselves in we take for granted —until we need them.

According to Google Director of Engineering Ray Kurzweil, computers will be able to understand our languages, learn from experience and outsmart the vast majority of us by 2029.

I'm not sure I'm real cool with the fact there will be machines running around smarter than us. Maybe I've seen one too many Terminator, Matrix or iRobot movies, but you know as well as I do that many times life does imitate art. After all, the phone in your pocket is probably better than what Captain Kirk was using on early "Star Trek" episodes.

Anyhow, this Kurzweil fellow made a prediction in 1990 that a computer would be able to beat a chess champion by 1998.

Interestingly, IBM's Deep Blue topped chess great Garry Kasparov in 1997.

Look how much we depend on technology today compared to 20 years ago and the 20 years before that. It's safe to say in 20 years we'll be that much more advanced. Hopefully, these advances will be of long-term benefit.

Early voting ends Friday, and I bet 50 percent of adults don't even realize it is going on. I'd even bet you 20 percent don't have a clue there is a primary.

Apathy has taken over at a time we need people paying attention and taking interest in their communities, states and nation.

It saddens me when I see a veteran knowing we'll be lucky if voter turnout even sniffs 20 percent.

I implore you, take an interest and vote. Too many have sacrificed for us to be complacent and take free elections for granted.

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](mailto:chris@blackburnmediagroup.com) and you can follow him on Twitter @WCSBlackburn.



CHRIS BLACKBURN

**Make sure your child's safety seat measures up.**

Nearly 3 out of 4 kids aren't buckled up correctly. As children grow, their safety seat requirements change. Make sure they're buckled into a safety seat that's the right height, facing the correct direction, and anchored to the vehicle properly. If you don't, you could be fined up to \$250. Learn all the details of Buckle Them Right.org

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

I would appreciate your vote on March 4 and, if elected, will promise to represent the interests of all citizens in Knox County before the Commissioners Court. Whether it be road maintenance, 911 services or any of the other functions of county government, I will work to deliver these services in an efficient and cost effective manner.

I understand the tax burden placed on people and businesses, and I believe each elected representative should work diligently to ensure that all tax dollars that pass through their hands should be thoroughly vetted.

I had the privilege of serving as the Commissioner of Precinct 2 previously and gained experience in matters of budgeting and oversight of county services during that time and will use that experience to continue representing your interests.

I believe Knox County should continue to take the lead in economic development in cooperation with the communities of Truscott, Benjamin, Knox City, Munday, Rhineland, Goree and Vera. True economic development can only happen when the entire county is involved, not just at the county level.

**VOTE FOR DAN GODSEY**  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2  
MARCH 4, 2014  
*Political ad paid for by Daniel Godsey*

**ELECT Travis FLOYD**

I, Travis Floyd respectfully ask for your vote for County Judge in the Republican Primary on March 4th.

**The Top 10 Reasons to Vote for Travis Floyd**

1. Timely prepared nine (9) budgets for Knox County. The tax rate in 2005 was \$.7566. The tax rate in 2013-2014 is \$.7477. In 2004 the reserves for Knox County were \$277,762. In 2013, the reserves have improved to \$893,700.
2. I presided over 981 misdemeanor trials, three of which were jury trials.
3. Work closely with the 50<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Adult Probation Department and serve on the 50<sup>th</sup> District Probation Board.
4. I preside over all probate matters, guardianships and protective orders in Knox County. I also preside over hearings on admittance to state hospitals for the mentally ill and mentally retarded.
5. Emergency Management Coordinator for Knox County and the First Point of Contact for any emergencies including wildfires, floods, storms, or other threats to public safety.
6. Coordinated with Homeland Security and worked for and successfully obtained grants totaling more than \$400,000.00 for mobile and handheld radios, repeaters, emergency generators, etc. In order to receive these grants I developed an Emergency Management Plan, which I must keep current.
7. Made the Commissioners Court meeting more inclusive. Now all department heads attend, including TXDOT representatives, and the Public is always welcome.
8. Perform marriage ceremonies, and when the Justice of the Peace is unavailable, magistrations and inquests.
9. Prior to first being elected, I promised to work for economic development in Knox County. I brought together the persons who founded the Knox County Visioning Group. We continue to vigorously pursue economic development here and have several sustainable programs working.
10. I am Vice Chair of Rolling Plains Rural Health Partnership and serve on Board of Directors of the Aspermont Small Business Development Corporation and the Brazos G Water Planning Group

When first elected I stated that I thought this was a full-time position and I would approach this as such. Now I know it's a full-time position, and I will continue to approach it that way. I will perform all the duties of the office in an open, honest, and professional manner. I will always work hard to bring the citizens of Knox County together to solve any problems we may encounter.

Pol. Adv. paid for by Travis Floyd

**DRIVE NOW TEXT LATER**



# The 501

# Are you smarter than your grandchildren?

**D**o you know your bell peppers? Can you differentiate between red, green, yellow and orange? Of course you can. The bright-colored peppers are easily recognized. They're the ones that cost more than their humble counterparts in standard-issue green.



HANABA MUNN WELCH

Colors and prices aside, can you tell the difference blindfolded?

It's the kind of taste test that gets grandchildren to eat their crudites. (No, I didn't spring that word crudites' on mine. Didn't want to push my luck.)

The exercise also answers the question of whether there's a dime's worth of difference between the colors. There isn't.

For the experiment, grandson Cutter, 7, turned all four dinner napkins into blindfolds, laying them out on the floor. He explained you start with a bandana and then change it into a blindfold. Who knew?

Neither Cutter nor I nor his mother, Rachel, or his sister Rylee identified all the peppers. I got three out of four. Cutter, Rylee and Rachel each got two right. We shifted our answers as we sampled all four colors, comparing each to the other.

The main course for dinner was stuffed baked peppers in all colors.

The kids were willing for their mother to get the choice red one as a post-Valentine's tribute. That left yellow for Rylee, 11, because she's cheerful and orange for Cutter because it's the next-best thing to red. They accepted that logic. And I accepted the green one.

Is there a lesson here?

Use real napkins. They make the best blindfolds.

Pay for color if you can. If you can't, comfort yourself with the thought that the difference in taste isn't worth it.

Learn to share red.

During our meal we discussed the curious rule of good manners that you pass both salt and pepper to anyone who asks for either, effectively making my grandchildren superior to any of their contemporaries who don't know that rule. I hope it's still a rule.

Like all grandchildren, they are inherently superior.

After the meal, Cutter and I played games while Rylee texted friends. Cutter, freshly literate, read all the cards he drew in the game "Sorry!" Each time he came to the word "either," he pronounced it "ether." In realms of toMAYto versus toMAHto, who knows what he might say?

Did I mention we ended our meal with crepes flipped in the new crepe pan they gave me for my birthday? Ending a meal with the flipping and eating of crepes is like giving an inmate a new suit of clothes and some spending money when you let him out of prison. The good stuff helps erase memories of what wasn't so good before — like unremarkable stuffed peppers that needed salt.

As the evening ended, we recalled our bell pepper identification scores. Cutter remarked I couldn't have gotten three right without getting four right.

Wow! Think about it. He's right!

Once again, I didn't push my luck. I didn't ask him for details. If he's not really smarter than I am, I don't want to know.

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

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# Tech lecture focus is rainwater harvesting

The Knox County News-Courier

An expert in water management will present a program on rainwater harvesting for food production at 7 p.m. March 4 in the Hall of Nations at the International Cultural Center at Texas Tech University. The event is being put on by the Plant and Soil Science Graduate Council and is free of charge!

The International Cultural Center is located at 601 Indiana Ave. next to the Texas Tech Museum.

Speaker will be Brad Lancaster is a permaculture teacher, designer, consultant and co-founder of Desert Harvesters non-profit organization. He also is the author of "Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond."

Living on just an eighth of an acre in downtown Tucson, Ariz., where the average annual rainfall is less than 12 inches a year, Lancaster has developed a rainwater-harvesting system that catches more than

100,000 gallons of rainwater each year to feed food-bearing shade trees, abundant gardens and a thriving landscape.

The method also shows such systems are more environmentally useful than municipal storm drains and sewer systems.

During the lecture, Lancaster is also expected to cover re-using gray water and storm water for irrigation and will present case studies for projects such as rain-fed greenhouses, dry farming, backyard market gardens, gray water groves and climate-appropriate planting.

The informational lecture is expected to last one hour and also will include a question and answer session. The event is free and open to the public.

For information, contact Daniel Cunningham, graduate research student in the Department of Plant and Soil Science at the College of Agricultural and Natural Resources at Texas Tech University, at daniel.cunningham@ttu.edu or 806-742-2838.

## Dixie Divas

# 'Oh, dear, bless her heart'

She said it, of course, with smirk. Those women who really don't understand the ways of the women of the South seem to always speak about us in words vividly cloaked in disdain.

"The thing about you Southern women," she began as I shifted from one foot to another and instinctively crossed my arms defensively. Whenever someone says "you Southern women," it is not going to be a hymn of praise. "You think you can say anything you want about anyone then excuse it all with 'bless her heart.'"



RONDA RICH

Exception taken. First of all, as I explained to her, if I have something uncomplimentary to say, it is based in fact not opinion. And, normally, it will have something to do with an unkind or unethical something done to me or one of mine. Especially, one of mine. I'm serious about protecting those I love.

Secondly, as I told her pointedly, if I have said such a thing, I see no reason at all to be blessing anyone's heart.

I do use the phrase, but when you hear it from me it will be with sincerity and compassion not sarcasm. I hear of someone whose cup is running over with problems and aggravations so I'll say, "Bless her heart. Is there anything we can do?"

Now, like any self-respecting Southern woman, I do keep a judicious eye on good grooming, but should I choose to comment about it, it will be in the form of a question such as, "My goodness, it looks like she would have run a comb through her hair before she left this morning, doesn't it?"

At least I'm not like Mama who used to say, "Do you think she has any idea just how bad she looks?"

Of course, in the past couple of years as soon as I say something about uncombed hair, Jesus speaks to me and says, "Let's just hope no one stops by your house and

sees how you look on a busy day." I do have a conscience.

But I'll tell you what is much more deadly and more cleverly used by Southern women than "bless her heart." It's "dear." Oh my goodness, that word can bring anyone to her knees. It is endlessly sniping.

Now listen up: Southern women use "sugah," "honey," "darlin'," and "baby" as their primary sweet words of endearment to both those we love and those we only know. "Dear" is generally reserved for the clever put down.

A woman in Memphis wrote to correct me on the spelling of a town's name I had used in my weekly newsletter. Now, we all know that Memphis women are among the best Southern women. They know their black-eyed peas and collards when it comes to Southernism. She corrected me, spelling the name in capital letters leaving out an extra "r" I had put in. Then she wrote, "It only has one 'r,' dear."

That's when I knew I had really been put in my place. I could just hear the condescension in her tone.

Once, a young woman forcefully refuted a logistic I had given her. "That is not correct," she said rather hatefully.

Since it was my schedule and my flight, I knew for a fact that it was. I was nice the first two or three times I defended it but when she persisted, I said, "Yes, dear, it is." I heard the edge in "dear" when I said it and knew I had crossed a line. One I had never crossed before.

Someone who heard me say it later asked, "Did you really call her 'dear'?" As though I had spoken a cuss word.

Dazed by my own mouth, I nodded. But something felt good about it. I had gotten my point across because she finally fell silent. And I had pretended to be sweet about it.

Bless my heart.

Ronda Rich is a Southern humorist, storyteller and best-selling author of "There's A Better Day A-Comin'." Visit rondarich.com to sign up for her weekly newsletter.

# Cotton-farming groups plan roundtable sessions

The Knox County News-Courier

Producers, bankers, and others in the agricultural industry will have the opportunity to learn more about the recently passed Agricultural Act of 2014, commonly referred to as the farm bill, at several meetings scheduled in the area.

The National Cotton Council and the Southwest Council of Agribusiness will host a number of meetings throughout the Cotton Belt, including 16 in Texas, over the next few weeks.

Following is a few meetings slated for the immediate region. A complete list is available at cotton.org.

### NCC Sessions

• March 18 - 9 a.m. at the Bayer Museum of Agriculture, 1121 Canyon Lake Drive,

Lubbock.

• March 19 - 9 a.m. at the Roby Community Center, Roby.

• March 19 - 2 p.m. at the Haskell Memorial Civic Center, 202 S. Ave., Haskell.

### SWCA sessions

The Southwest Council of Agribusiness will host educational sessions on the farm bill featuring Joe Outlaw, co-director of the Agricultural Food and Policy Center at Texas A&M University and economist for the AgriLife Extension Service.

Events are planned for March 19 in Lamesa, March 20 in Lubbock and March 21 in Amarillo, among others.

A complete schedule is listed at southwest-council.org/farm-bill-forums.

Mary Jane Buerkle

Thanks for reading the News-Courier!

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The Idle American

# On the matter of mattresses

**G**oldilocks didn't realize it at the time, of course, but she had it comparatively easy - lucky beyond measure - to find the "just right" bed on the third try. Within mere seconds of trying out The Three Bears' beds, she nestled comfortably, thinking - albeit erroneously - that all was right with her world.



DON NEWBURY

Today we are challenged by dozens of eye-crossing choices offered by many firms, some with big ads proclaiming whatever day it is to be the best day ever to purchase a new mattress. Our first one served us well for nigh onto 40 years - until it buckled 14 years ago. When they removed the mattress, a card fell out: "Re-Elect LBJ to the US Senate."

My wife and I thought we were careful shoppers back there at century's turn, hoping to buy another king mattress to take us to 2040 or so. After all, we bought from a reputable company that made good on warranties. They replaced our mattress twice in a single decade.

Authorities say that the average life of mattresses now is seven to nine years.

And young adults are largely to blame. Back when, mattresses were constructed with durability in mind; comfort was a distant second. Nowadays, it's all about comfort, bells, whistles and miscellaneous technology. Durability concerns rarely come up.

During my youth, family mattresses - always "used" - were cotton-filled. When they sprang leaks, we called Elmo Letbetter, who reconditioned with cotton re-fills.

There were no warranties to deal with, since the mattresses - like clothes - were hand-me-downs.

'Course most folks did far more physical labor in those days, so we could sleep anywhere ☐ on pallets, cots, air mattresses and curled up in a wheelbarrow. Creek bank sleeping was fine should fishing be involved.

A few weeks back, we discovered mattress-sagging on both sides. Yep, it was time to shop for a new one ☐ our fourth try since 2000. (I can live with my "matted hair," but not if it is caused by a bad mattress.)

Brenda "deaf-eared" my suggestion that we consider a gently-used, \$17.50 mat-

ress listed on Craigslist. So, we watched ads, read Consumer Reports and called various stores to find a king mattress that was "just right."

We "lucked out" on the first store we visited.

I never thought I would admit this, but here goes: A computer was our best friend. We were escorted to a computer-assisted mattress that provided important data, thus simplifying our search. All we had to do was lie down and follow instructions. Within five minutes, the "Expert Match"™ had spit out information on our sleeping contortions, movement and more stuff, and then the nice salesman suggested mattresses that came closest to meeting our needs.

There was no pressure. He asked us to try a few, and we made an almost iron-clad decision on one we liked and could afford.

We then visited a couple of other stores, both of which fell short ☐ not only because they didn't use computers to determine our likes and wants, but they vowed "never to be undersold." One wanted us to find the best price around, then return for him to beat it.

Soon we were back at the store first visited, print-out in hand. Our purchase

was made from Aaron Simmons, who, while saying nice things about Simmons mattresses, regretted being a limb on a different Simmons tree. He's an absolute sleep expert, though, who has heard it all. (He spoke of one customer seeking a mattress for her pet pig. She insisted on steel coils; otherwise, her pet would "root" through the foam in short order. Another guy wanted a king bed with a matching, extra-long twin bed, the latter for his dog.)

The very next day, deliverymen came. During the minutes before delivery, Brenda was readying our vacuum cleaner, ready to "attack" when the old mattresses were removed. She told them she just couldn't imagine where all the dust came from; I'm sure it's been there since the last mattress was brought in.

For folks about to embark on a mattress quest, please consider our experiences. And don't try to act like an expert. Aaron and his associates know better, but they'll smile and help you anyway!

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

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## Wilder's Natural Journal

By **S.J. Dahlstrom**  
Wilder's Natural Journal

Wild turkeys live just about everywhere in North America. I see them everywhere on the prairies, fields and in the woods. The main thing they must have are roost trees for night time. Turkeys forage all day on the ground, and at night they choose a high tree to sleep in away from ground predators, like bobcats and coyotes. They are omnivores since they eat seeds, nuts, grasses, berries, and sometimes small lizards and snakes.

You can hunt turkeys in the spring and fall, but it's a little more exciting in the spring. The toms, or the males, gobble back and forth in the woods

and fight for the rights to breed the hens. They fight with long spurs on their heels and strut around with their feathers out. Tom turkeys grow long beards of hair right out of their chests.

This flock of turkeys are eating winter wheat, which is a type of wheat that is planted in late fall. A good stand of winter wheat is a magnet for all types of wildlife, especially foraging turkeys.

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.



A flock of turkeys graze on winter wheat, which is a type of wheat planted in late fall. Wild turkeys can be found all across North America.

## E-filing your tax return saves time, prevents common mistakes

Special to The News-Courier

DALLAS — E-file is short for electronic tax return filing. It includes both preparing taxes electronically using tax software and filing taxes electronically.

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"The software's question and answer format makes doing taxes much

easier than filling out paper tax forms," said Clay Sanford, an IRS spokesman in Dallas. "E-file can also help you find credits or deductions for which you may be eligible."

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## Menus: Week of Mar 3-7

### Knox City-O'Brien

#### Breakfast

**Monday:** Biscuits with sausage and gravy or cereal bowl, toast, applesauce, juice, milk

**Tuesday:** Cinnamon toast with sausage or cereal bowl with sausage, mixed fruit, juice, milk

**Wednesday:** Mini corndogs or cereal bowl, toast, cinnamon apples, juice, milk

**Thursday:** Pancakes with syrup or cereal bowl with sausage, pineapple, juice, milk

**Friday:** Cinnamon roll with sausage or cereal bowl, toast, peaches, juice, milk

#### Lunch

**Monday:** Lasagna or antipasto salad with salami or bologna and cheese, green peas, corn, slushy, milk

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

**Wednesday:** 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, 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:** Biscuits with sausage gravy, honey graham and applesauce, slushy, juice, milk

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

**Wednesday:** Mini corndogs, honey gra-

ham, apple slices, slushy, juice, milk

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

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

#### Lunch

**Monday:** Lasagna or bologna and cheese, green peas, corn, apple, slushy, milk

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

**Wednesday:** Beef tacos or ham and cheese, Mexican style beans, lettuce, orange, slushy, milk

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

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

### Knox County Aging Center

**Monday:** Sweet and sour chicken, rice, stir fry vegetables, whole wheat rolls, lazy cake

**Tuesday:** Ham and beans, spinach, seasoned corn, cornbread, country apple crisp

**Wednesday:** Pork chops, black-eyed peas, broccoli, cornbread, angel food cake with blueberries

**Thursday:** Beef noodles, mixed vegetables, whole wheat rolls, winter fruit cup

**Friday:** Chicken salad sandwich, tomato/lettuce/pickles, macaroni salad, carrot sticks, oatmeal and raisin cookie

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## Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

Another cool morning has dawned here, and now the forecasters are talking about possible thunderstorms. That is always a dread, but we keep saying that we need moisture, and we may have to have a little turbulence to get it. Just so we don't get any damaging weather.

Several in the community are having some health problems today. Philomae Roberson was feeling some better Sunday but has had several days of feeling pretty bad. She did go to Wichita Falls Tuesday to see her cardiologist and got a pretty good report from him. Whatever the problem was, he put her on some medication that should keep it under control. But later in the week, she developed a kidney and bladder infection that was so bad she was taken by ambulance to Wichita Falls and spent a large part of Friday night in the ER. But the doctors there got her some relief, and as I said, she is better now. She has had several months of not feeling well, and she's certainly ready for that to change.

Mike Young came home for the weekend, but he got into a little trouble and had to go to the ER at Knox City Friday night and on Saturday evening again. After the trip Saturday, doctors decided he needed to be admitted and stay until today when he will go back to Abilene. His main problem is the pump he is using quits, and someone who knows what they are doing has to get it going again. That pump is to keep the toxins out of his system while the wound from the heart surgery is healing, and it has to work properly. Mike still does not know how long his stay in Abilene will be.

Charles Jones spent a few days in the Seymour Hospital last week. He, too, had a kidney and bladder infection, and it took a few days to get it under control. He's back at home now, and other than being weak, is doing much better.

Our friend, Carol Felts, who lives in Knox City, was air lifted to Dallas about noon Friday. He had been in HMC in Abilene about 5 days, and after his release had another problem, so with his history, doctors here thought he needed to be in Dallas where his main doctor is. Carol had a heart transplant several years ago, so he's monitored pretty closely. His latest problem is fluid retention, and I'm sure by now, he's feeling much better. I ask your prayers for him and ZoAnn and all these other friends as well.

### Sympathy Extended

We learned Sunday night of the death of Calvin Brown, a former Benjamin resident, and well known to most everyone here. Calvin was living at Kingsland the last I heard, but I believe he passed away in a hospital in Marble Falls. At last report, services were pending. My sympathy to Calvin's family during this time.

Billy Frank Fitzgerald passed away Wednesday of last week after failing health for quite some time. He had been a missionary and had served as such in several countries, but was in Munday (where he was reared) at the time of his death. He was the son of the late Cecil and Mildred Fitzgerald, longtime Munday residents. A memorial service for him will be later. My sincere sympathy to the Fitzgerald and Kirschner families. Billy Frank was a cousin of Galen Kilgore.

I talked to Kenneth Hendrix today, and he was telling me that Sue (Becky's sister) passed away last week. She had been in a care facility in Wichita Falls, where she had lived for several years. Her funeral was Thursday in Wichita Falls with burial in Fort Worth. I had known Sue for a long time but had not seen her in several years. My sympathy to her family. Kenneth also told he his son-in-law, Randy Bob Cypert, is having some problems and will be having surgery in Wichita Falls Wednesday. We pray that things will go well for him.

Seems like sad news just keeps happening, and today I have learned of more. Cecil Bingham, who lived in Haskell and worked at Lawrence Bros in Knox City, died this morning in a wreck. Cecil was the son of the late Ben Bingham and his wife, Georgia. Georgia is still

living, and I see her often when she is in Knox City. Ben was a contractor and builder and was well known in the area. Cecil is Dale Turner's uncle. I've known that family many years, and, of course, send my sincere condolences to them all.

### Here 'n' There

The Benjamin Little Dribblers did well at the tournament in Rule Saturday. They won both games, so that may mean they won first, I don't know. Just know they didn't lost any games. They did the same thing at Lueders last week, so sounds to me like we may have a "team in the making" when they get to junior high. This coming Saturday, they are playing here, and the little ones — pre-k and up — will be playing also. That should be fun to watch.

My friend, Peggy Cure Ritchie, called on Saturday and told me our friend Dickie Ponder had died on Friday of a massive heart attack. Dickie was in our class, and we saw him in 2004 when we had out 50th class reunion in Abilene. He and his family lived in Orange for many years but moved a few years ago to Tennessee or somewhere in that part of the country. Of course, news of his death saddened us all.

Several from over this way attended the quilt show in Goree on Saturday. Reports are that lots of pretty quilts on display, a lot of vendors available with their "goods," and a real good meal (as usual) were just a few of the things those attending enjoyed. I didn't make it this year but always have a good time when I do go. And see so many people I don't see often. That's always fun for me.

Our little community has "done good" again. About 2 weeks ago (during the snow and cold) three boys going from California to Florida spent the night here, courtesy of some local good Samaritans who learned of their situation and decided to see if they could help them out. They spent the night at the Methodist Church, and the locals bought them a couple of meals before they went on their way. They were appreciative, and I imagine a little surprised at the generosity of such a small town. By the way, they were traveling on bicycles. Not exactly the mode of transportation one needs in freezing (and below) weather!!

Saturday guests of Hazel Stockton, Kim Moore, and Bud Conner were Keith and Pam Conner and their grandson, Carson Conner, all of Midland.

Penny Eaton and Dorothy Spikes are sad this week. On Saturday, they had to have Dorothy's little dog, Dot, put to sleep. She had been sick for a few days, and the vet had done all he could. Dorothy had had Dot about 15 years. She got her soon after her husband, Bill's, death. She was her constant companion, and she will miss her a long time. I always hate to hear of situations like that.

Judy and Randolph Barnett returned home Saturday after being in Alvin for several weeks, where he was working. It's always good to see them back in Benjamin after being away for a while.

Debi and Mike Moorhouse returned home Wednesday night after a seven-day trip to Seattle, Washington and other places of interest in the Pacific Northwest. They also visited her cousin, Kathy Yeager Reim, and her family who live in Bellingham. They reported a great time and good weather. When they left Dallas everything was snowy, but they didn't see any while they were gone.

Is everyone kinda, like I am, sort of glad the Olympics are over and no bad things happened? I enjoyed watching most of the events but am ready now for some regular TV.

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

Don't forget to vote in the primary election Tuesday, March 4. Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m.. It's a freedom we still have, so exercise your right and make your ballot count for the candidate of your choice.

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



## St. Joseph's Catholic Church

### Annual Parish Sausage & Fried Chicken Dinner

Sunday, March 16, 2014

11:00 AM-1:30 PM

Cost

Adults & Take-Out \$12

Children (under 12) \$6

To order bulk sausage please call Billie (940-256-2973) or John (940-256-3113)

The Country Store will also be selling homemade baked good and arts and crafts items.

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March 30 - April 6

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- ◆ 2 nights in NEW ORLEANS with a Jazz Dinner Cruise and City Tour (including areas affected by Hurricane Katrina)
- ◆ 2 nights in NATCHEZ, Ms with two evening shows and also just in time for their Spring Pilgrimage Tour ... see some of our country's most beautiful Antebellum Homes open to the public only during this time!
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# Preservation group seeks state's most endangered places

Special to the News-Courier

AUSTIN - Preservation Texas has issued a call for nominations for its 2014 list of Texas' Most Endangered Historic Places and is asking Panhandle residents to help identify threatened historic resources by submitting nominations.

Since the program was initiated in 2003, the list of Texas' Most Endangered Historic Places has played a vital role in preserving the rich character, identity and heritage of our communities. A wide range of sites will be considered, from commercial, residential, public and religious buildings, to neighborhoods, bridges, monuments, and landscapes. The deadline for nominations is March 21, 2014.

"Each year more and more of the state's historic properties fall victim to commercial development, neglect or suburban sprawl," said Charlene Orr, president of Preservation Texas Inc., a statewide partner of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "Texas' Most Endangered Historic Places focuses attention on worthy sites, encourages appreciation of them, and helps local communities generate support for them."

Through the Texas' Most Endangered Historic Places program, selected sites receive technical assistance to determine how to best preserve the structure from architects, engineers and other preservation professionals; assistance with fund raising strategies, including grants and tax incentives, and information on restoration and revitalization techniques used successfully at other sites.

Preservation Texas Inc., a statewide non-profit organization, is the advocate for preserving the historic resources in Texas. It is the only private, nonprofit membership organization in Texas dedicated to being a full-service statewide preservation organization.

Sites recognized by Preservation Texas

have benefited from inclusion on the list of Texas' Most Endangered Historic Places through energized conservation efforts, commitments for restoration, and additional funding. Preservation Texas also was instrumental in securing national attention for the need to restore Texas' historic county courthouses and for the extensive restoration effort that resulted. Galveston's Strand and Mechanic Historic District and the Statler Hilton Hotel, both named to the Preservation Texas list, later received nationwide attention from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Some of the sites in the Panhandle recognized in previous years include Mallet Ranch Headquarters Court in Hockley County; Bob's Oil Well in Motley County; the Herring Hotel in Amarillo; and the Quanah, Acme & Pacific Railroad Depot in Motley County.

Judging criteria for the 2014 list include: Significance. The site must be of architectural, artistic, and/or historic importance within its cultural, social or geographic context.

Urgency of threat. Urgency is the need for immediate action to stop or reverse serious threats. Threats can be demolition, alterations that would change the integrity of the building or structure; or significant loss of historic fabric through neglect, or through a new development plan or transportation plan that could affect the site in the future.

Potential solutions and support. There must be clear evidence of local support for the preservation of the site.

Nominations are open to the public and the nomination form is available by visiting [www.preservationtexas.org](http://www.preservationtexas.org).

The 2014 list of Texas' Most Endangered Historic Places will be announced in Austin on May 20 during Historic Preservation Month. For more information, phone 512-472-0102.

# Twenty-seven from Texas named to NCC leadership posts

Special to the News-Courier

MEMPHIS, Tenn. - Twenty-seven Texas cotton industry members were elected to leadership positions in the National Cotton Council (NCC) for 2014, including Wallace L. Darneille, a Lubbock cooperative marketing executive who was elected the NCC's chairman. Sid Brough, an Edroy ginner, was re-elected a NCC vice president.

The cotton industry leaders were named to their posts during the recent 2014 NCC Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

Re-elected as advisors to the NCC's Board were former NCC chairmen: Woody Anderson, a cotton producer from Colorado City; Tommy R. Funk, Sr., a cotton producer from Sebastian; William T. Lovelady, a cotton producer from Tornillo; Herman Propst, a cotton producer from Anson; and Eddie Smith, a cotton producer from Floydada. Also re-elected as NCC Board advisors were Frank B. Jones, Jr., a Lubbock cotton producer; Gail Kring, a cottonseed crusher from Lubbock; and Mark D. Williams, a cotton producer from Farwell.

Elected as NCC directors were Shawn Holladay, a Lubbock cotton producer; Ron Craft, a Plains ginner; Thomas Clodfelter, a Seagraves warehouseman; Geoff Haney, a cottonseed marketer from Abilene; Robert Lacy, Jr., Lubbock cottonseed crusher; and Sam Hill, a marketing cooperative official from Lubbock. Re-elected as a NCC director was Eduardo L. Esteve, a Dallas merchant.

Dahlen Hancock, a Ropesville producer, was elected first vice president of the NCC's export promotion arm, Cotton Council International (CCI). Elected as a CCI director was James Massee, a

cottonseed crusher from Harlingen. Re-elected as CCI directors were: Esteve, Brough, Phil Bogel, II, also a Dallas merchant; Michael Alexander, a Colorado City producer; Lonnie Winters, a Lubbock cooperative marketing executive; and Rickey L. Bearden, a Plains producer.

Jon R. Whatley, Odem, was elected as a vice chairman of the NCC's American Cotton Producers (ACP) and Holladay was named the ACP's Southwest region director. ACP Texas co-chairmen are: Keith Corzine, Stamford; Craig Heinrich, Lubbock; and Doyle Schniers, San Angelo.

Elected as NCC Texas unit officers were: Schniers, chairman; Jim Bradford, a Dimmitt ginner, vice chairman; and What-

ley, secretary.

As the unifying force of the U.S. cotton industry, the Memphis-based National Cotton Council brings together industry representatives from the 17 cotton-producing states to establish policies reflecting the common interests and promoting mutual benefits for its broad membership and ancillary industries. The NCC's mission is ensuring the ability of all industry segments to compete effectively and profitably in the raw cotton, oilseed and U.S.-manufactured product markets at home and abroad.

The U.S. cotton industry provides employment for some 200,000 Americans and generates more than \$100 billion in annual economic activity.

## BINGHAM

From Page 1

Joyce Turner of Rule, a long-time customer of Bingham's, said she would miss her friend and treasure their year-long friendship.

Turner was a customer of

Bingham's when he ran his own butcher shop in Haskell for 25 years, Cecil's Country Meat Market and Grocery. After the store closed, he took his operation to Knox City.

"I went all the way to the Knox City Lawrence Brothers from Rule to get our meat and groceries from him," Turner said. "I am just horrified about

the whole thing. Everybody in Haskell and Knox County is."

Funeral services for Bingham were scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday at Eastside Baptist Church, 600 N. First St., Haskell. Elder Dale Turner will officiate.

A visitation has been planned from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, also at the church.

## TWO

From Page 1

Other candidates for the March 4 primary on the state level include:

- Mike Minter for U.S. Representative District 13
- U.S. Senator - Michael Fjetland, Maxey Marie Scherr, Harry Kim, David M. Alameel, and Kasha

- Rogers
- Governor - Reynaldo "Ray" Madrigal and Wendy R. Davis.

- Lieutenant governor - Leticia Van de Putte
- Attorney General - Sam Houston.
- Comptroller - Mike Collier
- Land Commissioner - John Cook.
- Chief Justice - William Moody.

- Justice, Place 6 - Lawrence Edward Meyers
- Justice, Place 7 - Gina Benavides.

- Justice, Criminal Appeals, Place 3 - John Granberg.
- Railroad Commissioner - Steve Brown and Dale Henry
- Ag Commissioner - Hugh Fitzsimmons III, Richard "Kinky" Friedman, and Jim Hogan.

### TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



EXAMPLE A

#### NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN AIR PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NUMBER 24807

**APPLICATION** Rhineland Co-Operative Gin has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit Number 24807, which would authorize continued operation of a cotton gin located at 5030 County Road 6009, Munday, Knox County, Texas 76371. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=33.5325&lng=-99.65&zoom=13&type=r>. The existing facility and/or related facilities are authorized to emit the following air contaminants: particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and organic compounds.

This application was submitted to the TCEQ on January 29, 2014. The application will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, TCEQ Abilene regional office, and the Munday City Hall, 121 East Main Street, Munday, Knox County, Texas, beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Abilene regional office of the TCEQ.

The executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. In addition to the renewal, this permitting action includes the incorporation of the following authorizations or changes to authorized facilities related to this permit: amendments, permits by rule, and changes in emission factors. The reasons for any changes or incorporations, to the extent they are included in the renewed permit, may include the enhancement of operational control at the plant or enforceability of the permit. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040. **The TCEQ may act on this application without seeking further public comment or providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** You may submit public comments, or a request for a contested case hearing to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application. **The deadline to submit public comments is 15 days after newspaper notice is published.** After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the TCEQ's jurisdiction to address in the permit process.

After the technical review is complete the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. If only comments are received, the response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application, will then be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or who is on the mailing list for this application, unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING** You may request a contested case hearing. The applicant or the executive director may also request that the application be directly referred to a contested case hearing after technical review of the application. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court. Unless a written request for a contested case hearing is filed within 15 days from this notice, the executive director may act on the application. **If no hearing request is received within this 15 day period, no further opportunity for hearing will be provided.** According to the Texas Clean Air Act § 382.056(o) a contested case hearing may only be granted if the applicant's compliance history is in the lowest classification under applicable compliance history requirements and if the hearing request is based on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application. Further, the Commission may only grant a hearing on those issues raised during the public comment period and not withdrawn.

**A person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility is entitled to request a hearing. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, daytime phone number, and fax number, if any; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing;" (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; and (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility. If the request is made by a group or association, the one or more members who have standing to request a hearing and the interests the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns. Requests for a contested case hearing must be submitted in writing within 15 days following this notice to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.**

If any requests for a contested case hearing are timely filed, the executive director will forward the application and any requests for a contested case hearing to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. Unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing, the executive director will mail the response to comments along with notification of Commission meeting to everyone who submitted comments or is on the mailing list for this application. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact relating to relevant and material air quality concerns raised during the comment period.** Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.

**MAILING LIST** In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list for this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. Those on the mailing list will receive copies of future public notices (if any) mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk for this application.

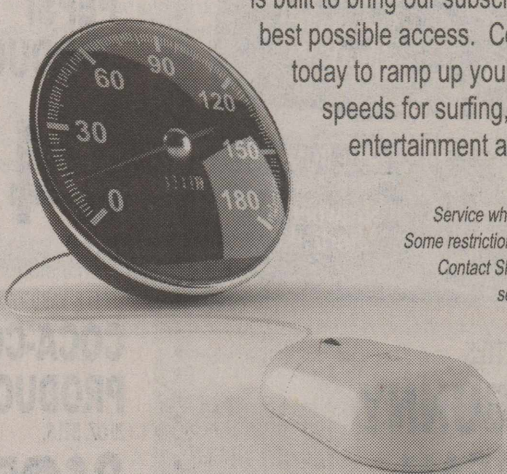
**AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION** Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at [www.tceq.texas.gov/about/comments.html](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/about/comments.html), or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. If you communicate with the TCEQ electronically, please be aware that your email address, like your physical mailing address, will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea informacion en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Rhineland Co-Operative Gin, 5030 County Road 6009, Munday, Texas 76371-3071 or by calling Mr. J. Kelley Green, Director of Technical Services at (512) 615-1102.

Notice Issuance Date: February 12, 2014

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# Texas 4-H spearheads fundraiser for conference center

By Paul Schattenberg  
Special to the News-Courier

BROWNWOOD ■ The Texas 4-H Council is undertaking a statewide grassroots effort to raise funds for the 4-H Conference Center near Brownwood.

The fundraising, which began in January, concludes June 12 — the final day of the statewide Texas 4-H Roundup.

"Not since the chocolate candy bar sales of the early 1970s has there been a statewide effort for 4-H members and families to raise funds to support the Texas 4-H Conference Center," center director Darlene Locke said.

The fundraising effort, named "4-H Where Change Makes Cents," is headed by the Texas 4-H Council's service committee members Christian Cole, Kadden Kothmann and Kaley Yorgensen.

"These youths have organized a campaign that will be easy for all to participate in," Locke said. "Just get a jar and a campaign label, then start collecting loose change. Just empty your pockets or look at the bottom of your purse or under your sofa cushions to find that spare change to put to use toward supporting the center."

Locke said collection jars can be obtained from the nearest Texas 4-H Council member or 4-Hers may use their own. Labels can be obtained from a Texas 4-H Council member.

"Make sure to write your name and district on your jar

and bring it to the community service booth at the Texas 4-H Roundup," she said. "Collection will continue throughout the roundup and will conclude at noon on June 12, with individual and district winners announced during the day's closing ceremonies. During the roundup, there will be a visual meter graphic for each district that will be updated every night."

The immediate goal of the campaign is to raise funds to support the installation of two Gaga pits and a nine-hole disc golf course at the 4-H center. "If you're not familiar with Gaga, it's a fast-paced form of dodgeball," Locke explained. "Both of these activities will provide countless hours of fun for all persons visiting the 4-H Center."

The service committee will keep record of all contributions and the 4-H district making the most contributions will be recognized at Texas 4-H Roundup with a pizza party. Also, one individual from each district will be recognized with their photo on a tile in the 4-H center's "Wall of Fame."

Locke said the fundraiser will be similar to the Texas Extension Education Association's annual "Coins for Friendship" effort where club members contribute loose change at their monthly meetings.

"Annually, the group presents the 4-H Center with a check averaging from \$4,000 to \$8,000," she said. "Since 1995, the TEEA membership

has collected over \$146,000 in coins for the 4-H center. These funds have been used for 'camperships,' program enhancements such as purchasing kayaks, sailboats, installing the cargo net on the challenge course, dormitory renovations, purchase of kitchen appliances and other equipment."

With over 60,000 active 4-H club members in Texas, the Texas 4-H Council, the youth leadership board representing all AgriLife Extension service districts, challenges 4-H membership to support this fundraiser, said service committee members.

The Texas 4-H Conference Center on Lake Brownwood is a 78-acre complex providing summer youth camps, weekend leadership retreats, training opportunities and many more programs and activities. The center serves as a year-round conference facility serving a variety of educational, fraternal, religious and social groups.

Locke said donations also can be made online through the Texas 4-H Foundation at [texas4hfoundation.org](http://texas4hfoundation.org). The campaign is one of the selections in the "Specify Donation" drop-down menu.

"Just be sure to make note of the 4-H member and/or district that you want to receive credit toward the prizes," Locke said.

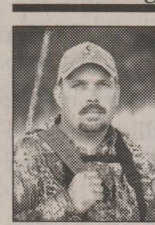
For more information, contact Cole at [christian-cole2016@aol.com](mailto:christian-cole2016@aol.com) or Locke at [dlocke@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:dlocke@ag.tamu.edu).

## Assignment: Texas

### The Pig Explosion - Part 2

# How a species went from obscure to a nuisance in a quarter century

In 2004, the Texas AgriLife Extension conducted a survey that placed the annual pig damage to Texas countryside at \$52 million with an additional \$7 million spent to control the animals or correct the damage. Some estimates place the total damage caused by pigs at \$200 per pig per year. The damage is defined primarily as agricultural damages. Perhaps the most danger that pigs pose to humans is



RUSSELL GRAVES

when the two meet on Texas roadways.

While numbers are sketchy, potentially the most devastating damages come from when cars collide with hogs. East of Austin, State Highway 130, or the "Pickle Parkway" is a newly opened road that's touted as the fastest highway in the United States. With speed limits in sections of 85mph, the tollway is designed so that motorists can make a quick trip between the San Antonio and Austin areas.

According to Bloomberg.com, pig versus vehicle collisions begin to occur even before the highway opened. Pig collisions aren't uncommon but when they occur at the posted 85mph speed limits, the encounters will be undoubtedly devastating.

Insurance industry estimates place the total

damage per pig/auto collision at \$1,200. As the pig population expands across the state, anecdotally, the number of collisions are bound to be on the rise thus resulting in more money out of the pockets of consumers.

To combat the growing pig problem, state agencies are implementing programs to help counties organize and battle the invasive species. The United States Department of Agriculture along with Texas Parks & Wildlife is working on a poisoning program that will only target wild pigs.

In 2010, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) launched the Hog Out County Grants program. The program is designed to encourage counties to "make a concentrated and coordinated effort to reduce the feral hog population and damage caused by these animals..." According to the TDA, counties compete for funding to further their hog eradication efforts and are scored on various metrics including the number of hogs killed and the number of county residents participating.

The Hog Out occurs each year from October through December and in 2012, 15 counties participated and 7,157 pigs were eliminated. Over the course of the program, the challenge has removed 27,934 pigs at an estimated savings of more than \$4 million to Texas landowners.

# Don't forget to vote!

# March 4!

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# News-Courier Classifieds

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## HELP WANTED

The Knox County Farm Service Agency (FSA) is seeking applicants for the position of Full Time, Temporary Program Technician. All candidates must be U. S. citizens, high school graduates or the equivalent. Basic requirements include general office clerical work, record keeping, computer ability, organizational skills and good public relation skills are a must. All applicants must undergo a background investigation. Applications (FSA-675) may be obtained at the USDA/

Knox County Service Center, 3950 FM 1292, Knox City, Texas. Applications must be delivered no later than close of business on March 14, 2014. For more information, contact Nancy Birkenfeld, County Executive Director at (940)658-3537 Extension 107. FSA is an Equal Opportunity Employer. 0306c

## HOUSE FOR SALE

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# 20th Cotton Pickin' Quilt Show

**By Michele Fetsch**  
The Knox County News-Courier

The halls of the old Goree school and gym, now known as the Knox Prairie Events Center, were a buzz Saturday with volunteers, vendors, and visitors enjoying the 20th annual Cotton Pickin' Quilt Show.

This year, the show added a cupcake cook-off. Attendees from the local area and

others as far away as Harrisonville, MO displayed their wears of furniture, fabric, jewelry, collectables and unique antique items. Turn-out was slightly higher than last year with 169 registered.

Among 100 quilts on display, each one a true work of art, in special judging of the Brazos Valley Quilting Guild members' quilts, top ribbons went to Pam Duke for a machined quilt, Patricia Willis for a hand-

sewn quilt and Pat Wheeler for a mini quilt.

During the course of the day, show goers voted on their favorite quilts. When the final count was tallied, the coveted honor of 1st place Viewer's Choice award, winning a beautiful ribbon and rocking chair, went to Seymour resident Margaret Martinez with her "Butterflies" design. Ms. Martinez was very happy to celebrate her win with sev-

eral of her family members looking on. Although no prizes were given, 2nd and 3rd place recognition went to Sherry Miller of Merkel for her modern "30 something" wedding ring quilt and Dorothy Golden Hibdon for her embroidered quilt made by her mother and her aunts.

The cupcake cook-off win was shared by Goree's Glenna Decker and her granddaughter Kelsie Hobert of Munday.



First Place - Margaret Martinez - Seymour



Second Place - Sherry Miller - Merkel



3rd Place - Dorothy Golden - Hibdon



V. Huffman and volunteers were on hand for the quilt show.



Cupcake Winners - G. Decker and K. Hobert



Polly Scott of Crowell and Mary Huffman of Munday point out the intricate detail in the quilts.

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