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THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

HOME OF BILL AND DIANN STEWART

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2014

KCNEWSCOURIER.COM

75 CENTS

Knox County to partner with the Texas Plains Trails Region



Geoff Baumgartner/The Knox County News-Courier

The large colorful Indian arrow that protrudes from the ground outside of the Wichita Brazos Museum and Cultural Center in Benjamin was built by The Texas Plains Trail Region.

By Geoff Baumgartner
 The Knox County News-Courier

BENJAMIN — Knox County officials have agreed to become partners with the Texas Plains Trail Region. The County voted to join the region during the last regular session of Commissioners Court. The motion passed 5-0.

The partnership will come at an annual cost of \$500 to Knox County, but the tourism benefits of being included in the region will far out-weigh the initial costs. The annual tourism benefits awarded to partnering counties through all of the TPTR's sites and programs is worth roughly \$50,000 according to the Texas Historical Commission's website.

Judge Travis Floyd also agreed with the partnership and urged the court to participate.

"The Texas Plains Trail Region asks us to partner

See TRAILS, Page 6

Texas sales tax holiday is Aug. 8-10

Special to The News-Courier

AUSTIN — Texas Comptroller Susan Combs reminds shoppers they can save money on certain items priced under \$100 during the state's annual sales tax holiday. This year, the sales tax holiday is scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 8-10.

The law exempts most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks priced under \$100 from sales tax, which could save shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend during the weekend.

"Families gearing up for the new school year will not pay any sales tax for many back-to-school items ranging from pens to blue jeans," Combs said. "When the back-to-school list is long and the money is short, it can be difficult for Texas families. We hope this tax break will help ease that burden."

Lists of apparel and school supplies that may be purchased tax free can be found on the Comptroller's website at TexasTaxHoliday.org.

This year, shoppers will save an estimated \$82.7 million in state and local sales taxes during the Sales Tax Holiday. The tax holiday weekend has been an annual event since 1999.

KC 911 Office to receive upgrade

By Geoff Baumgartner
 The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — The Knox County 911 Office will be undergoing a remodel over the next couple of months. This will be done in an effort to give the workers more space to move and operate more effectively.

The remodel will include several enhancements. Foam insulation for comfort will be added, along with the dispatch being

moved to the north wall for efficiency. Extra storage and filing cabinets will also be added, along with book shelves and employee lockers for extra security.

A concrete reinforced dividing wall will be knocked down so new vinyl flooring and lay-in lights may be installed. Oak trim will also be applied on all doors and windows as well with new wiring for a new breaker box. The bathroom will also be relocated.

Nicki Ledesma, the Knox County 911 Office Direc-

tor, was excited about the proposal and even drew up a diagram of how the finished remodeling would look and what the costs would be. Apparently, the county will pay for initial construction, only to be latter reimbursed by the state.

"This is just a rough draft on how we want things to look after all the construction is completed and the only cost to the county will be moving the radio equip-

See 911, Page 6



Geoff Baumgartner/The Knox County News-Courier

Lorrie Coop and Jimi Coplen work diligently with the children and Jan Fischer to ensure a good time. The camp was put together by Coplen and Coop in collaboration with the Knox County Visioning Group.



Geoff Baumgartner/The Knox County News-Courier

Kyson Latham, Jonah Duke, Gage Morrow and Daniel Duke all proudly hold up their makeshift fireflies they just put together using arts and crafts. Jan Fischer was also there assisting each child with their project.

Science Camp brings laughs, education to kids

By Geoff Baumgartner
 The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — The Knox County Visioning Group sponsored a fun, science-themed youth day camp earlier this week at the Doug Minzer Housing Authority Community Center.

The center, which is located inside the Patterson Apartments in Knox City, was perfect for the event, which roughly 20 children attended, aged 8-12.

The camp was also sponsored by the Texas A&M Extension Service as well as the Texas Botanical Gardens and was originally to be held at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, but the location was later changed to be more accommodating.

Jan Fischer, the Executive Director of the Texas Botanical Gardens and Native American Interpretive Center was also on hand as a special science education specialist in charge of forming the fun activities in which the children participated.

"We provide free education classes and activities for as many kids as possible," said Fischer about her dedicated work.

The kids participated in an abundance of activities that were all science themed with a fun name. The activities were:

- Looking at Owl Upchuck
- Where are you in the food chain?
- What makes a firefly glow?
- Going Baty (about bats)
- Snakes are our favorite
- Why do snails use slime?
- Simon Says

On hand for assistance were county workers Jennifer Stiewert, Jimi Coplen, and Lorrie Coop, who were all extremely friendly and completely dedicated to the children and the special guest.

The camp lasted from 10-3, was inexpensive for each child to attend at a cost of \$15, and all children were provided with lunch and supplies. All of the children, and sponsors for that matter, had a fun, educational time.

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.

It's VBS Time!

First Baptist Church-O'Brien's "SonTreasure Island" Vacation Bible School is July 20-24, 6pm to 9pm. Registration begins Sunday at the church from 1pm to 3pm. Children starting Pre-K through starting 6th grade. Come enjoy the treasure! 902 Grand Central Ave., (Hwy. 6) O'Brien. Contact Nadia at 727-434-2564 for more information.

Munday Homecoming

The Munday Exes committee is planning now for the Sept 26-27 Homecoming. If you would like to volunteer or donate, please contact Pat or Perry at 940-422-4712.

Watermelon Fest

July 25-26 in Knox City. Fri, festival & booths open at 3:00pm at the Community Center with a downtown parade at 6:00pm; music and dancing under the Comm. Center awning 8:00pm till midnight with Caleb Hodges & County Line Band. Sat, booths open @ 9:00am with a classic car show at the Comm. Center parking lot. Call the KC Chamber office 940-658-3442 for more information.

Rifle Raffle

The Orient 905 Mason Lodge A.F. & A.M. is holding a raffle for a Smith & Wesson M&P 15 Sport "black rifle." Tickets are \$5 each, 12 for \$50 or 25 for \$100. All proceeds benefit local scholarships and charities. Contact Steve Pepper, 940-256-0028, or Greg Oliver, 361-877-6165 for more information. The drawing date is July 25. The winner does not have to be present to win but MUST be legal age to possess a firearm in the state of Texas.

Vacation Bible School

God's Rescue Team VBS Jul 28-30, 9:00am to 12:30pm. Free Lunch included! 3 y/o thru kids entering 5th grade. All-Teen Nights, Jul 28-29th, 30 teens will be here from McArthur Park CofC San Antonio to conduct this fun-filled, exciting event! Munday Church of Christ, 630 N. 3rd Ave. in Munday. For more information, church office 940-422-4691.

Golf at Lake Creek

Lake Creek Country Club in Munday, Thursday evening Golf Scrambles, Tee time 6pm through the end of September, 2014. For more information, 940-422-4746.

Veterans Memorial

Four more monoliths will be added to the Memorial by Nov. 11, 2014. Those eligible to have their name engraved must have an honorable discharge and lived or buried in Knox County. Please call 940-459-2229, 1:00pm to 5:00pm., Tue. - Fri. or e-mail kchc@srcaccess.net to receive applications and information forms. All applications must be in the office of the Museum by Aug. 1, 2014.

Corrections

If you spot an error of fact, contact 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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Geoff Baumgartner/The Knox County News-Courier

Knox County 911 Office Director Nicki Ledesma sits at the dispatch desk in their current office, which is a tight squeeze for 911 workers.

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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

Deaths

Mrs. Rose Marie (Stodghill) Williams

WHEELER, TX – Services for Mrs. Rose Marie (Stodghill) Williams, of Wheeler, TX, will be at 10:00 AM Friday, July 11, 2014 at Church of Christ in Wheeler, TX with Minister Carroll Thomason, officiating. Burial will follow at 4:00 PM at Plainview Cemetery in Plainview, TX under the direction of Peppers Family Funeral Home in Wheeler, TX.

Mrs. Williams, 84, passed away Monday, July 7, 2014 in Wheeler, TX.

Mrs. Rose Marie (Stodghill) Williams was born October 22, 1929 in Silverton, TX to the late Mr. John Lyle Stodghill and Mrs. Bertha Lucille (Shaw) Stodghill. She graduated from Munday High School. She married Delwin Leon Williams on September 1, 1948 in Plainview, TX. He preceded her in death July 2, 1992.

Rose Marie worked with her late husband, Delwin, in their business, Williams Sheet Metal and retired in 1993. Although, she worked beside her husband many years, she always made time for her family. Free time was spent playing dominoes or cards with brothers and sisters and in-laws and outlaws. Marie taught her husband to hunt and fish, spending many hours together at the lake or out hunting quail or dove. She was always



ROSE WILLIAMS

at sports events with her children, grandchildren, or friends. Everyone knew her as "Granny," and she greeted everyone with a smile. When the great-grandchildren began to enter her life, she was always nearby, ready for her turn to hold, cuddle and entertain them. Family and friends were always a source of great joy and happiness. She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Plainview, TX.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband; grandson, Thomas Williams brother, Herbert Stodghill; 3 sisters, Jane Rose, Ruth Rodgers, Betty Lemaster; brother-in-law, Gene Groce; sister-in-law, Catherine Stodghill; in-laws, Frances Richardson and husband, James; Billy Williams; Bob Dorman; Keith Williams and Wife, Geri; Jake Ray; Brenda

Hall.

Mrs. Williams is survived by two sons, Terrell Wayne Williams and wife, Nancy of Abilene, TX; Billy Leon Williams and wife, Marilyn of Scottsdale, AZ; daughter, Dianna Dale (Williams) Johnson and husband, Skeet of Wheeler, TX; 6 grandchildren, Rob-in Sanchez and husband Alex of Watauga, TX; Mike Johnson and wife, Rex-ann of Canyon, TX; Reid Williams of Abilene, TX; Randi Williams of Abilene, TX; Garrett Williams of Mesa, AZ; JJ Houska and husband, Mike of Wheeler, TX; 7 great-grandchildren, Anthony Williams of Mesa, AZ; Mylo Sanchez of Watauga, TX; Hadley Johnson of Canyon, TX; Jake Houska, of Wheeler, TX; Jacob Williams of Mesa, AZ; Lily Sanchez of Watauga, TX; Audrey Houska of Wheeler, TX; sister, Sue Groce; brother-in-laws, Charley Rodgers; Lee Lemaster; in-laws, Marilou Powell and husband, Bill of Rock, TX; Jamie Williams and wife, Bobbie of Garrison, TX; Pauline Dorman of Lubbock, TX; Gaynelle Schuler and husband, Walter of Hot Springs Village, AR; Sharon Ray of Claude, TX; and Jim Hall of Keller, TX.

You may send condolences online at www.peppersfuneralhome.com

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

Growth, junk and crime on Knox City officials' minds

Special to The News-Courier

KNOX CITY — It's that time of the year, the sun is shining, the weather is getting warmer, and the weeds are growing.

The City of Knox City is starting the summer mowing and cleaning routine.

The City of Knox City Code (Section 217.002 of the Texas Local Government Code) states "No person, owning, claiming, leasing, occupying, or having supervision or control of any real property, occupied or unoccupied, within the city limits of the City of Knox City, Texas, shall permit or allow any stagnant or unwholesome water, filth, carrion, weeds, rubbish, rubble, brushy, lumber building materials, refuse, junk, machinery or garbage, or impure or unwholesome matter of any kind, or objectionable, unsightly matter of whatever nature to accumulate or remain on such real property, or Premises, or within any easement area on such real property of Premises or upon any adjacent right-of-way for streets of alleys between the property line of such real property or Premises and where the paved surface of the street or alleys begins.

The City of Knox City can help you with your yard and property. If you have had your yard mowed by the city in the past or would like to have the city mow your yard for a fee of \$100 per lot each month, please call City Hall at (940) 658-3313.

This also includes "Junk Vehicles." "If you have an old car in your yard that doesn't run or is just sitting there please try to get that taken care of as soon as possible," a city spokesperson said. "If you need assistance in finding the vehicle a new home contact Knox City Police Department as we can assist you with this problem.

"In addition we would also like to remind everyone to make sure that your house number is clearly visible from the road. This is also a city ordinance and it helps to make sure that in times of emergency we can find your home quickly and without delay."

The Knox City Police Department reminds residents that the citizens of Knox City are the first line of defense against crime. If you see anything suspicious, out of place, or illegal activity going on, please do not hesitate to call 911, the Knox County Sheriff's Office Dispatch at (940) 459-2211, or the Knox City Police Department at (940) 658-3414. Thank you again for your cooperation and have a wonderful day.

New law requires farmers and ranchers to show proof of eligibility for plates, excess weight permits

Special to The News-Courier

A new state law requires farmers and ranchers to show their state comptroller-issued Texas Agricultural or Timber Exemption Registration number before obtaining farm license plates and/or temporary excess weight permits at the Knox County tax office.

"The law will help ensure no one can infringe on the privileges extended to our qualified farmers and ranchers who deserve them," said Mitzi Welch, the Knox County tax assessor-collector.

"Unfortunately, as the state has grown so have the number of reports of people abusing the farm plate and permit privileges."

The new law will weed out those taking advantage of the system that offers farmers and ranchers reduced vehicle registration and some sale tax fee exemptions.

"But to do that we will now have to ask farmers and ranchers to show us their Texas Agricultural or Timber Exemption Registration number, which we can verify on the state comptroller's website." "So please be sure to bring your Texas Agriculture or Timber Registration card number to the county tax office when you are applying or renewing your farm plates or applying for a temporary excess weight permit for farm motor vehicles, trailers and semitrailers."

Vehicles that do not qualify for farm plates include regular passenger vehicles; those used for gainful employment (driving to and from work) or for hire; vehicles owned by farmer cooperatives; and ones used to transport livestock for non-retail purposes.

Types of farm plates include truck, truck tractor, and trailer/semitrailer.

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Show Starts—8:00PM
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Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

With a promise of rain and much cooler weather, we begin another work week. We're hoping those weather people know what they are talking about, because none of us are enjoying this heat. Although it hasn't been as bad as it has been in the past, it's still mighty uncomfortable.

About Our Ill

There are varied reports once again of those in the community who are having health problems. Mike Young is still about as he has been for several weeks but will be having more surgery (if all goes as planned) in another week or so. The plan is to do some necessary procedure before closing the incision in his chest which he has had so long. It goes without saying, he's very anxious to get that done and let the healing process begin.

Blaine Conner Neal's daughter, Shea, had to have more surgery last week. You remember she received a broken arm in March in a four-wheeler accident and has had several surgeries in an effort to repair it. And seems all was going well until she developed an infection and had to have it all done over. Now she has some kind of equipment on the outside of her arm that is holding all the bones in place until they knit back together. Of course, she's had plastic surgery, and I'm assuming all that will have to be redone as well. She has just turned 10 years old, and they live in Seymour. She's in Cook's Children's Hospital in Ft. Worth.

Dennis Duke was telling me Friday night that his brother, James, is back home in Throckmorton following a series of iodine therapy

treatments for a malignancy in his thyroid. I'm not familiar with the iodine therapy, but Dennis said James had to be isolated while taking the treatment. I ask you to remember James and his family in prayer during this time.

Little Brodie Bejar of Goree, great grandson of Donnie and Barbara Ryder, is home and doing ok after his accident last week and surgery in Cook's in Ft. Worth. He was injured pretty badly but is very fortunate and blessed that it was not any worse than it was. He's 4 years old.

James Klutts, former Benjamin resident, is now in the hospice care wing of Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene, having been admitted there Thursday night. James is in critical condition, and I also ask your prayers for his family.

Tres Pierce is undergoing surgery today to clean out a widespread infection in his arm and hand. He was admitted to a Wichita Falls hospital last Tuesday and has been in very serious condition since then. Doctors are hoping this surgery will rid him of the infection and get him on the road to recovery. We surely do hope and pray that this will lessen his problem. The doctors have no idea how long his hospital stay will be, but no one wants him released until he is able to be.

Reports on Fred Carver and his mom, Dorothy, are that they are doing about as they have been the past few weeks. Fred is still dizzy and nauseated from time to time but has been out a couple of times this past week. Doctors say it will just take time for that all to clear up. Dorothy is back in Knox County Hospital after a day or so in Wichita Falls, where it was discovered she had a broken hip. Doctors say that

at her age it's not unusual for one to break a bone just from moving wrong or being helped from chair to bed or vice versa. It will take a few weeks for it to mend.

Sympathy

I was saddened Sunday morning when I learned of the death of Anne Underwood of Knox City. Anne passed away Saturday night after a courageous battle with cancer. She will be missed by family and many, many friends. Services for Anne are pending at this time.

Also, a belated expression of sympathy to the family of Barbara Cox, also of Knox City. Barbara passed away several days ago, and her service was last Monday morning. Her health had been failing for quite some time.

Here N'There

Randy and Judy Barnett were in Wolforth a couple of days last week to babysit their granddaughter, Calli Conner, while her mom, Jenni Beth, and sister, Jaylee, were at a youth camp at White River. Jenni Beth was a leader at the camp. Judy said they sure had fun with that little girl. She's about 1 1/2 and doing all kinds of cute things.

Brandon, Jessica, and Noah Hutchinson of Abilene, Will Moorhouse of Snyder, and Liz, Nathan, Taylor, and Westin Herring of Munday, were weekend guests of their parents, Debi and Mike Moorhouse.

Courtney Sherrard vacationed in Colorado several days recently. She went with her daughter and visited family there and did lots of sightseeing. Her daughter went on to Montana (I believe), and Courtney flew home a few days later.

Johnny Carver of Taft left today (Monday) after several days' visit with his mom, Dorothy, in Knox County Hospital and his brother, Fred, and family. Stacia Antilley of Wingate has also been here since her dad returned from the Lubbock hospital helping them as needed.

Dawn Vanderpol called to tell me that her children, Leah and Benjamin, are attending the Southern Rockies Camp near Cloudcroft, New Mexico. Leah is working as a nurse,

and Benjamin is a Junior Counselor. She said the cell phones don't work up there, so she doesn't hear from them. She said those who know the area told Benjamin to watch for bears when he goes out, as there are lots of them up there.

Chad and Kathy Rainwater and family vacationed in the Fredericksburg area last week. She said they swam a lot and did lots of relaxing. They returned home the last of the week.

A reminder that additional

names will soon be added to the Knox County Veterans Memorial. Applications and information forms are available at the museum or at Kchc@SRVaccess.net. The applications must be in the office of the museum by August 1. Four new monoliths will be added by November 11, 2014. For more information, call Mary Young at the museum, Tuesday through Friday between the hours of 1 pm and 5 pm. That number is 940-459-2229.

The Paperboy So the universe is crowded

The geniuses at NASA have made a bold prediction, one that would change the world: Humans will find life on other planets in the Milky Way within 20 years.

NASA outlined a plan Monday to search for life using a variety of telescopes including the

Transiting Exoplanet Surveying Satellite, launching in 2017.

NASA says 100 million worlds in our own Milky Way galaxy may host alien life.

"Just imagine the moment, when we find potential signatures of life. Imagine the moment when the world wakes up and the human race realizes that its long loneliness in time and space may be over — the possibility we're no longer alone in the universe," said Matt Mountain, director and Webb telescope scientist at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, which plans to launch the James Webb Space Telescope in 2018.

"What we didn't know five years ago is that perhaps 10 to 20 percent of stars around us have Earth-size planets in the habitable zone," added Mountain. "It's within our grasp to pull off a discovery that will change the world forever."

So, NASA says there are 100 million worlds within the Milky Way galaxy which can sustain complex alien life forms. If they're right, you bet

it will change the world. The question is, will it change Mother Earth for the better?

What if one of these worlds needs water? What if they need cheap labor? What if they have the ability to not only get here, but take and do what they want?

Let's say NASA is correct in their assessment that it's only a matter of time before we phone E.T.

We already know through our own dealings that not everyone is nice. To think for one second that out of 100 million worlds that all of the intelligent life we discover is going to be nice is absurd.

"I think in the next 20 years we will find out we are not alone in the universe," said NASA astronomer Kevin Hand.

"Do we believe there is life beyond Earth?" asked former astronaut and NASA Administrator Charles Bolden. "I would venture to say that most of my colleagues here today say it is improbable that in the limitless vastness of the universe we humans stand alone."

And we thought the big topic were the thousands of illegal aliens flooding across the border. Now we find out that we have have all of these new aliens we're going to have to worry about. Wow.

Chris Blackburn serves as CEO at Blackburn Media Group, proud owner of Red River Sun, The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon, The Knox County News-Courier, The Post Dispatch and The Stonewall Courier. He can be reached by email at chris@blackburnmediagroup.com and you can follow him on Twitter @WCSBlackburn.



CHRIS BLACKBURN

Prices Good Thru 08/09/14

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940-658-3481

Store #104
120 S Birch Ave Munday
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12 PACK
2\$8 FOR 8

The 501

The Cow Jumped Over the Moon

Some nursery rhymes have hidden meanings. Some just tell it like it is – like the one about the cow that jumped over the moon.



HANABA MUNN WELCH

I exaggerate, but not by much. We loaded cows today. We did not load Little Rita, who has greater jumping ability than might be expected from a great big black and white normally earthbound docile mama cow – not that she came anywhere close to clearing the moon. It wasn't out. She didn't even clear the fence, but she gave it her best shot and surprised us with her mighty leap. We weren't even trying to catch her. Loading cows is always interesting. I do not exaggerate. Maybe if cows could talk, their behavior could be predicted. Little Rita might have said, "Watch this!"

And we would have. When a cow decides to jump a fence, all you can do is

watch.

Little Rita made it exactly halfway over before her progress was impeded by the weighty steel panel hung on her left rear leg, not to mention all the barbed wire under her mid-section. My husband and I watched from 18 inches away as she somehow maintained her trajectory, eventually divesting herself of the bothersome panel and managing to hang the same foot in the top strand of barbed wire before ultimately extricating herself from what remained of the fence and ending up in our yard.

Whew! Whether or not Little Rita breathed a sigh of relief, we did. Within seconds, she was grazing, ostensibly unfazed by the whole experience. Call me fazed.

We knew Little Rita wasn't likely to remain content, no matter how tasty the lush (needs mowing) Bermuda grass. We opened a gate to let her return to her own kind. Joyful, she kicked up her heels in all directions, rodeo style, as she sailed through the gate, back to the pasture to be with others of her ilk.

All this from Little Rita, the tamest of cows, who lets us

scratch her head on a normal day. Beware tame cows.

If there's anything to be said for a wild cow, it's that you know what to expect. Mayhem.

It's harder to be prepared for aberrant behavior from a cow that's normally a sweetheart.

Meanwhile, am I missing a hidden message in "Hey Diddle Diddle"?

RHYME RESEARCH.

The ditty has spawned several conspiracy theories, including one based on worship of the Egyptian cow goddess Hathor.

I'd rather believe a jumping cow of extraordinary ability inspired the verse. Other characters are secondary. The dish and the spoon, caring only about each other, took advantage of the situation to run off together. The little dog's reaction indicates he was glad to see someone get the best of his master. The cat is inscrutable. We can assume only that it moved its head in sync with the cow's leap. The carefree fiddle showed up just for the sake of rhyme.

There you have it – a reflection of roles we play in crises. I think I'm a fiddle.

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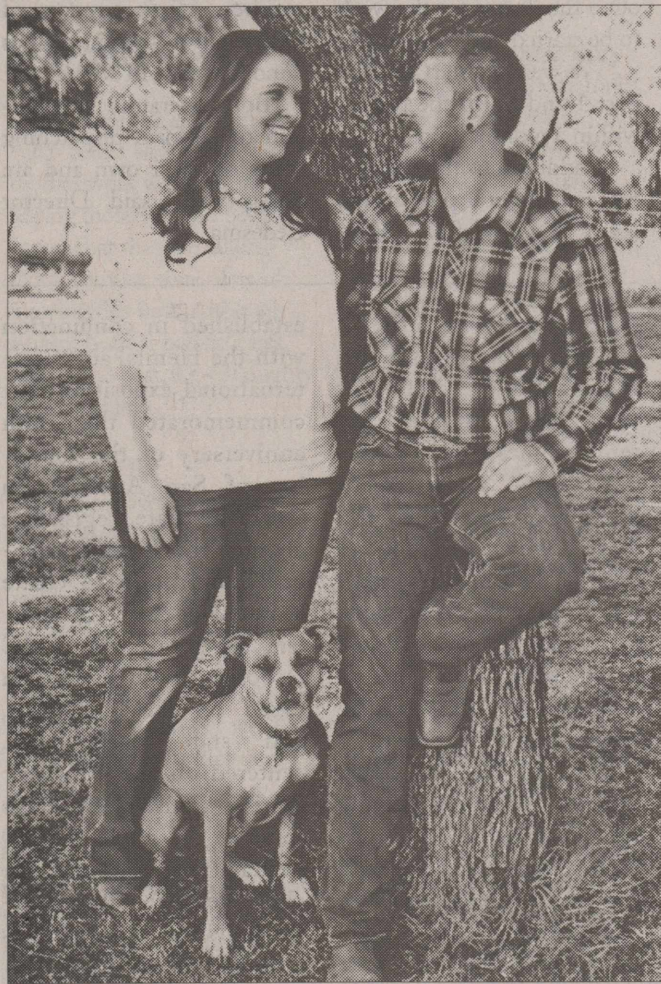
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Stewart, Clayton to wed



Bill and DiAnn Stewart are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kayla Marie Stewart, to Trey Clayton of Vernon.

Kayla and Trey are currently working for North Texas State Hospital where Kayla is an LVN.

They are planning an October wedding, outside of Vernon.

Museum News

A response to new names for the additional monoliths for the Veterans Memorial has been slow. A person with an honorable discharge and has lived or is buried in Knox County is eligible to have their name engraved on the memorial. Applications and information forms are available from: the Wichita Brazos Museum; calling 940-459-2229, 1 to 5 PM on Tues. thru Fri.; e-mail kchc@srcaccess.net; or visit the Knox County Website.

The titles engraved on the memorial are: Civil War, Spanish American, World War I, World War II, Korean, Vietnam, Other Military Operations, and the cen-

ter archway listing those Killed in Action. If a veteran has served in the time period of more than one war, as possibly a career veteran, please specify under which war the name is to be engraved. A picture in military uniform would be appreciated if possible, so it can be added to the Veterans Albums.

The last day to accept applications has been extended to August 15, 2014.

Please help us get this information to your friends and loved ones that do not have their names engraved on the memorial.

Knox County Aging Center Menu

July 21-25		
Monday: Beef Noodles, Mixed Vegetables, Rolls, Fruit Cocktail	Tuesday: BBQ Beef w/ Sauce, Smothered Potatoes, Pinto Beans, Wheat	Wednesday: Bun, Apricots Herb Roasted Chicken, Peas & Carrots, Rolls, Choc. Pudding
Thursday: Tilapia, Whole Corn, Coleslaw, Hushpuppies, Fruit Cock-	Friday: Hamburgers, Potato Wedges, Tomato, Lettuce, Lazy Cake	tail

Come dine with us and support your aging center program. 940-657-3618.

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(Please submit separately, do not combine)

BID NOTICE #3
1995 Ford, 35-Passenger
Benjamin Independent School District
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Benjamin, Texas 79505
(Please submit separately, do not combine)

Sealed proposals will be received by the Board of Trustees, Benjamin ISD at the Superintendent's Office, until 4:00 p.m., August 11, 2014. Proposals will be opened publicly and read aloud at the August Board Meeting. Any proposal received after the closing time will be returned unopened.

The Board of Trustees of Benjamin ISD reserves the right to reject any one and/or all proposals, and to award a purchase contract in the best interest of the district.

All proposals to be addressed to Benjamin ISD c/o Olivia Del Hierro Gloria, Superintendent of Schools, P.O. Box 166, Benjamin, Texas 79505

TO ALL PROSPECTIVE PROVIDERS:
For vehicle specifications/viewing, please contact the Superintendent of School, Benjamin ISD, 940-459-2231, Fax 940-459-2007

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Texas sets dove, teal seasons

Special to The News-Courier

Dove hunters will have more opportunity later in the season with dates and bag limits recently finalized by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has approved the 2014-2015 Texas dove season, including a 70-day season and 15-bird daily bag statewide, and a 16-day early teal and Canada goose season.

The traditional Sept. 1 dove season opening day in the North and Central Zones remains; this year falling on Labor Day Monday. However, the first segment in those zones will be shorter than last season, closing on Monday, Oct. 20. The season will reopen Friday, Dec. 19 and run through Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2015, in the North and Central Zones.

In the South Zone and Special White-winged Dove Area, the first segment will be shortened by five days compared to last year, and those days would be added to the end of the second segment. The South Zone opens Friday, Sept. 19 and runs through Monday, Oct. 20. The

second segment will run Friday, Dec. 19 through Sunday, Jan. 25, 2015.

The daily bag limit for doves statewide is 15 and the possession limit is 45.

The Special White-winged Dove Area will be restricted to afternoon only (noon to sunset) hunting the first two full September weekends on Sept. 6-7 and 13-14. Hunting in this area will reopen Friday, Sept. 19 and continue through Monday, Oct. 20, and then reopen Friday, Dec. 19 through Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015. During the early two weekends, the daily bag limit is 15 birds, to include not more than two mourning doves and two white-tipped doves. Once the general season opens, the aggregate bag limit will be 15 with no more than two white-tipped doves.

A 16-day statewide early teal and Eastern Zone Canada goose season will run Saturday, Sept. 13 through Sunday, Sept. 28. The daily bag on teal remains six, with a possession limit of 18. Bag limit for Canada geese will be three and a possession limit of 6 in the Eastern Zone only.

911

From Page 1

ment and moving it back, much of which is bolted," said Ledesma.

Skilled county workers will move and adjust the dispatching computer equipment.

Dale Turner, who is in

charge of construction on the project, described the construction in detail and laid out a timeframe for the work to be started and completed.

"We want to start by August 1 and finish the project within a month," said.

In addition to the upcoming construction project, the Knox County 911 Office

also recently hired two new dispatchers to fill out the 5 full-time staff members it requires. Misty Sanders of O'Brien was hired as well as Tino Castrena of Munday.

"Both operators have begun to perform dispatching shifts on their own and are doing well," said Director Ledesma.

TRAILS

From Page 1

every year, and I think it would be beneficial to the county," said Judge Floyd.

The Texas Plains Trail Region not only incorporates areas to tourism lists, but also adds models and southwestern structures to existing trails. For example, the giant arrow sticking out of the ground in front of the Wichita Brazos Museum and Cultural Center in Benjamin was added by the TPTR.

The Texas Plains Trail Region is a nonprofit organization and a participant in the award-winning Texas Heritage Trails program of the Texas Historical Commission. It both relies on and supports its partner organizations in promoting heritage tourism, historic preservation, and economic

development within the 52 counties of the Texas South Plains. While a portion of their yearly funding currently comes from a transportation enhancement grant administered by the THC, they also look to each of their region's counties to provide supplemental funding proportional to its population. That is where Knox County will be stepping in for support.

The TPTR is based around 10 scenic driving trails created in 1968 by Gov. John Connolly and the Texas Department of Transportation as a marketing tool. The trails were

established in conjunction with the HemisFair, an international exposition that commemorated the 250th anniversary of the founding of San Antonio. In 1997, the State Legislature charged the Texas Historical Commission to create a statewide heritage tourism program. The THC responded with a program based on local, regional, and state partnerships, centered on the 10 scenic driving trails. These trails serve as the nucleus of 10 heritage regions, and include heritage tourism attractions and communities both on and off the trail.

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NOTICE

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JIMMY LUTHER HUNTER, DECEASED. Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of JIMMY LUTHER HUNTER were issued on July 9, 2014, in Cause No. 2595, pending in the County Court of Knox County, Texas to: JENNIFER HUNTER MARTINEZ.

The address of the Independent Administrator is: JENNIFER HUNTER MARTINEZ, 1720 College Street, Junction, TX 76849. All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED July 14, 2014. BOBBY D. BURNETT, State Bar No. 03434000, P. O. Drawer 390, Munday, Texas 76371, (940) 422-4525, (940) 422-5544 (fax), ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE. (0717c)

The Munday and Knox City Housing Authorities have apartments available for immediate occupancy. It the intent of both to rent the units to high income households when there are no eligible low or very low income applicants on the waiting list. Flat rent is \$200 for 0-1 bedroom units and \$250 for 2-4 bedroom units. Income based rent may be lower. Call Munday at 940-422-4941 or Knox City at 940-657-3612 for more information. Both are equal opportunity providers. 071113-tfnc



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We are looking for a self-starter who enjoys writing and photography and has the willingness to seek information for public consumption. Both writing and photography skills are a must as well as experience in either Word, Text Edit or both. Must be willing to travel Knox County and interact with the public. Newspaper experience is not required, but is recommended. Please send resume to chris@blackburnmediagroup.com with the subject "News-Courier Position."

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Knox County is taking applications for a full time Director for the Knox County Aging Center. The primary duties of the position are the hands-on management of the meals available to the residents of Knox County. The applicant must be able to direct, coordinate and plan the day-to-day operations of the center, possess the following: computer skills, organizational skills, communicate effectively both orally and written. Applicants must be friendly, self-sufficient and capable of working well with others. The position offers insurance benefits and retirement. Applications may be picked up at the Knox County Judge's office, the Knox County Treasurer's office or the Knox County Clerk's office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Application deadline is July 25, 2014. Knox County is an equal opportunity employer.

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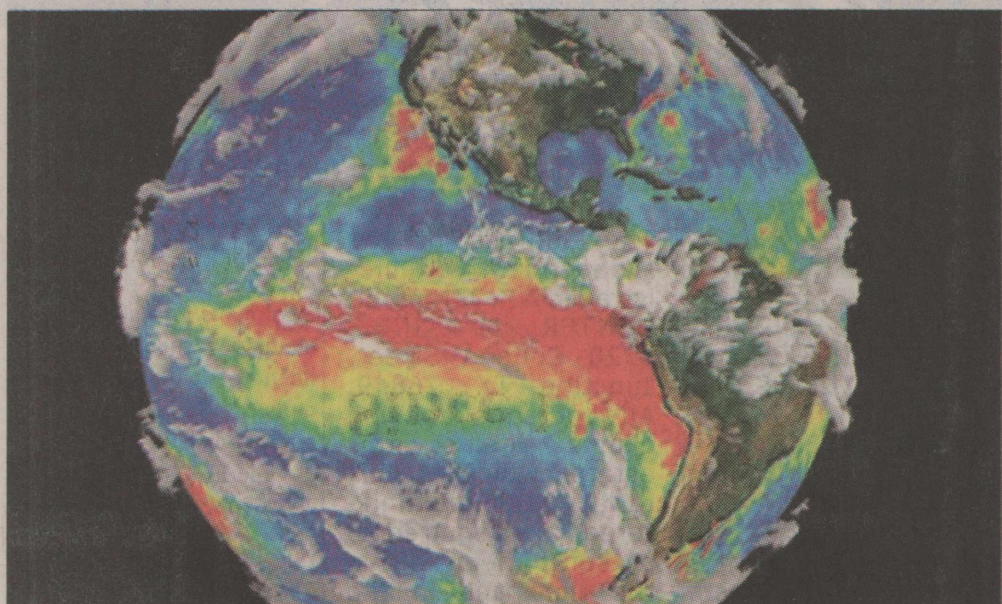
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Graphic courtesy: NOAA.

An El Niño in the Pacific affects weather around the US and the globe.

El Niño - A Pause for Refreshment

Special to The News-Courier

Editor's Note: This week Evelyn Browning-Garri, author of The Browning Newsletter, shares with us an update on El Niño: what it is, where it is and what its development would mean for rain in Texas and Oklahoma.

The developing El Niño is taking a pause. Basically, an El Niño is when the Central and Eastern portions of the tropical Pacific are almost one degree Fahrenheit (technically 0.5°C) warmer than average. This changes weather around the world. During April and May, these areas in the Pacific warmed very rapidly. Some experts even predicted that the event would be as huge as the 1997/1998 El Niño and that was the largest one in 400 years! Now, however, the western portions of the El Niño zone have cooled slightly.

What does this mean? The Pacific is big, complex and filled with a lot of different currents. Around the equator, there are a number of small patterns, called MJOs (Madden-Julien Oscillations) that drift from west to east. Some are hot and others are cool. One of the cool ones has

entered the Central Pacific. It is cooling the western part of the El Niño zone. Next, it will drift east and cool the eastern portion of the El Niño. Then it will go away. It never stays in one place very long.

Right behind it is a warm MJO that will reheat the El Niño. El Niños always fluctuate when these MJOs ripple through them.

El Niños produce strong winds that suppress Atlantic hurricanes. The weakening of the conditions allowed Hurricane Arthur to develop and dash up the East Coast. The event should grow strong again in August and September, providing some protection during the peak of the Atlantic hurricane season.

At the same time, El Niños typically produce dry conditions in the Southern Plains during summer. Having the event delayed is good news for Texas and parts of Oklahoma.

Scientists around the world still agree the El Niño is on schedule to arrive and peak in winter, when it usually delivers strong rain to California, the Southwest and the Central and Southern Great Plains.

It may be weakening now, but it is hard to keep a good El Niño down.

Johnny Rogers to visit Crowell July 25

For The News-Courier

From Chicago to New York, London, Florida, and many other places, Johnny Rogers has thrilled audiences across the globe. Now Johnny Rogers will make a return visit to Crowell Texas on Friday July 25, 2014.

Rogers and his band say they are looking forward to seeing their many friends in the area. The show features tributes to country and rock-n-roll legends such as Buddy Holly, Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis, Ray Price, Johnny Cash, and many more. The #1 Branson Music City Centre show created an endorsement of Johnny Rogers in Branson as one of the best male entertainers in many years and a tribute to his abilities to play the guitar.

Rogers has established a nationwide network of his shows and his ability as a performer. He has performed the first four



months of this year in Florida, with new Florida agreements for another year. For more information for the Crowell Show call 940-655-3376 or visit johnnyrogersband.com.

DPS Inspects 8,700 Commercial Vehicles During Roadcheck

For The News-Courier

AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) inspected 8,714 commercial motor vehicles during a three-day inspection effort last month as part of Roadcheck 2014. DPS Commercial Vehicle Enforcement troopers, specially trained Highway Patrol troopers and civilian inspectors joined forces in June during the annual inspection initiative aimed at enhancing commercial motor vehicle safety.

Approximately 21 percent (1,858) of the 18-wheelers, buses and other commercial vehicles

inspected were placed out of service for a variety of safety violations until appropriate repairs can be made. Issues with brakes and defective vehicle lighting were among the most common infractions that led to out-of-service violations.

Additionally, drivers were checked for compliance with state and federal laws, and 263 drivers were placed out of service. Among the violations were improper logging of duty time, driving over the maximum number of hours, and failing to have the proper type of driver license for the vehicle being driven. In all, DPS issued 2,715 citations and more than 24,943 warnings.

USDA provides 12-week update on disaster assistance

Special to The News-Courier

WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack provided a 12-week progress report on U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) disaster assistance programs today, announcing that USDA has processed 106,000 payments to farmers in 40 states across the country who suffered livestock and grazing losses between October 2011 and passage of the 2014 Farm Bill.

"Farmers and ranchers who

waited two and a half years for a Farm Bill are now getting some relief," said Vilsack. "We met the very ambitious goal to get these programs up and running in just 60 days. Now, thanks to our dedicated staff in offices across the country, we've provided more than 106,000 payments to farmers and ranchers in 40 states who suffered drought, blizzard, and other weather related losses."

A quick implementation of the disaster assistance programs has been a top priority for USDA. In February, the Farm Service

Agency (FSA) announced that enrollment for four disaster assistance programs would begin April 15, 2014, 60 days from the date the programs were reestablished by the 2014 Farm Bill. After the 2008 Farm Bill, it took over one year for the programs to get up and running.

Since then, dedicated full-time FSA staff, as well as temporary employees hired to expedite the application process, have processed over \$1.2 billion in payments to qualifying farmers and ranchers.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

Hunt Oil Company, 1900 North Akard Street, Dallas, Texas 75201-2300 has applied to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Strawn (Twin Peaks, Strawn Lower and Strawn 5400') and Cambrian formations in the S. B. Burnett Estate Lease Well Nos. Y-01R and YA-95. The proposed injection wells are located 16 to 17 miles southeast of Guthrie, Texas in the Anne Tandy (Strawn) Field, King County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 5050' to 6650'.

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

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

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