APRILIA-CIUTIET

HOME OF LEONA BURKHAM

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014

KCNEWSCOURIER.COM

75 CENTS

Citizen of the Year

Leona Burkham is KC's top resident

ber of Commerce held its annual banquet last Saturday. After a brief introduction and invocation by Chamber President Greg Oliver, the crowd was welcomed to the event by Leon Burkham.

After the introduction, Joann Albus took the stage to introduce the Chamber's Citizen of the Year, board member Leona Burkham, and presented her with an award plaque. Knox City COY can be chosen only by former winners of the award, and not board members themselves.

Burkham received the award in a surprise presentation with her family, who ter and appeared when the ceremony be-

gan. With such an award given to her, and her family simultaneously appearing to assist with presenting it, she became teary eyed and gave the banquet an emotional address thanking everyone involved.

Burkham came to KC in 1961, and although not a native of the county, she is just as respected. From Citizens Bank, to the Knox City School system, to secretary of the Knox County FFA, Leona Burkham's dedication to the county has been immense over the years and according to the Chamber, no other Knox City citizen was more deserving.

See BURKHAM, Page 8



Leona Burkham, surrounded by her family, was awarded the Knox City Citizen of the Year Award at Saturday's Chamber of Commerce

Knox Notes

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.

Head Start Fair

Parents wanting their 3 and 4 y/o child in Head Start this fall must submit an application. Knox City Child Development Center is hosting its Round-Up Day will be held Thurs., April 17 from 9:00am 3:00pm at 502 N 2nd in Knox City. For more information, contact Sherry Ellis, director, at 940-658-3770.

Egg Hunt

The Munday Volunteer Fire Department is hosting the annual community egg hunt on Sat, April 19, across from the elementary school in Munday. For more information contact the Chamber of Commerce at 940-422-4540.

Blood Drive

Make a difference this spring by rolling up a sleeve for patients in need. The local blood drive will be April 22, 9:30am to 2:30pm, Munday High School, 911 W. D, Munday, TX. All blood types are needed. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements. For more information, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org to make an appointment.

Water Town Hall

Members of the Knox County Republican Party will host a town hall meeting to discuss water and drought issues April 22, 5:30pm-7pm, at the Bill Baker Auditorium at Knox City High School. Local and state officials such as Rep. James Frank, R-Wichita Falls; Mike McGuire, Exe. Dir. of Rolling Plains Groundwater Conservation District; David Kuehler, Exe. Dir. of the North Central TX Municipal Water Authority and city administrators from Benjamin, Knox City and Munday are expected to attend. Refreshments will be served.

The 7th annual Knox Prairie Ranch Rodeo will be held Fri and Sat, April 25-26. Starts nightly at 7pm at the Munday rodeo grounds. This event is hosted by the Munday volunteer Fire Department.

Corrections

If you spot an error of fact, contact Editor Wayne Hodgin 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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Bringing home the bacon



Rochester residents and brother and sister 4-Hers Jordan and Melanie Ruiz proudly hoist up their buckles, trophies and award banners, Both Jordan and Melanie won their respective breed divisions at the Houston Rodeo and Stock Show recently. Out of all the county participants, they were the most

Local students, pigs show well at Houston

By Geoff Baumgartner The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — The Knox City FFA and the Knox County 4H program took several students to the Houston Stock Show and Rodeo this past week and the biggest winners for the county, by far, were the young siblings Jordan and Melanie Ruiz. Jordan and Melanie are the son and daughter of native Rochester residents Lori and Ricky Ruiz.

Jordan is 13 years old, in eighth grade, and attends O'Brien Middle School while his younger sister Melanie is 11, in fifth grade and attends Knox City Elementary. Jordan won the Breed Champion for his Berkshire while Melanie also won Breed Champion for her Spotted Poland China pig. They both also qualified to enter the Grand Champion competition, but did not have as much success. In total, nine breed champions were awarded throughout the competition, and the Ruiz' were two of the nine.

The brother and sister pair started showing animals three years ago after being introduced to 4-H program through friends of the family in Knox

"We had friends in Knox City that were actively involved, and the interest just grew from there. They have loved it ever since," said Lori Ruiz.

Jordan plans on competing all the way throughout high school until graduation and even though they currently enter stock shows through the Knox County 4-H program, he is anxious to participate through FFA. His sister Melanie has similar plans.

"I'll support them for as long as they show an interest. They can pursue it through college with our support if they want to," Lori Ruiz said.

Other local students who placed included Tanna Moeller, 11th place Duroc; Kolby Brown, eighth-place Duroc; Kristen Kuehler, seventhplace cross.

Also Participating were: Kate Baker, Christian Abila, Alexia Jimenez, Matthew Jimenez, Skylin Ledesma and Kayla Jo Hunter.

Jason Evans, Knox City FFA adviser and ag teacher, said Knox County had a great showing

"Knox County couldn't have been better represented," he said.

Jerry Coplen, the Knox County agricultural extension agent, said he was pleased with all of the results and enjoyed working with the students this year.

"It has been a pleasure working with these students this year and we look forward to another banner year next year," said Coplen.

By Geoff Baumgartner The Knox County News Courier

were hidden within the Community Cen-

KNOX CITY — The Knox City Cham-

After the award presentation, Chamber director Gail Nunn introduced the special guest speaker, former Abilene Reporter-News Editor Glenn Dromgoole, who

ciation in Odessa are Linda Puckett, director of the Garza County Historical Commission in Post; Holle

Humphries of Lubbock, Quanah Parker Trail facilitator; and Pat Cruse, member of the Garza Museum staff. The three conferred after the women's luncheon at the event. The larger-than-life wayside arrows along the Quanah Parker Trail mark many locations significant to the Comanches in and near towns across the region, including Post, Spur, Wellington, Turkey, Memphis, Floydada and Benjamin. Childress will soon

Talking Friday about the Quanah Parker Trail at the

annual meeting of the West Texas Historical Asso-

Species critical to preserving **Texas history**

By Hanaba Munn Welch

The Knox County News-Courier

MIDLAND — Texas State Historian Bill O'Neal made history over the weekend at the annual meeting of the West Texas Historical Association in Odessa and Midland. O'Neal coined the term "Historianus herbidus" for grassroots historians everywhere - not claiming to have discovered a new species but giving an official designation to non-professional historians deserving greater recognition.

No Latin scholar himself, O'Neal proposed the genus-species term in jest, but he's quite serious about the importance of the efforts of grassroots historians in Texas. In his keynote address at Friday night's banquet at the Petroleum Museum in Midland, O'Neal showed pictures and told stories of citizen historians across Texas who research and preserve local history and historic sites. His examples stretched from the old XIT headquarters house in the Texas Panhandle to historic places in East Texas and points between, including Quanah and Medicine Mound.

As for O'Neal's foray into Latin, it's not his first time to invent a term. He's an expert in a field he calls "gunfighterology." His "Encyclopedia of Western Gunfighters," first published in 1991 by the University of Oklahoma Press, remains popular, and for years he has balanced teaching history at Panola College in Carthage with giving talks on gunfighters and sponsoring a yearly gunfighter conference. Already a traveling lecturer, the state historian's post has given him official reason to go more places than ever.

"Mostly I am an ambassador of Texas history," he said. "Most people do not even know there is a state historian."

On the road, he wears his state historian's cap, given him by his daughter, and custom-designed state historian shirts, gifts from his wife. He hands out cards he's had printed himself for his non-salaried position. The travels have deepened his sense of the importance of the work of hometown people who are guardians of their own history, many also unpaid (like his wife Karon, who maintains his blog, lonestarhistorian2.blogspot.

See **HISTORY**, Page 8

Office

121 E. B St., Munday P.O. Box 151, Munday, Texas

Phone 940-422-5350 Email konewscourier@ gmail.com

PUBLISHER William C. Blackburn

EXECUTIVE EDITOR Wayne Hodgin

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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



Deaths **Elvis Lous Blake**

2 THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014

Elvis Louis Blake, 81, passed away Friday, March 4, 2014 in Wichita Falls, TX. Elvis was born January 1, 1933 in Knox County to Louis and Ida Blake. He was a lifelong resident of Knox County.

He was preceded in death by his wife, June Blake.

Survivors include two sons; Charles and wife, Jea-

nette Blake of Goree, and James and wife, Lori Blake of Wichita Falls, two sisters; Dorothy Winchester of Frisco, TX and Janie and husband Richard Mraz of Ennis, TX., four grandchildren; Jason Blake of Goree, Greg Blake of Goree, Brice and Kellie Blake of Wichita Falls, and Brady Blake of Hamlin, one great-grandson;

Jaron Blake of Goree, and several nieces and nephews.

Rosary was held, Monday, March 7, 2014 at the funeral home. Funeral Mass was at 10:30AM, Tuesday, March 8. 2014 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Rhineland. Burial followed in St. Joseph's Cemetery under the direction of McCauley-Smith Funeral Home of Munday.

applesauce, slushy, juice, milk

Friday: School holiday

pears, slushy, juice, milk

Lunch

es, slushy, milk

Thursday: Cereal bowl, honey graham,

Monday: Spaghetti or bologna and cheese,

Tuesday: Corndog or turkey and cheese,

Wednesday: Soft chicken fajita tacos or

Thursday: Chicken tenders or tuna salad,

gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, peach-

Monday: Chicken tenders, mashed pota-

Tuesday: Meatloaf, red potato, green

Wednesday: Sweet & Sour chicken, rice,

Thursday: Tilapia/lemon whole kernel

stir fry vegetables, wheat rolls, lazy cake

carrots, pork and beans, banana, slushy, milk

ham and cheese, Mexicali corn, lettuce, cin-

namon apple slices, slushy, milk

Friday: School holiday

Knox County Aging Center

beans, bread sticks, peach crisp

corn, slaw hushpuppies, brownies

Friday: Closed for Good Friday

toes, mixed vegetables, rolls fruit cup

corn, green beans, mixed fruit, slushy, milk

Relay for Life

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.

Join a Relay for Life

The Knox-Haskell Relay for Life event will be held on Saturday, May 3rd at the Munday track. If you would like to join a team, call Nancy Tidwell 203-0270 or Carla Key 256-2280 or go online to relayforlife.org. In the fight against cancer, silence is the last thing we need. Your local Relay for Life is a great place to take action and make noise. At the Relay, there will be food, games and lots of activities,

so GET READY to SALSA around the track as we celebrate, remember and FIGHT BACK. Please join us in the fight.

R4L Luminarias

Remember or honor a loved one who has fought or is fighting the battle against cancer by dedicating a luminary to be lit during the 2014 Haskell-Knox Relay for Life event May 3 at the Munday track. A minimum \$5 donation is requested per request. Send your name/ address along with the name of whom you want to be honored or memorialized. Also include your donation and team name and send to Konnie Kuehler, American Cancer Society, POB 626, Munday.

Area schools announce kinder roundups

The Knox County News-Courier

Prekindergarten roundup and enrollment for the 2014-2015 school year is slated for April 15-17 at Knox City Elementary.

Melissa Espinosa, prekindergarten teacher, invites all students who will be 4 years old on or before Sept. 1 to visit the pre-k classroom beginning at 9:15 a.m., when they will join this year's prekindergarten class for the regular schedule. The children will participate in music and movement, hear a story, and complete a project to take home. They will play on the playground before going to the lunchroom to eat. Cost of the meal is \$2.20. Children will be dismissed from the pre-k room at noon.

For information or to register, call the Knox City Elementary office at 657-3147.

At Munday Elementary, the pre-k roundup event will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 2.

Principal Kristi Bufkin said parents are invited to bring their

child to school to register them.

The pre-k registration event at Benjamin ISD will be from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 18. Register by calling the school at 940-

Requirements

Elementary schools officials request parents pre-register their child for the 2014-15 school year. In order to do this, you will need to bring your child's original Social Security card (not a copy), a current immunization record and a birth certificate. Please bring these to the elementary office after you have dropped off your child. Copies will then be made of the enrollment documents and you will be given an enrollment packet to fill out for the 2014-2015

Menus: Week of April 14-18

Knox City-O'Brien

Breakfast

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

Tuesday: Cinnamon toast with sausage or cereal bowl with sausage, pears, juice, milk Wednesday: Mini corndogs or cereal bowl, toast, mixed fruit, juice, milk

Thursday: Pancakes with syrup or cereal bowl with sausage, applesauce, juice, milk Friday: School holiday

Lunch

Monday: Beefy macaroni or antipasto salad or bologna and cheese, carrots, corn, grapes, slushy, milk

Tuesday: Chicken nuggets or fajita chicken salad or turkey and cheese, gravy mashed potatoes, green beans, pears, slushy, milk

Wednesday: Soft beef tacos or garden pasta salad, or ham and cheese, Mexican style beans, lettuce, orange, slushy, milk Thursday: Ballpark or zesty tuna salad

or tuna salad, mashed potatoes, applesauce, peaches, slushy, milk

Friday: School holiday

Munday

Breakfast

Monday: Waffles with syrup, honey graham, mixed fruit, slushy, juice, milk

Tuesday: Cereal bowl, honey graham, peaches, slushy, juice, milk

Come eat with us and support your aging center program.

Please call in your orders by 10:00 a.m. to

Orders can't be taken after 11:00 a.m. Wednesday: Breakfast pancake wrap, please pick up by 11:00 a.m.

The myth of multi-tasking

ourselves that we can multi-task.

about those activities - chew-

those things we do that requires

it's subconscious and nearly

automatic. Unlike walking and

chewing gum, both driving

and using a cell phone require

higher cognitive thinking. Your

brain simply cannot perform

two higher cognitive tasks at

switch between the tasks, and

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Clothing

Flip Flops

Crosses

and fill your Easter Baskets!

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Easter Cards!

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Give your Child a Head Start!!!

April 17, 2014

Knox, City, TX

BRING: Birth Certificate, Current immunization record, tation. Children with Disabilities Encouraged to Apply Income Guidelines Apply

Déle a su hijo un buen comienzo!

Las solicitudes de inscripción para 2014-2015

17 de abril 2014

Knox, City, TX

DEBE TRAER: Acta de nacimiento, registro de vacunación ingresos anuales para el año 2013 o 1040 declaración de

Solicitor Pautas de ingresos Aplicar

that's where we get into prob- crashes and fatalities.

fingertips, drivers are constantly faced with distractions, such as talking or texting, which places their safety and that of others at serious risk. April is National ing gum and walking, we have Distracted Driving Awareto admit that walking is one of ness Month, and the Texas Department of Transportation is launching the "Talk. very little brainpower; in fact, Text. Crash." campaign to raise awareness of the dangers associated with distracted driving and to encourage Texans to put down their cell phones while

Distracted driving is bethe same time. Instead, it must coming increasingly common and dangerous, causing traffic

Jewelry

Leggings

Scorves

DOT deputy executive director. "One in five traffic crashes in Texas is caused by a distracted driver, and last year 459 people were killed as a result." In 2013, the number of Texas

crashes involving distracted driving totaled 94,943, up 4 percent from the previous year.

Drivers can be distracted by conversing with other passengers, eating, smoking, manipulating dashboard controls, reaching for something in the vehicle, and talking or texting on a cell phone. Among the many distractions drivers face on the road, cell phone use is one of the most common and a major cause of distracted driving traffic accidents and fatalities.

While distractions affect drivers of all ages, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has found that hand-held cell phone use is highest among 16- to 24-yearolds. This age group has the largest proportion of drivers who were distracted. In Texas, 46 percent of urban teens and

"The statistics in Texas are a cell phone while driving, and With technology at their sobering," said John Barton, Tx- nearly the same percentage text while driving, according to the Texas A&M Transportation

Text messaging is particularly dangerous. New research conducted last year by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute showed reaction times double when drivers are distracted by text messaging. Additionally, sending or receiving a text takes a driver's eyes away from the road for an average of 4.6 seconds. At 55 mph, that's the equivalent of driving the length of a football field while blind-

Put away your cell phones and wait until you arrive at their destination toyou're your phone. Although cell phone use is the most easily recognized distraction, all in-vehicle distractions are unsafe and can cause crashes or fatalities. Keep your eyes on the road and arrive alive!

Lorrie Coop is the coordinating agent for the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Knox County.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ENGINEERING SERVICES TEXAS SMALL TOWNS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Benjamin is requesting proposals for engineering services in conjunction with its 2013 Texas Small Towns Environmental Program (STEP) Fund form the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). Accordingly, the City is seeking to contract with a qualified engineering firm registered to practice in the State of Texas to prepare all preliminary and final design plans and specifications, and to conduct all necessary interim and final inspections for the application's project that is awarded a contract by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA).

Please submit your proposal of services and a statement of qualifications for these proposed services to the address below:

Sylinda Meinzer, Mayor City of Benjamin P.O. Box 286 Benjamin, Texas 79505

Proposals must be received by the City no later than 10:00 am on Tuesday, April 22, 2014 to be considered. The City reserves the right to negotiate with any and all engineers or firms that submit proposals, per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards.

The City of Benjamin is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

By Gladene Green

On this foggy Monday morning, I greet you all. We had a little rain Sunday but not really enough to brag about. However, at this stage of "dryness," any amount is good and very welcome. We hope for

We have a few reports on those with health problems today. Barbara Ryder is having some surgery on her arm (the one she broke about a month ago) today is Lubbock. Just what they are going to do is unclear to me, but it is to correct the problem caused by the break which has put her in a lot of pain these past weeks. Then tomorrow (Tuesday) Donnie will see his doctor for a follow-up visit after his shoulder surgery several weeks ago. Hopefully, he will be released to start some therapy soon. As Barbara put it, they have had their "wings clipped," but maybe they will soon be back to at least some sort of a normal life! Donnie said next March he is going to hide because all this happened during last month, and he doesn't want to risk it again!

Corrine Parrish also is dealing with a broken arm. She fell at her home on Tuesday night, which resulted in the break between the elbow and wrist. She's doing ok with it. Just knows it will take some time to mend. What a way to celebrate one's birthday. Corrine turned 92 Wednesday with a little family gathering at her home, complete with cake and punch, so regardless of her pain, she had a nice special day.

The Jackson family, James, Jill, and Grant, have been bothered with the flu. James took it first, followed by Grant,

then Jill took it on Saturday. They are feeling better. So far, Daniel has missed it, unless he came down with it last night. Seems when it starts in a family, no one is exempt. It usually catches everyone.

Seth Kuehler had another accident Saturday night. Broke his ankle rodeoing and is in an Abilene hospital. It's a compound fracture, and the doctors don't plan to do anything to it until Wednesday. Seth has had lots of broken bones, but he springs back pretty fast, and maybe he will from this as well. We surely do hope so. His parents are Stephen and Sheila. We surely do wish Seth well.

I extend sympathy to the family of Elvis Blake of Goree today. Elvis passed away Friday night. His funeral is tomorrow (Tuesday).

Hannah White Rowland was honored Sunday with a post-nuptial bridal shower at the Methodist Church in Benjamin. Susan White received the guests with her daughter from 3 until 4 in the afternoon. Refreshments of cookies and punch were served, and the young couple received lots of nice gifts to begin their new life together. Hannah is employed at Bud's Cafe, and her husband, Joseph, works for Heath Turner in construction. They are making their home in Knox City.

Here 'n' There

It's congratulations to our own junior high track stars, who took first place in district in the boys' division at the track meet in Knox City Thursday. Despite the strong wind and the dust rolling in, they "kept on keeping on," and at the final tally had come out on top. We are mighty proud of them, both individually and as a

O'Brien Junior High girls also took first place in district at the track meet in Knox City, and they are to be congratulated as well. We are proud of all those who participated — win or lose, they are all winners in their own way.

Helen Green, who lives in Guthrie, called on Saturday. She said she and Jimmy had both been sick with this upper respiratory stuff that has bothered so many, but she thought they were about over it, and she was ready. It was good to hear from her as it had been a while since we had talked.

The Ex-students' officers and board had a meeting recently to discuss general business of the association and also to begin to make plans for the Homecoming, which will be the 2nd weekend in June. A newsletter will be mailed out soon and more details will be made available as the time nears. There will be an arts and crafts raffle again, so bring what you wish to donate, and we'll sell tickets on it, and someone will be a winner and will be happy with their "take."

Bud's Cafe in Knox City has been out of commission since Friday night due to a gas leak and trouble repairing it. Looks like, now, a new line will have to be put in, so not much telling how long it will take to get things operational again. Hopefully, by the time this paper is out it will be fixed, but we're not sure. Sorry for any problems it may have caused our customers, but some things can't be

Jack Jr. and Cindy Young of Round

Rock visited his mom, Mary Jane, last weekend. While in the area, they also visited other relatives and friends.

Bill and Sue Roberts of Driftwood were here a few days to visit his siblings and their families and his mom, Jessie Roberts, and his aunt, Bea Parks, in the Munday Nursing Center.

I was sorry to learn of the death of William Watson of Knox City last week. Willie worked for L. C. Guinn Plumbing for a good while and ran the business after L.C's death before it sold recently. He did a lot work for a lot of us, and he was good at what he did. My sympathy to his family.

Samijo Russell and little son, D. J., have moved to Spur, where she is now employed. D. J. was back in Benjamin this past weekend with his aunt, Shelby, of Lubbock for a visit with his grandmother, Kim Moore, and other family. We wish them well in their new surroundings. Of course, Spur is home to Sami, so she's well acquainted there.

Blain Conner Niel's little girl, Shay, has been back in Cooks Children's Hospital in Ft. Worth, being admitted on Monday. She had a low grade fever, and her blood count was low. She was given a unit of blood, and her fever was gone by the weekend, and if all continued to go well, she was to be released Saturday. This all as a result of that ATV accident she was involved in last Sunday week.

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

The Paperboy

The Tax Foundation (yes there is such a thing) released a report Monday stating that April 21 is Tax Freedom Day for 2014.

That is the day when the nation collectively has made enough money to pay the total tax burden for the year. That is three days later than 2013.

> Woo Hoo! We're free! Wrong. It's not the fact that

we have to pay taxes that

bugs me. It's the fact

that if the U.S. Govern-

ment was traded on the

stock market, it would

in the history of ever.

\$1 million, would you

hand it over to Uncle

Sam and let it ride for

If you said yes, you might need to be

The United States is an amazing place

American businesses and let us reinvest in

Of course, doing so requires leadership.

To me, a leader is someone the majority

of people, regardless of political affili-

been absent on the national stage for

ation, gravitate toward. Leadership has

We have so much potential and can't

get out of our own way. What we have

are national politicians more interested

in getting elected than working for the

lobbyists, vote swaps for favors ... it's

as bad as it's ever been in D.C. and the

Back room deals, insider information,

population sits "quietly" as the media con-

full of amazing people. It's time to take

the cuffs off the American people and

our towns and each other.

If someone gave you

CHRIS BLACKBURN

institutionalized.

10 years?

sometime.

greater good.

If we weren't living this, it would be

trols the narrative.

a great movie about the downfall of a

If you happen to disagree with me and can point out progress and things which will sway my opinion, please contact me. I would absolutely love to feel better about the state of this country. I really would.

We need rain. I know I'm not dropping a bombshell on you, but we certainly do.

It will rain again my friends. We have experienced this before. And when the rains do come - I'm talking inches here - we need to remain frugal with our abundant water.

The drought has forced us to become much smarter regarding our most precious resource. That is a good thing.

I was talking with a friend Friday and we discussed what five inches of rain would do to our local economies. It would be wonderful.

It is my sincere prayer that we are blessed with such a rain soon. That our tanks, ponds and lakes spill over and our creeks and rivers swell to their limits. That our famers and ranchers have to rebuild terraces and dams. That our aquifers recharge. That the malaise we are experiencing subsides and we rejoice in the abundance of water.

What an incredible day that will be!

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.

1 19 501 A bad investment Stuck on Flypaper

hat's to like about flies? They portend rain. They quiet down after dark. And that's about it. Here's hoping we get rain out of this latest influx.

Meanwhile, I've strung up flypaper here at the farm - three strips of a 39-cents-a-

roll brand made in Korea. I mention the country of origin because the last time I bought flypaper it was from Germany. Seriously. As I recall, it was sturdier than the Korean stuff but costlier. Flies deserve less. German engineers should lighten up.

Believe it or not, a fly just HANABA walked across my com-MUNN puter screen, left to right. Now he's back at the top WELCH left corner, grooming himself and fluffing his wings,

now lapsing into inactivity, apparently lost in thought. Now he's headed down to read my col-

umn.

PAUSE.

Guess he decided he'd rather fly around. Now he's back, but not to read. PAUSE WHILE I SLOWLY MOVE

MY LAPTOP TO THE FLYPAPER. You guessed it. When we got close

enough to the hanging death trap for him to see a stuck cousin, he decided he'd rather just fly around some more. Can't blame him. Sensitive souls who like flypaper because

it's non-toxic probably have qualms about the way it kills. Stuck cousin is still moving his front legs intermittently. Flypaper isn't like the sticky traps you can use to catch mice so you can release them in hospitable locales miles away. Once flypaper gets you, that's it - except in cartoons, where flies

land on flypaper and then plod along laboriously in the goo, if memory serves. FLYPAPER CARTOON RESEARCH PAUSE.

Instead of confirming my recollections, my Internet search turned up a scholarly discussion of a 1930s Walt Disney cartoon about Pluto getting into flypaper. (Cartoon historians differ as to who executed the original sketches.) Seeing Pluto in various poses made me think of yesterday when I got too close to flypaper. It grabs you indeed. Once you get one paw stuck, your other paw gets involved too and so on.

Here's a hint in case it happens to you: Charcoal starter fluid is an effective solvent. Something else might work better.

Here's another hint:

Room temperature flypaper of the flimsy sort unrolls best when warm. Microwave ten seconds.

Warning:

If there's a metal tack, remove it first. How long does it take to catch flies with flypaper?

Well, our little friend hasn't been back to read about himself. Either he's stuck too, or he doesn't care for this topic.

Meanwhile, I'm reminded of my father's story from his days as a drugstore soda jerk and apprentice pill roller, ca. 1919-1920, in McAlester, Okla. Whenever a drugstore fly got stuck just by its wings, my father and his colleagues would put it feet up on the cash register at the end of the soda fountain counter. They'd give the fly a tiny barbell made of a splinter of wood and pieces of cork. The fly would hold and turn the barbell.

Better to be a bar fly than a barbell fly.

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

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Dixie Divas

Hymns that evoke precious memories

'n the tiny country church where I wrote it after suffering the loss of his wife She was, in the most amusing, likeable way, spent most of the first 22 years of my L life; where I found the Lord at the age of 11; where, without fail, I had the leading part in every Christmas pageant; and where my daddy laid down the law in more ways than one, we sang hymns from a brown

songbook and a green one that were filled with the haunting melodies that have penetrated the Appalachians for many decades.

> I can close my eyes and still hear those mournful ballads like "Angel Band" or "Just As I Am." With RONDA either my eyes closed or open, I can see the teary-RICH edged look in Daddy's the front pew and sang, sion, they are comforting.

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand," a heartwrenching song written by Thomas Dorsey, a black blues singer from Atlanta who regular churchgoer but came plenty enough.

and son during childbirth. It was Daddy's favorite song, so we sang it at his funeral.

One day a few years ago, I heard Darrell Waltrip, a NASCAR great and a longtime friend, singing that song in the kitchen when I was visiting him and Stevie. Darrell sings a lot. He loves music, especially country and gospel.

"That was my daddy's favorite song," I said quietly, softened by the memories it

He smiled. "It's mine, too. My favorite hymn."

So now whenever I hear that song, I think first of Daddy and then of Darrell, and then I recall it wasn't just Daddy's funeral where we sang that song. We sang at my brother's and then at Mama's six weeks later. The melody is woeful, but the words green eyes as he sat on are full of promise and, even on a sad occa-

> In that little church of my childhood was a woman named Eunice Edge, who wasn't a

a character. She favored flowing dresses or skirts that she often paired with a long, well-worn cardigan and always, without fail, with white bobby socks and loafers. She loved to let out a big belly laugh while she slapped someone on the back with a powerful arm that would send a kid like me flying several feet forward.

She and her husband, Bartow, had an old black pick-up truck from the 1940s that hiccupped and jerked as Eunice, who always drove, put it into gear and took a nice roll down the long, very steep driveway of

And though I remember her vividly and fondly, what I remember most is Eunice's favorite church song: "This World Is Not My Home." Page 16 in the brown book.

Whenever Eunice was at church, she would speak up in her long, country drawl and say, "Sing my song. 'This World Is Not My Home' because it ain't."

That is the power of songs. They stick to the memory like a piece of chewing gum stuck to the underneath of a table. It would take some powerful doing to pull them away. They can take us back to a first date, a memorable prom or a raw emotion. Or a little white clapboard country church surrounded by piney woods and oak trees.

My husband hears me tell a story in which I mention a perennial funeral favorite of the Appalachians — "Precious Memories." He had never heard it. When he asked for a good album of hymns he could download to his iPod, I suggested country singer Alan Jackson's album. Every day as he dresses, I hear that album playing loudly and now he sings along. He, who spent his childhood in Connecticut and most of his adult life in California, knows every word. More often than not, he comes down the stairs singing, "Precious Memories."

And I realize it is, indeed, for now and forever a most precious memory.

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

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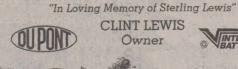
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KC Head Start to begin Knox City Houndettes enrolling next week

The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — The Knox City Child Development Center, 502 N. Second St., will be taking applications for the enrollment of children for the Head Start program that will begin

The Head Start program serves 3- and 4-year-old children. It is designed to meet the needs of children by providing an environment which will help them develop socially, physically, intellectually, and emotionally in a manner appropriate to their age and stage of development toward the overall goal of school readiness and social competence. Children with disabilities are welcome in Head Start and are offered the full range of developmental services that children without disabilities receive.

The program works closely with other community agencies to provide services to meet the special needs of all children enrolled. The guidelines for participation in Head Start are established by the U.S. Department of Health and

Human Services.

To make application for the program, parents must bring the following documents: child's birth certificate, immunization record, and proof of income for the past 12 months, or 2013 1040 tax return. TANF recipients are categorically eligible for the program; however documentation of current benefits such as a letter from caseworker, case numbers, etc. must be provided. All information is considered confidential and will be used only for the purpose of establishing eligibility and defining the needs of the family and child.

While applications can be taken any time throughout the year, we encourage parents wanting their child in Head Start this fall to make an application as soon as possible. Knox City Child Development Center is hosting its Round Up Day will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. place. April 17. To complete an application, visit the Knox City Child Development Center.

For information, contact Sherry Ellis, direc-

take second place at their own KC Relays

By Geoffrey Baumgartner The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY- Knox City High School hosted the KC Relay's in town this past Friday, and the Houndettes took home second place overall from the event. Several of the Greyhounds finished first in their respective events as well.

Girl's Results:

100 Meter Dash: Essence Ward-first place, Andrea Lynn-fifth place.

200Meter Dash: Caitlyn Baxter-third place, Amy Harrington-sixth place.

400 Meter Dash:Kenlee Lambert, fifth

1600 Meter Run: Shailee Manning, second

3200 Meter Run: Manning, first place. 100Meter Hurdle: Kenlee Lambert, fifth

4x100 Meter Relay: Eaton, Lynn, McCrary, Ward-first place.

4x200 Meter Relay: Baxter, Eaton, Zinzilly McCrary, Ward- first place.

Long Jump: Kirstin Tuckness, fifth place. Shot Put: Makaylie Steele, second place.

Discuss: Jordan Eaton, second place.

Boy's Results:

100 Meter Dash: Israel Rodriguez, sixth

400 Meter Dash: Sheldon Baty, fifth place. 4x200 Meter Relay: Jaylon Roberson, Anthony Estrada, Israel Rodriguez, Elias Nevarez, fourth place.

4x400 Meter Relay: Sheldon Baty, Jacoby Thomas, Elias Nevarez, Anthony Estrada, sec-

Shot Put: Krys Campos, fifth place.

Discus: Tylynne Eaton-first place, Krys Campos-third place.

Triple Jump: Jacoby Thomas-first place, Israel Rodriguez-third place.

Knox City Head Track Coach Colin Howeth was very proud of his athletes and is looking forward to the area meet when the team will be back at full-force.

"We are starting to work through some of our injuries on the boy's side and I am excited to see what our boys are capable of doing at the area meet when we will hopefully be firing on all cylinders. Good things are to come in the next few weeks."

Knox City-O'Brien CISD Scholarship drive to help seniors pursue dreams

The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — Louis Baty, superintendent of Knox City-O'Brien CISD, said this week the annual scholarship drive for local graduating seniors has begun.

"As the cost of furthering one's education continues to rise, Knox City-O'Brien CISD is dedicated to our students success following graduation," Baty said.

The Board of Trustees has designated a "Wall of Fame" in the W.R Baker Auditorium to recognize individuals and businesses who have created endowed scholarships or who donate to the annual scholarship fund drive for graduating seniors of Knox City High School.

Knox City-O'Brien CISD invites individuals and businesses to be a part of the scholarship drive with sponsorship levels: Blue Scholarship Sponsor with a contribution

of \$250 or more; White Scholarship Sponsor with \$100 to \$249; or a Red Scholarship Sponsor with a Contribution of \$25 to \$99.

Baty said schools officials want to ensure each student has the financial means to pursue their dreams.

"With your financial contribution, it can happen," Baty said. "Your donation will be greatly appreciated by the district and a graduating senior who will have the financial assistance to pursue their vision of an education beyond high school."

Send contributions to: Scholarship Fund, Knox City-O'Brien CISD, 606 E. Main St., Knox City, TX 79529.

Anyone needing additional information is encouraged to contact Baty at 940-657-

Geoffrey Baumgartner



Essence Ward sticks the landing in the triple jump event. Ward ended up taking first place in the event with Andrea Lynn taking fifth place.





Israel Rodriguez takes flight into the long jump pit. Rodriquez managed to take third place in the next triple jump event while Jacoby Thomas took first place.

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Munday band students compete at Cisco festival

Special to the News-Courier

The halls at Cisco College were alive with the sound of music, as school bands from across the region came to participate in the annual competition March 19-20.

Bands from several elementary, middle and high schools came to challenge

reading and solo ensemble performance.

Several hundred young musicians represented their communities well. Those competing included Deleon Middle School, Gorman Middle School, Santo Beginner Band, Clyde 7th Grade Band, Hawley Middle School

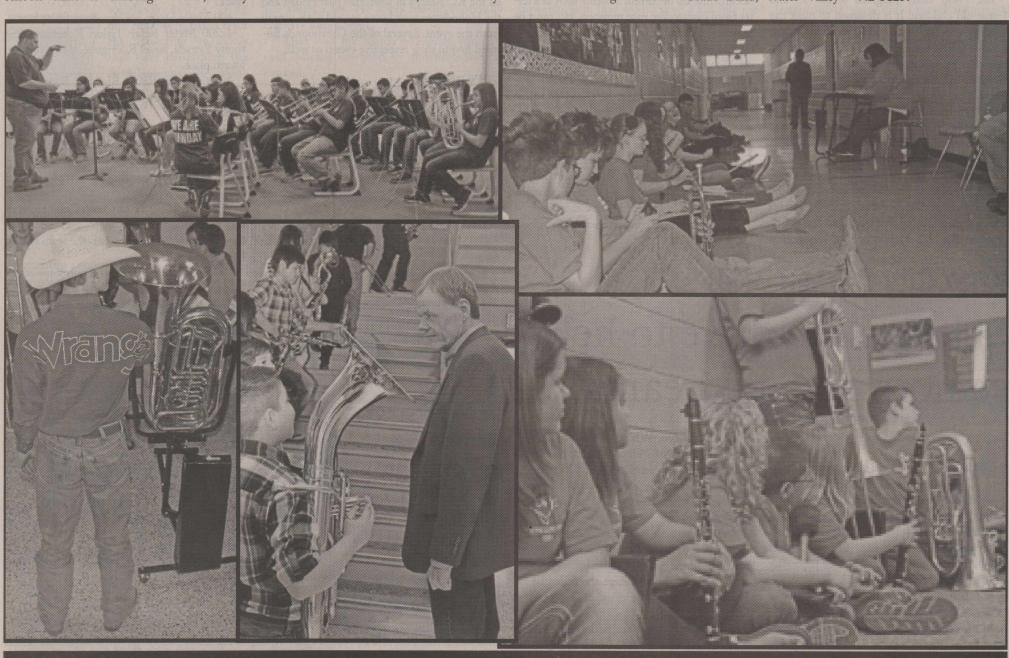
their peers in concert, sight- Band, Wylie Middle School Band, Anson Beginner Band, Merkel Middle School Band, Forte Middle School Band, Santa Anna Elementary Band, Ballinger Middle School Band, Mason Middle School Band, Cisco Middle School Band, Bangs Middle School Band, Sonora Middle School Band, Irion County

Elementary Band, Seymour Middle School Band, Rotan Middle School Band, Sonora High School Band, Eastland High School Band, Abilene Christian School Band, Gorman High School Band, Clyde 8th Grade Band, Cross Plains Middle School Band, Santo Middle School Band, Cross Plains High School

Band, Early Middle School Band, Santa Anna High School Band, Rochelle High School Band, Christoval Beginner Band, Munday 6th Grade Band, Eastland Middle School Band, Electra Beginner Band, Munday 5th Grade Band, Bangs 6th Grade Band, Munday 7th Grade Band, Water Valley

Middle School Band, and Rotan High School Band.

The Cisco Music Festival is an annual event and Texas youth school bands are encouraged to become involved. For more information about next year's festival contact Cisco College Band Director Manny Martinez at 254-442-5125.



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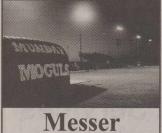
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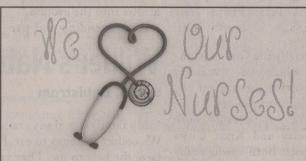
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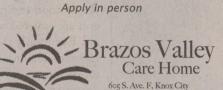
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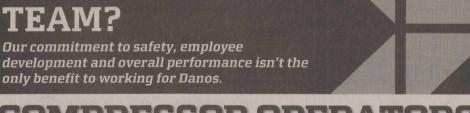
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HISTORY From Page 1

Not that O'Neal's job doesn't have its perks. His title gets him places he might not otherwise see especially in old movie theaters. He mentioned theaters in Mason, Minneola, Daingerfield, Graham and Clifton as examples of old cinemas that either have been restored or have been in continuous operation.

"The owners are proud of their vintage equipment," he said. "They'll show me around if I flash that state historian card. A lot of times, the balconies will be closed in these old theaters ... and yet they always take me up to them."

O'Neal told about his friendship with fellow historian and Medicine Mound native Bill Neal, whose middle initial is "O," enhancing chances for the cases of mistaken identity

From Page 1

has also authored 26 books. Dromgoole gave a very homespun address about small towns, and managed to crack up the entire audi-

In Honor Of:

they both enjoy.

"Apostrophe, this is period" is what Bill Neal says when he calls his fellowauthor, O'Neal said.

He lauded the efforts of Neal and other Mounders, as they are called, to preserve downtown Medicine Mound, where historic markers outnumber the remaining buildings. O'Neal showed pictures of the old rock store, now a museum, and characterized Jeanine Stermer, museum curator, as a "dynamic communityminded woman."

He also complimented Scarlett Daugherty for her work as museum curator in nearby Quanah.

"They've got a wonderful old depot that's been turned into a museum," he said, showing a picture of the Quanah, Acme & Pacific building and the jail behind it. "It's a grand old jail they've got too."

O'Neal expressed his appreciation for small museums and people who keep

ence while doing it. Dromgoole also had a booth set up where the attendees could purchase his latest book, "A Small Town in Texas."

Nunn was very pleased with the turnout and vehemently appreciated the whole county's involvement,

dedicating a luminaria to be lit during the Relay for Life of Knox/Haskell County on May 3, 2014 at the Munday

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them intact, even when access must be limited to a few hours a week.

"They're run by people who love their hometowns," he said. "Historianus herbidus.' They're all around us."

In fact, the yearly WTHA confab drew historians of all stripes, from scholars with posts in academia to lay researchers who work in the discipline simply for the love of what they do. All shared on common ground.

Holle Humphries of Lubbock, member of the steering committee of the Quanah Parker Trail, gave a presentation titled "Citizen Historians Create a Trail To Restore to Public Memory the 19th Century Story of the Comanches on the Texas High Plains."

Humphries described how grassroots historians with various skills have managed to work together in the Texas Plains Trail Region, a 52-county state

especially the City of Munday, which was extremely supportive throughout the whole event process.

"We appreciate both Munday and Knox City's support. Both towns really came out with the support and made the whole banquet possible," Nunn said.

heritage tourism jurisdiction, to create a project significant enough to end up on the cover of "Medallion," magazine of the state historical commission.

The Quanah Parker Trail draws special attention to the historic Comanche presence across the region with 22-foot-long steel arrows accented with Comanche colors, now standing tall at significant spots in most Plains Trail Region counties, including Collingsworth, Floyd, Garza, Hall and Knox. Childress and Wayside are slated for arrow installations, events sometimes enhanced with dedication ceremonies attended by descendants of Comanche Chief Quanah Parker, most of whom travel from Oklahoma.

"The Quanah Parker family helps to verify family history," Humphries said. "They add a lot to ceremonies when we put arrows into the ground."

Also attending and par-

ticipating at the event was Barbara Brannon, TPTR director. Brannon played information about the Quanah Parker Trail at a display booth and herself presented a paper on the Butterfield Trail, the famous short-lived stage route that cut across Texas

in the mid-19th century. "Death Rides the Range of the Matadors" was the topic of Motley County rancher Marisue Potts, a former WTHA president. Potts shared her research on the lives of people with historical connections to her family ranch, once part of the historic Matador

"My family bought out one line camp out of 25," she said. "The ranch has been in our family 60 years. My goal is to record the history in my back yard."

Death in gunfights happened regularly in the earliest years of the ranch. She detailed different inci-

"Lawlessness prevailed," Potts said. "The code of chivalry required things be settled regarding real or perceived grievances."

The WTHA program is viewable via the WTHA website: www.wtha.org. The WTHA is headquartered at Texas Tech University. Tai Kreidler, executive director, is deputy director of Tech's Southwest Collection and is a member of the Tech faculty.

Papers are selected from the WTHA membership for presentation at the annual meeting, and historical articles from members are also published in a yearbook. Most members are from Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico; anyone can belong. Several states were represented at the Odessa meeting.

Award-winning regional journalist Hanaba Munn Welch is regular contributor to Blackburn Media Group newspa-

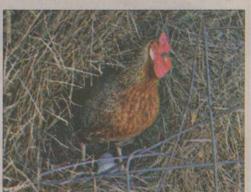
der's Nature Journal

By S.J. Dahlstrom

My family has always raised chickens. We collect the eggs to eat. Farm eggs taste the best to me. They are light brown, instead of the white ones that come in the store. It's a big deal to get a double-

Every once in a while when the roosters seem busy we put some eggs in an incubator to let them hatch. When they hatch, out comes these wet, dark-feathered little chicks that are kind of strange looking. Pretty soon though, the chicks dry out and are covered with yellow downy feathers. Eventually they grow up to be hens or roosters. Having baby chicks around is a lot of fun.

Sometimes the big roosters attack us when we feed the chickens and collect eggs. They get feisty because they are the head of the flock. When I get too close, they want to prove how tough they are. It's usually best to grab a stick. They have drawn blood on me with their spurs many times, but I generally return the favor.



A mother hen pops her head out of a makeshift nest burrowed into the side of a hay bale. Under her are two small eggs kept warm by the heat of her body. There are more chickens in the world than any other species of bird. Humans keep them primarily as a source of food, consuming both their meat and their eggs.

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.

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HOLY THURSDAY April 17

> 6:00 PM THE EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S **SUPPER**

(The washing of the feet, the presentation of Holy Oils, the procession of The Blessed Sacrament to the special altar and keeping vigil in the Church until Midnight)

(Santa Rosa/Knox City: 8 p.m. Mass Washing of the feet)

April 18 **GOOD FRIDAY**

> 6:00 PM Stations of the Cross 6:30 PM The Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross, and **Holy Communion**)

(Santa Rosa/Knox City: 8 p.m.)

April 19 **HOLY SATURDAY**

8:30 PM Easter Vigil:

(Blessing of the Fire, Procession with the Paschal Candle, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of Baptism, Renewal of the Baptismal vowels, Confirmation and Liturgy of the Eucharist.)

April 20 **EASTER SUNDAY**

> 9:00 AM MASS (Celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord)

(Santa Rosa/Knox City: 11:00 A.M. Mass)

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