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BENJAMIN, TX 79505-0095

# THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

HOME OF SHERIFF DEAN HOMSTAD

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2014

KCNEWSCOURIER.COM

75 CENTS

## Thornberry supports Obama nominee

Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Clarendon the Chairman-elect of the House Armed Services Committee, indicated he was supportive of President Barack Obama nominee Ash Carter as the next Secretary of Defense.

"I respect Ash Carter," Thornberry said. "He knows the Pentagon, and he knows that some reforms are essential if we are to meet the national security needs of the country."

"If confirmed, his challenge will be to resist the micromanagement of the White House staff that has plagued his three predecessors and to speak candidly to Congress and the American people on what is required to defend the country. The world is growing more dangerous, and strong, stable U.S. leadership is needed now more than ever."

A list of defense-minded GOP lawmakers echoed Thornberry's assessment, including Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., who will be a member of the Republican majority on SASC that would run Carter's confirmation process.

"I have a lot of respect for Ash Carter," Ayotte said. "I think he has a strong resume and position. You know, whoever the president nominates is going to face a number of tough questions in the armed services committee."



MAC THORNBERRY

## Breakfast with Santa



Vonda Carter/The Knox County News-Courier  
Children got to tell Santa what they wanted at Breakfast with Santa at the Munday Church of Christ.

## As promised, Abbott sues over immigration

AUSTIN — Texas is leading a 17-state coalition suing over President Barack Obama's recently announced executive orders on immigration, arguing in a lawsuit filed last week that the move "tramples" key portions of the U.S. Constitution.

Republicans have denounced Obama's unilateral move, which was designed to spare as many as five million people living illegally in the United States from deportation.

But Texas Governor-elect Greg Abbott took it a step further, filing a formal legal challenge in federal court in the Southern District of Texas. Texas was joined by 16 other mostly conservative states, largely in the south and Midwest. The states aren't seeking monetary damages, but instead want the courts to block Obama's actions.

Under Obama's order, announced Nov. 20, protection from deportation and the right to work will be extended to an estimated 4.1 million parents of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents who have lived in the U.S. for at least five years and to hundreds of thousands more young people.

The lawsuit claims that Obama violated the "Take Care Clause" of the U.S. Constitution that Abbott said limits the scope of presidential power; that the federal government didn't follow proper rulemaking procedures; and that the order will "exacerbate the humanitarian crisis along the southern border, which will affect increased state investment in law enforcement, health care and education."

Abbott said Obama's actions "directly violate a fundamental promise to the American people" and that it was up to the president to "execute the law, not de facto make law."

While Republican presidents, including Ronald Reagan, have issued past executive orders pertaining to immigration, Abbott said those were in response to actions by Congress — unlike Obama, who Abbott said acted in lieu of congressional approval.

This marks the 31st time Abbott has sued the federal government since Obama took office. Most of those were over environmental regulations or the White House's signature health care law.

## Choir performs "First Noel"



Members of the Munday Choir performed "The First Noel" last Sunday night at the First Baptist Church in Munday.

## House passes symbolic bill on immigration

WASHINGTON—House Republicans, as promised, passed a bill last week declaring President Barack Obama's executive actions to curb deportation "null and void and without legal effect."

The vote was 219 to 197, with three Democrats voting "yes" and seven Republicans casting "no" votes. Three Republicans voted "present."

Even supporters acknowledged that the bill by Rep. Ted Yoho, R-Fla., which says Obama was acting "without any constitutional or statutory basis," was mostly meant to send a message. It stands no chance in the Senate, which remains under Democratic control until January and faces the veto threat from Obama.

The real fight may lie ahead as conservatives push to use must-pass spending legislation to block Obama.

For now, Republicans felt the bill was a

symbolic rebuke of the President, but insisted they must go on record denouncing what they described on the House floor as an outrageous power grab by Obama.

"The president thinks he can just sit in the Oval Office and make up his own laws. That's not the way our system of government works," said Rep. Steve Scalise, R-La. "This legislation says you can't do that, Mr. President."

Meanwhile, outraged Democrats, immigrant advocates and the White House said the GOP was voting to tear apart families.

"Rather than deport students and separate families and make it harder for law enforcement to do its job, I just want the Congress to work with us to pass a common-sense law to fix that broken immigration system," Obama said prior to the vote.

## When help needed, just call 2-1-1

The number to call when you don't know who to call? It's 2-1-1.

It's a free service offered by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission that is manned by trained professionals who refer callers to the best places in their community to get the help they need. It's available 24/7.

Here are some of the questions that can get answers:

How can I find care for my aging par-

ent?

I don't have health insurance, but where can I find a doctor that will see my child?

Where can I go to escape an abusive relationship?

Who can help my brother find help with a drug problem?

Remember, 2-1-1 is not for life-threatening, medical, police and fire emergencies. Call 9-1-1 for them.

## 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.

### KVCV Tour of Homes scheduled tonight

BENJAMIN--The Knox County Visioning Group's second annual Tour of Homes starts at 5:30 p.m. today. Those attending are asked to meet at the Aging Center in Knox City starting at 5 p.m. to pick up maps and buy tickets if necessary. The homes of Dale and Sunni Turner along with Gary and Amy Schnable will be featured in Knox City. There will also be two stops in Truscott, the home of Colton Daniel and the Circle Bar Ranch Lodge. Participants can start at any home they choose. Only one ticket is needed to tour all locations. The KCVG is asking people to please carpool as parking may be limited in some locations.

### Blood drive set

KNOX CITY--The Meek Blood Center bloodmobile will be at the Knox County Hospital from 1-6 p.m. on Tuesday. The demand for blood typically goes up during the holiday. "We depend on volunteer blood donors to supply 100% of the blood that is used for patient care at 17 area hospitals, including Knox County Hospital," said Frances Baker, donor recruiter. "We appreciate all of the holiday heroes who are willing to roll up their sleeves to give someone the gift of life." Each donor will receive a T-shirt and a complimentary total cholesterol test.

### Benjamin Christmas program set Sunday

BENJAMIN--Children from here will perform a Christmas-theme show for the Benjamin Community Christmas Program, scheduled at 6 p.m. Sunday at the Benjamin Church of Christ.

### Town Hall meeting

MUNDAY--Sen Charles Perry and Rep. James Frank will be here at 3:30 p.m. Dec. 17 for a town Hall meeting at the Perry Patton Community Center in Munday.

### Veteran's Office open on Tuesday

BENJAMIN--The Knox County Veteran's office here will be open from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Dec. 16, part of a regular schedule that includes the first and third Tuesdays each month.

### Noah Project meeting

HASKELL--The Noah Project-North Advisory Committee will meet at 11:45 here Friday at Camacho & Charlie's Restaurant.

## Corrections

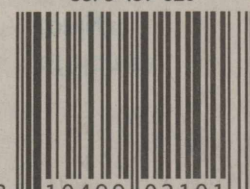
If you spot an error of fact, contact kcnewsCourier@gmail.com.

## News on the go



Use your smartphone to scan the quick response, or QR, code to visit us online.

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## Sports Calendar

### Thursday, Dec. 11

Knox City VG, VB at Archer City Tournament  
Munday VG, VB at Stamford Tournament

### Friday, Dec. 12

Benjamin VB at Jayton  
Knox City VG, VB at Archer City Tournament  
Munday VG, VB at Stamford Tournament

### Saturday, Dec. 13

Knox City VG, VB at Archer City Tournament

Munday VG, VB at Stamford Tournament

### Monday, Dec. 15

Benjamin JH at Crowell  
Munday 7G, 7B, 8G, 8B at Northside

### Tuesday, Dec. 16

Munday JVG, JVB, VG, VB at Olney  
Benjamin VG, VB at Woodson



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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 cornerstones 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: Noon Mondays  
Editorial: 5 p.m. Mondays

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



## Deaths

### Emma Jane Fetsch

Emma "Jane" Fetsch age 78 of Canyon died Dec. 5. A rosary service was held on Dec. 6 at Schooler Funeral Home, Brentwood Chapel. Chaplet of Divine Mercy was said at the McCauley-Smith Funeral Home in Munday on Dec. 7. A funeral Mass was held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Monday. Interment followed at St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery under the direction of McCauley-Smith Funeral Home of Munday. Local arrangements were by Schooler Funeral Home.

Jane was born in Rhineland to Alois August and Emma Ann Duesterhaus on Feb. 16, 1936. She married Fidelis Joseph Fetsch on Feb. 7, 1955 in Pep, Tex. The family had four sons, Fidelis Jr, Ricky, Francis and Larry. Jane worked at Thoman's Jewelry in Levland. They owned The Lake Shore Marina at Lake Kemp from 1984 thru



EMMA JANE FETSCH

1999. Jane was famous for her cheeseburgers at Lake Kemp. People drove for miles to taste her cooking. She was a talented quilter who enjoyed sewing, collecting dolls, bingo and setting puzzles. The couple moved from Rhineland in 2011. They came to visit family and never left and have been in Canyon since. Jane was an active member in the Catholic Church wherever she lived

and was currently a member of St. Ann's Catholic Church in Canyon. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother who was dearly loved.

She is survived by her husband of 59 years; her four sons and their wives, Fidelis Fetsch Jr and his wife Darlene of Canyon; Ricky Fetsch and his wife Michele of Rhineland; Francis Fetsch and his wife Dara of Kennedale and Larry Fetsch and his wife Mika of Amarillo; four grandchildren; Cassandra and husband Kyle Booe of Amarillo, Bryan Fetsch of Baton Rouge, LA; Jeremiah Fetsch of Canyon and Joshua Fetsch of Winter Park, FL; and one great grandchild, Marshall Fetsch.

The family suggests that memorials be made to Texas Scottish Rite Hospital, 2222 Welborn St, Dallas, TX 75219

### Juanita Josselet Massey

Juanita Josselet Massey, 96, passed away on Dec 4. She was preceded in death by her husband Joel Massey, a daughter Julie Smith, a son Joseph Wiley Massey, a sister Almeda Pedneau and her parents, Felix and Flora Josselet.

Services were held Dec. 8 in the First United Methodist Church in Munday, with Pastor Gary Hubbard officiating.

Juanita was born March 29, 2017 on her parents' "The Josselet" farm. She was a Haskell County Pioneer in the truest sense and loved life on the farm. After her marriage to Joel Massey on Feb. 12, 1934, the couple lived on the Josselet Farm until January of 1935 at which time they moved to Munday where they raised their family.

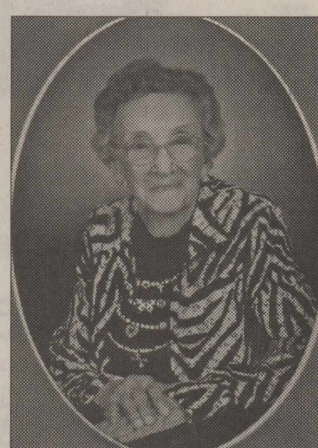
Her passion for life primarily centered on her family and serving others. Her hobbies included playing games with her grandchildren (and great grandchildren), cooking, quilting and sewing. She was an inspiration and daily ray of sunshine to the staff and patients at the Munday Nursing Center with her zeal for life and unequal positive and enduring attitude.

She was a long-standing member of the First United Methodist Church in Munday, serving in many positions. Her countless pies, cakes and cookies will forever be missed. She was a diehard fan of the Munday Mogs and Dallas Cowboys and was especially fond of "Troy, Emmitt, and Michael" in their glory days.

She is survived by her son John and wife Judy of Amarillo, five grandchildren, Chris Smith and wife Susan of Coppell, Tracy Smith of Amarillo, Stacy Giles of McKinney, Brad Massey of Frisco and Greg Massey of Spokane, Wash., seven great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Chris Smith, Brad Massey, John Michael Massey, Tyler Massey, Trenton Massey and Wayne Smith.

Donations may be made to Cal Farley Boys Ranch in Amarillo, Texas.



JUANITA MASSEY

### Gladys Booe Hunter

Gladys Booe Hunter passed away peacefully from this life on Dec. 8. She was born on Sept. 21, 1922 in Knox County to Jim and Ella Booe and spent her early years in the Hood Community northwest of Goree before moving to Munday.

Gladys married J.E. Hunter on Nov. 7, 1942 and they made their home on the farm between Munday and Knox City for almost 70 years.

Gladys was a devoted Christian, wife mother and grandmother. She was a powerful prayer partner and spent countless hours praying for members of the



GLADYS HUNTER

community who were going through difficult times, illness or loss.

During her teenage years, Gladys was known for playing a rousing rendition of Beer Barrel Polka on her saxophone, and during later life, became famous for her "Gladys Chocolate Cake", a recipe shared and enjoyed by many (although we suspect she may not have divulged all of the exact ingredients). She played thousands of games of Uno with her grandchildren and enjoyed nothing more than having family get-togethers in her home.

Gladys was preceded in death by her husband of 68 years, J.E., one son J.L. Hunter, two brothers, Carl and J.B. Booe, and four sisters, Hazel Roden, Marie

Melton, Opal Boger and Mary Francis Stewart.

She is survived by one son, Johnny Hunter and wife, Carol of Knox City; one daughter Judith Hunter, M.D., and Anne Myrick of Cedar Hill; two grandsons Sam and wife Andrea Hunter of Goree and Tony and wife Kendra Hunter of Knox City; three granddaughters, Jennifer and Joel Martinez of Junction, Cindy Hunter of Austin, Kristen Hunter of Huntsville; sister-in-law Juanita Hunter Nelson of Munday; seven great-grandchildren, Baileigh, Aiden, Evan, and Jon Hunter; Drew and Haley Martinez; Kayla, Ella, and Cody Rae Hunter and special neighbors, Penny and Glenn Kyzer and Leona Partridge.

A memorial service was held at First United Methodist Church in Munday on Wednesday, under the direction of McCauley-Smith Funeral Home. Visitation was held Tuesday at the funeral home. Interment was in the Gillespie Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the First United Methodist Church community outreach program in Munday.

## Knox County Aging Center

Lunch menus for week of Dec. 15-19

- Monday:** Chicken tenders, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, rolls, cake.
- Tuesday:** Ham & beans, spinach, corn, cornbread, pineapple cup.
- Wednesday:** Turkey, dressing w/gravy, sweet potatoes, green beans, rolls, pumpkin cake.
- Thursday:** King ranch chicken, Spanish rice, pinto beans, tortilla, dessert.
- Friday:** BBQ beef w/sauce, smothered potatoes, salad, dessert.

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# The Paperboy

## Giving and receiving a fortune

I saw a story yesterday on Warren Buffett's fortune skyrocketing.

Buffett's net worth has climbed handsomely this year bolstered by a 28 percent jump in the value of his Berkshire Hathaway's stock which closed at an all-time high Monday. The stock closed at \$227,800 per share.



**CHRIS BLACKBURN**

Buffett is now worth more than \$74 billion and climbed over Mexico's Carlos Slim (\$72 billion) and Amancio Ortega (\$64 billion) into second place on the list of world's richest people.

Bill Gates, who has seen his fortune jump this year as well, is number one on the list with a net worth of \$81.4 billion.

It's pretty astounding that Gates and Buffet sit atop the list because they are the most generous humans in history in terms of the amount of money they have given to charity. Over their lifetimes, each man has donated between \$30 and \$35 billion to a multitude of causes through their foundations. That is simply incredible.

Perhaps these two men are proof that giving comes back to you...

Scientists think they are closer to proving life, in some form or fashion, existed on Mars.

For life, as we know it, to form and thrive, scientists generally agree that these things must be present:

- Standing water.
- An energy source.
- Five basic elements: carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, phosphorus and nitrogen.
- Time.

One of our rovers on Mars has found all of the above and scientists have con-

cluded that there was life on Mars.

I suspect they're right. It seems like we get a little closer each year in determining there is abundant life in this universe.

I was once asked if such discoveries had any bearing on my faith?

My short answer: God is the ultimate creator. I'm a human created in His image. I do not pretend to know what all God has created, but I'm thankful He created us. And not only did He create us, He has proven to have a vested interest in us.

It's easy for us humans to try and discount all God has provided. We are always trying to prove how smart we are, while at the same time, trying to prove that God doesn't exist and all things can be proven through science.

Scientists make a good case too don't they? Or do they?

It's hard for me to say. Since I was a boy, scientists have changed their tune on a myriad of topics. Seems they are still learning as well.

My take on extraterrestrial life: I think there is plenty of life in this universe, both intelligent and otherwise. I also don't care if there is. Until they come to my country, they are no threat to me. And truthfully, what can I do about it?

It's best for me to concentrate on the few things in this world that I can control and try and do my best with the gifts God has given to me. When we break it down to the basics, it's all any of us can do.

**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 and The Post Dispatch. He can be reached by email at [chris@blackburnmediagroup.com](mailto:chris@blackburnmediagroup.com) and you can follow him on Twitter at [WCSBlackburn](https://twitter.com/WCSBlackburn), although he doesn't tweet much.**

## Letters to the Editor

### Sheriff proud of new vehicle

Wow, look at that! Nothing shines like a new vehicle. Pictured is the newest member of the Knox County Sheriff's Department—a 2014 Ford F150. Along with the new vehicle is pictured Sheriff Dean Homstad and deputy Joe Rojo. Deputy Rojo was acquired last fall, and many of you probably have had the pleasure to meet him. If not, make it a point to introduce yourself when you do run across him.



**Sheriff Dean Homstad and deputy Joe Rojo with new truck**

Anyone knows who has priced new vehicles anytime recently, or anytime for that matter, they are very expensive. This particular vehicle, however, was FREE. Yup, free. Through the efforts of Sheriff Dean Homstad and Knox County Judge's/County Attorney secretary Sherry Warren, a grant for \$40,000 was obtained to pay for the vehicle as well as outfitting and setting up the equipment in the vehicle. The grant was through the West Central Council of Governments in Abilene, and was successful through the continuing efforts put forth by those involved.

The vehicle will replace the 2010 Ford pickup that was previously being used, which was passed along to the Road and Bridge Department of the county. That vehicle, the 2010, was also obtained through a similar grant, both grants costing the county nothing to obtain but a little paperwork. In addition to that, a 2011 Ford pickup still in use by the Sheriff's office was, guess what, purchased by a grant. That makes three vehicles in the last few years that actually cost Knox County nothing to acquire. WOW! Nothing but cool, don't you agree?

Since 2004, Knox County has not had to expend any money to outright purchase any

vehicle for the Knox County Sheriff's office. This in turn has saved the county untold thousands of dollars, thus saving the taxpayers their hard earned tax dollars which can be used elsewhere. Since 2004, drug forfeitures outright purchased two vehicles for the Sheriff's Office use, one of which also was passed to Road and Bridge a couple years ago, the other still in use by the Knox County Sheriff's Office.

If possible, the next time you meet a Sheriff's Office vehicle or the Sheriff or deputy in person, give a wave or say hello. We are constantly striving to save money for the county by obtaining grants where possible or cutting cost where feasible. The Sheriff's Office continues to look after the needs of all Knox County citizens every day and night. In closing, thank you for your support and courtesy in the everyday activities that bring all of the citizens together in a wide variety of issues and problems.

**Again, thank you. Sheriff Dean W. Homstad**

### No excuse for vandalism by kids

I am writing about recent incidents of willful vandalism in the City of Munday. The beautiful street lamps that line the streets of Munday were paid for by Munday citizens and exes. Through their efforts and personal expense, there is a visible expression of good will, hope, and community pride for all to enjoy. The streetlamps, bulbs, replacement globes, garland and lights are also provided by the same people that volunteer in many roles throughout the city. These things were not provided by the government, nor did they magically sprout from the earth. Neither do we have a rich benefactor. It took time, effort, hard work and money for the street lamp project to be realized. It also takes time to decorate them for the holidays. Last year, Keep Munday Beautiful bought over 50 new strings of lights for the street lamp garlands. In a short time, several of the strings of lights went out. We discovered they were not burning out, however. Someone was willfully removing the bulbs and tossing them into the street. Dozens of people have already worked this year to decorate the streetlamps once again. Volunteers purchased more new lights last week and yet whole blocks of lamps went dark just a few days after they were decorated.

Three children were caught recently destroying the lighted garlands downtown. Parents, it is time to talk with your children about respecting public and private property. Know where your children are and what they are doing. If your attitude is "kids will be kids", know that only some kids will be vandals. If you excuse the

behavior with "they are bored," teach them to do something worthwhile. If you think it's no big deal, and they will learn to do better over time, they should not learn at the expense of others. My dad used to say, "Your right to swing your fist ends where my nose begins."

There have been several other incidents of mischief, vandalism, and theft in our community over the last couple of years. This "mischief" always hurts others. In one case, damage to the property of a retired couple cost them hundreds of dollars and created a financial hardship.

I am hurt and disappointed about these incidents. But I will no longer be silent. I ask the citizens of Munday to be vigilant. If you see minor children out after curfew, notify their parents or the authorities. If you see willful vandalism, report it to the police and demand that those responsible are held accountable. If the children are minors, they should either be required to do community service or their parents should be held financially responsible for damages. If they do not learn consequences now, they will learn them later. If bad behavior is left unchecked, it may escalate to worse behavior and bigger crimes. And if left uncorrected, the lessons learned in the future could cost them their reputation, their job, their family, their freedom, or their lives. Good habits and a strong character must be built over a lifetime. I don't necessarily ascribe to "it takes a village to raise a child." I do believe, however, that parents have a responsibility to raise their children to be good citizens in that village.

**Sincerely, Karen Longan**

## New star symbol on Texas plates

AUSTIN--The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles board recently approved the addition of a new star symbol as an option on all personalized specialty license plates in Texas. It will be offered in addition to existing symbols that include the Texas silhouette, heart, period and dash.

"The star is synonymous with Texas and we expect the new symbol will prove very popular amongst our plate customers," said

Steve Farrar, President of MyPlates.com.

My Plates also recently introduced a new price reduction in Texas to further broaden the appeal of its specialty plates for all Texans.

Since November 2009, Texans have purchased more than 214,000 My Plates, putting more than \$27M in the general revenue fund, which helps pay for services for all Texans.

### NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF KNOX

By virtue of Orders of Sale issued out the Honorable 50<sup>th</sup> District Court of Knox County in the following cases on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2014 and to me, as Sheriff, directed and delivered, I will proceed to sell at 10:00 AM on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2015, which is the first Tuesday of said month, at the South door of the Courthouse of said Knox County, in the City of Benjamin, Texas, the following described property, to wit:

Cause No: 9550 KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS. JOHN AVERITT  
0.500 acres, Block 2, Section 70, D&W RR Munday, Abstract 1460, Knox County, Texas as the same appears on a map or plat thereof filed in the office of the County Clerk of Knox County, Texas; Geo: R000011668

Cause No: 9579 KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS. W H AYERS  
Lots 1, 2, & 3, Block 103, Original Town of Benjamin, Knox County, Texas as the same appears on a map or plat thereof filed in the office of the County Clerk of Knox County, Texas; Geo: R000000351

Cause No: 9614 KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS. LONNIE BOHANNON  
Lots 3, 4, 5, & 6, Block 7, Original Town of Benjamin, Knox County, Texas as the same appears on a map or plat thereof filed in the office of the County Clerk of Knox County, Texas; Geo: R000002459

Cause No: 9510 KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS. MICHAEL ALLEN MOORE  
W/2 of N/2 R P of Block 42, City of Munday, Knox County, Texas as the same appears on a map or plat thereof filed in the office of the County Clerk of Knox County, Texas; Geo: R000000813

Cause No: 9599 KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS. VIRGINIA REYNOLDS  
All of Lot 5, and the West Half of Lot 6, Block 135 South, Reeves & Musser Addition to the City of Munday, Knox County, Texas as the same appears on a map or plat thereof filed in the office of the County Clerk of Knox County, Texas; Geo: R000009236

Levied on the 4 day of December, 2014, as the property of said Defendants to satisfy the judgments rendered in the above styled and numbered causes, plus all taxes, penalties, interest, and attorney fees accrued to the date of sale and all costs recoverable by law in favor of each jurisdiction.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND THIS 4 day of December, 2014.

*Dean W. Homstad*  
Sheriff, Knox County, Texas

By *J. Rojo*  
Deputy

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# Young Houndettes making cage progress



Jordyn Eaton completes fast break against Petrolia

Sheri Baty/The Knox County News-Courier

GUTHRIE—After a 40-36 victory over Petrolia at home last week, the Knox City Houndettes suffered a pair of setbacks to Aspermont and Lockney in the Guthrie Tournament.

Coach Dylan Ballard was pleased with the Petrolia game as the Houndettes, even without Kaylie Steele, battled inside and on the boards to contain the taller Lady Pirates. "It was a big win and gave us some confidence," Ballard said.

A slow start against Aspermont didn't ever allow Knox City to be in the thick of things against Aspermont.

Deficits of 11-4 and 11-7 in the second and fourth quarters proved to make the difference against Lockney.

With two freshmen and two sophomores playing all 32 minutes against Lockney, Ballard felt the Houndettes made progress. "A lot of good things happened," he said, "but we still have a lot of work to do in order for us to be ready for district."

Brooke Jones and Jordyn Eaton led scoring against Petrolia with 13 and 11, respectively. Jones had 19 against Aspermont, but could manage only seven against Lockney.



Skylar Neill connects on jump shot against Petrolia

Sheri Baty/The Knox County News-Courier

# Greyhounds fall in overtime, 74-68

KNOX CITY—The Knox City Greyhounds saw their record fall to 3-2 last week as they dropped a 74-68 decision to the Petrolia Pirates.

In the nip and tuck game, turnovers to start the overtime proved to be the difference, allowing the Pirates to jump off to a quick lead and take control of the game.

Krys Campos led the Hounds with 25 points. Skylar Neill had 15, including four 3-pointers, and Anthony Estrada added 13.

The Hounds were only 10 of 25 from the free throw line while the Pirates were 8 of 19.

# Crowell, Throckmorton seek six-man grid titles

A pair of six-man teams from counties that border Knox County will be playing for state titles at AT&T Stadium in Arlington Saturday.

Crowell (13-0) scored a 100-50 victory over Valley in the semifinals at Vernon and will go up against May

(12-2), 60-38 winners over Blum, in its effort to repeat as state champion at 3 p.m. The Wildcats beat the Tigers, 52-28, in last year's finals.

Throckmorton (13-0) had a fight on its hands, but escaped with a 76-74 win over Calvert thanks to convert 7

of 9 two-point PAT kicks as compared to 6 of 10 for its semifinal foe. The Greyhounds, state champions in 2011 and 2012, face Groom (13-1), 72-54 winners over Lorraine, at noon.

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James McAfee/The Knox County News-Courier

Temerick Reagins attempts free throw against Electra

## Moguls fall to 1-3 in first cage week

MILES—The Munday Moguls dropped a 46-34 decision to Garden City in the consolation finals of the Miles Tournament here Saturday, falling to 1-3 for the season.

Temerick Reagins led the Moguls in scoring with 15 points.

After losing to Panther Creek, 34-30, in the opening round at Miles, the Moguls scored a 54-29 win over Veribest as Reagins scored 19 and Chandler McCombs added 13.

Eula (6-1) edged host Miles (5-2), 56-54 to take the title.

## Garcia recognized by Wheat group

AMARILLO - The Texas Wheat Producers Board and Association selected Juan Garcia, former United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator, as the 2014 Wheat Man of the Year here last week during the Texas Commodity Symposium's annual reception. This award is one of the highest honors given by the board and association.

After serving 37 years with the

FSA, Garcia announced his retirement at the beginning of August 2014. Garcia plans to return back to his home state of Texas. Even while serving in Washington, D.C., Garcia was committed to Texas agricultural producers. His exemplary ability to move ideas and people forward coupled with a finesse in working across agency lines, provided services and programs in favor of Texas growers.

## Pied Pipers fall, 49-35, to Lions in quarterfinals

The Hamlin Pied Pipers, champions of District 7-2A, saw their first playoff run in a long time end last Friday at Shotwell Stadium in Abilene, dropping a 49-35 decision to the Albany Lions.

The Lions (13-0) advance to play Seagraves (13-0), 49-21 winners over Crosbyton, in the Class 2A/Division II semifinals.

After giving the Lions short fields early that led to a pair of touchdowns, the Pied Pipers rallied to tie the score 28-28 at halftime, but the Lions scored three touchdowns in the third quarter to take control.

Albany's Drew Neece accounted for five touchdowns, three on the ground as part of a 146-yard effort and two through the air where he completed 6 of 11 passes for 75 yards.

As they have all season long, Tyrone Johnson and Cayman George led the Pied Pipers' offensive effort. Johnson ran for 128 yards while George completed 11 of 18 passes for 168 yards.

In the other semifinal, Tenaha (11-1), 35-28 winners over Iola, and Bremond (13-0), 46-7 winners over Bruni, will battle for the right to play in the finals at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

## The 501 Your house in gingerbread

In a former life I was a gingerbread house entrepreneur -- a don't-quit-your-day job endeavor, so I didn't quit my day job and, therefore, never realized my dream to become official gingerbread house maker to Neiman Marcus, the Texas equivalent of being gingerbread house maker to the Queen.

Yep, I wanted to sell gingerbread houses to wealthy people who would commission me, via Neiman's, to replicate their mansions in gingerbread. Instead I kept making the same little houses with my two cast iron molds. I sold one house.

If only the Internet had existed back then. I could've found directions for making gingerbread house parts without molds so as to fabricate pieces in all shapes and sizes. Then I could have launched my enterprise alone no need for Neiman's.

"Your House in Gingerbread" might have been deluged with orders. Or not.

Meanwhile, could someone have stolen my idea and launched just such a custom gingerbread house business?

INTERNET PAUSE. Sure enough, that's what's happened. For \$77,910 you can order a gingerbread replica of your house from a luxury online retailer called VeryFirstTo. Pearls and a big ruby adorn the roof. The size of the structure is roughly 65 cm by 35 cm by 45 cm.

I smell a rat. How can VeryFirstTo announce the approximate size in advance when the creation is supposed to replicate somebody's real house? Not everybody

lives in a simple rectilinear space especially not people with 70 grand-plus to blow on a gingerbread house.

Oh well. When you get pearls and a big fat ruby on the roof, you're less likely to notice it doesn't look like your roof or even your house. Make way for mass production of the same design with just a few customizations. No need to hire extra elves to painstakingly execute different complicated designs. It's cheating in my book, but that's probably why I'm not in charge of a booming gingerbread house replicating business.

I wouldn't even be thinking about all things gingerbread if I hadn't seen a redneck gingerbread house posted on Facebook. It was actually made of graham crackers, which, as someone pointed out, is perhaps appropriate to all things redneck synthetic versus the top-quality organic (no kidding) gingerbread used by VeryFirstTo. Of course the redneck house was a trailer. No pine trees embellished the setting. Just junk cars.

It's the sort of creativity that inspires me to get back into gingerbread.

ANOTHER INTERNET PAUSE.

Wow! I found "13 Weird and Wonderful Gingerbread Houses" on a website. My favorite is the reproduction of an abandoned building site in Ireland. Gingerbread house makers, keep that theme in mind if your house doesn't quite get built.

Spin-off idea: If you get your house baked but it doesn't hold together, pretend there was either an earthquake or tornado. Houses taste the same no matter what they look like.

Maybe that's our moral. Gingerbread is a great leveler. Big mansions and cute little cottages taste the same not necessarily any better than graham crackers.



HANABA MUNN WELCH

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## Benjamin News

Gladene Green

I start out this week correcting a couple of mistakes in last week's column. They may have gone unnoticed by many, but I happened to see them and want to admit that it was only carelessness on my part. First of all, in mentioning Dillon and Ariel Benson's Thanksgiving company, I had Carla Fox as her (Ariel's) sister. Well, not so, she's Dillon's sister! And Tyler Pounds lives in Benjamin—not Knox City. No big deal, but I wanted that corrected!

Now on to this week's happenings. Amid the fog and damp weather, folks are going about their usual Monday morning activities today. Weather folk say it may warm up to 60 degrees or more, so that will make for a pleasant afternoon.

Planning (and shopping) for Christmas is in full swing, and before we know it, that big day will have come and gone. Residents are still putting up their decorations, and it's looking more and more "holidayish" as the days go by. (As for me, all of mine are still in storage.) Maybe I'll get it out this week.

### About Our Ill

Imagean Young has been in the hospital(s) since Tuesday. She was in Knox City until Thursday before she was taken to Abilene. Had a colon problem, but is better and as of right now, it appears surgery will not be necessary, at least at this time. The last we heard (which was Sunday) she thought she would come back to the Knox City Hospital one day this week. Needless to say, she is ready to get back closer to home.

Dillon Keys had two doctor appointments last week. On Monday, he was in Dallas to see his urologist, and on Friday he was in Wichita Falls to see his nephrologist. He's doing pretty well. He is on medication for blood pressure control, but everything else looks ok right now. They hope to learn today when he will have bladder surgery. Please continue to pray for him and his family.

Corrine Parrish has been under the care of her doctor all week with a bad cough and just plain felt horrible. She's better now. She is still on medication, but barring a "setback," she should be OK.

There's lots of virus and respiratory problems bothering people during this time. Probably the unstable weather is the cause of a lot of it. Sure makes one feel uncomfortable.

### New Baby

Emmy Elena is the newest member of the Barrientez family. She arrived on Dec. 1, 2014, at 12:44 pm at Hendrick Medi-

cal Center in Abilene. She weighed 8 lb 1 oz and was 20 inches long. Her very proud parents are Jimmy and Michele. And brothers, Caleb and Jalyn, and sister, Madison are also very proud of their new playmate. Grandparents are Janet and Gary Reed and Steve and Brenda Conner of Big Spring, and Reyes and the late Raul Barrientez of Benjamin. Her great grandparents are Bud and the late Von Conner of Benjamin, and Edith and the late Ed Broach of Knox City, and great great grandmother is Hazel Stockton of Benjamin. There's also a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends who welcome her into their lives.

### Here 'N There

Several in the area have lost loved ones this past week. To the families of Juanita Massey and Gladys Hunter, as well as the Fitzgerald, Stafford, and Fetch families, I extend my heartfelt sympathy.

The annual Christmas Program will be Sunday night at the Church of Christ here. Young folks from all the community will have a part, directed by the leaders in the Church of Christ. The program will begin at 6 pm, and the entire community is invited to attend.

Reyes Barrientez enjoyed her family, Sean, Mary, and Hannah Widmer of Denton, Jr. and Virginia Barrientez of Stamford, Michael and Christi Barrientez of San Angelo, and Sara Barrientez and a friend, Mario, both students at West Texas State in Canyon during Thanksgiving. They all had lunch with Jimmy and Michele Barrientez and family on Thanksgiving Day. Allie Barrientez of Denton came for a weekend visit.

I saw Kate Grill Roesler during Thanksgiving. She's pretty and sweet as ever, and I was glad to see her. She and her family live in Albuquerque. Blaine Conner Neal's daughter, Shaelyn, was back in Ft. Worth Thursday to see her doctor regarding her arm which was injured in a 4-wheeler accident in March. It doesn't seem to be healing as it should, and looks like now she will probably have to undergo some bone grafting. She's had so much trouble with it, but maybe this will help. Shae and her family now live in Abilene.

The addition to the fire station is coming along nicely. From the highway it looks very near completion, but I'm sure there's still quite a bit of finish work to do. The new part will be housing for fire trucks.

Christmas in Benjamin is coming up again next week. December 18 is the date for the event and "O! Santa" will be on hand at Front Porch Quilts about 6:30 p.m. to talk to the youngsters and hear their requests. It's fun, and I hope lots of folks show up to enjoy the evening.

at the door and coolers (no glass) welcomed. The Ball benefits West Texas Rehabilitation Center.

### Cowboy Christmas Ball

CROWELL—The Circle Bar Ranch Cowboy Christmas Ball, featuring Johnny Rogers, is scheduled here Dec. 20 at the Crowell Activity Center. Doors open at 7 p.m. with the dance following at 8 p.m. Tickets will be \$20.

## SENIOR NEWS

# Reverse mortgages approved in Texas

By MITCH HACKNEY

Senior citizens in the state of Texas have recently been granted the privilege of purchasing a home with a reverse mortgage. It took several years of haranguing in the state legislature to bring forth a bill that would allow this to happen, but now loans are currently being closed statewide, and a new era for the over 62 crowd has begun.

The old senator, Fred Thompson, and the delight of everybody's heart in the TV sitcom "Happy Days", the Fonz, are seen regularly on TV doing their commercials for reverse mortgages. Their message is about the same, but neither has mentioned that reverses for purchases have been approved for the state of Texas; that may be because they just became effective for purchases this year.

Currently, the fastest growing market for reverses is in the five hundred thousand and up price range, and across America over 70% of new applications are for the purpose of paying off a first mort-

gage many times taken out when the folks were already in their 50s.

Financial planners, who for many years discouraged anyone from taking out a reverse mortgage, have made a big turnabout because the misinformation that was so prevalent for so many years has been dismissed as bogus. Now, many of those same planners are recommending reverses.

Finally, the truth has come to the top. Perhaps you already knew that: 1. the title stays in your name; 2. you don't sell your home to the bank; 3. the money you receive is not taxable; 4. credit is not an issue; 5. if a couple, the calculations are done based on the younger person who must be 62 or older unless he or she will not appear on the title; 6. borrowers are responsible for paying their real estate taxes, their home owner's insurance and maintaining their property.

A few things you may not have known: 1. the down payment must be between 35 and 50 per cent of the value of the home; 2. FHA

insures these loans, and they require each borrower to be counseled, so they can hear "the rest of the story"; 3. new products have been introduced that are weighted heavily in favor of the borrowers; 4. closing costs have been reduced by thousands of dollars by FHA, for most borrowers; 5. the home, whether new or resale, must be ready for occupancy before the loan application can begin.

Builders with standing inventory can now market their homes to the fastest growing segment of our population — the baby boomers, and they can do so knowing that the two biggest hurdles to getting a loan approved, sufficient income and good to excellent credit, do not apply to reverses.

Of course, reverses for home owners have been around since Ronald Reagan signed the bill into law back in the 1980s, but a brand new addition to the products offered is the HYBRID reverse. Its acceptance by seniors is ramping up quickly. It is weighted highly in favor of our senior citizens.

## Vehicle criminals prepare for holiday shopping

(Denton, TX) The holiday season is upon us! And just as we prepare for Black Friday, Cyber Monday, and visiting the malls and shopping centers, thieves are also preparing to shop . . . . in your vehicle!

The Texas Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA), a division of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, reminds drivers that a vehicle is burglarized every two minutes and stolen every eight minutes in the state. These crimes can escalate during the holiday season when drivers frequently shop for gifts and travel to visit friends and family. During these times, drivers are more likely to leave belongings within view inside vehicles. The hustle and bustle of the season may also cause drivers to become negligent in locking doors and taking keys. To make matters worse, a thief won't necessarily stop with taking your vehicle and the things inside. They may also look for personal documents and items that can help them steal your identity or gain access to your home, where they can burglarize additional property. In other words, the theft or burglary of your vehicle may simply be a gateway to the commission of additional crimes.

"Auto burglars are more likely to scout malls, shopping centers, entertainment venues, hotels, and other business parking lots this time of year looking for opportunities to break into vehicles," said Michelle Lanham, program coordinator

for ABTPA's Reduce Auto Theft in Texas (RATT) public awareness task force at Denton Police Department. "Drivers need to understand that almost anything they leave inside their vehicles can be valuable to a thief. And when vehicles are left unlocked and unattended, drivers are inviting thieves to walk away with everything they see inside, which often includes gifts, purses, wallets, packages, electronics, suitcases, garage door openers, keys, and personal information."

According to the Texas Department of Public Safety, thieves committed 214,294 acts of vehicle burglary and stole 65,671 vehicles in Texas during 2013. In some jurisdictions, more than half of the vehicles stolen had unlocked doors and keys left inside. But drivers can avoid becoming part of these statistics. The ABTPA and its 29 vehicle crime task forces in Texas promote a basic vehicle crime prevention philosophy: "Protect It, It's Yours." Motorists should practice three basic safety tips to help prevent theft and burglary during the holidays and throughout the year: remove belongings from view, secure vehicles, and never leave keys inside. In addition to practicing these prevention methodologies, drivers should park in areas that are well-lit, near surveillance cameras (if available), and near heavy foot and vehicle traffic. The more thieves feel threatened by detection, the less likely they are to focus on targets in such areas.

## AREA NEWS

### Christmas Ball Saturday

SNYDER—For everyone who loves Western Swing music, the Big Country Christmas Ball here is the place to be on Saturday. The great Bobby Flores with his Yellow Rose Band will be playing. Doors will open at 7 p.m. with the dance at 8 p.m. through midnight. No reservations will be needed, but table and chairs will be available. Admission tickets will be \$15

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### CITY OF KNOX CITY

#### TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The City of Knox City will hold a public hearing at 5:30 pm on December 16, 2014 at City Hall, 902 E. Main, Knox County, Texas in regard to the submission of an application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG) grant. The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the citizens' participation plan, the development of local housing and community development needs, the amount of TxCDBG funding available, all eligible TxCDBG activities and the use of past TxCDBG funds. The City encourages citizens to participate in the development of this TxCDBG application and to make their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to Sam Watson, City Administrator at the City Hall. Persons with disabilities who wish to attend this meeting should contact City Hall for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. **For further information, Sam Watson, City Administrator at the City Hall (940) 658-3313.**



# \$86M approved for border security Cotton harvest behind schedule

AUSTIN--The members of the bipartisan Legislative Budget Board approved \$86 million last week for southern border security despite Democrats' concerns during the hearing about a "militarized" border.

Some Republicans, meanwhile, worried that the National Guard may be needed for longer than planned if President Barack Obama's recent executive action on immigration sparks a new surge of people pouring into Texas illegally.

Gov. Rick Perry ordered up to 1,000 guardsmen to the Rio Grande Valley in July amid an unprecedented wave of illegal border crossings that has since slowed, claiming at the time the influx of immigrants had made it easier for drug and criminal games to operate. All guardsmen are set to head home by April.

The board's vote takes funding from other, mostly unrelated parts of the state budget, including money left over after other agencies paid down outstanding debts. It means the surge is now financed through August.

The extra funding covers overtime payments that will mean the equivalent of 640

additional state troopers and other police personnel, reported Department of Public Safety Director Steve McCraw, adding that, unlike guardsman who couldn't make arrests, troopers can stop illegal activity, moving the state "from defense to offense."

McCraw said "saturating" the border had squeezed drug cartels operating there. "We've hurt them," he added. "We need to hurt them more."

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, who was defeated in the Republican primary in March, said, "In my opinion, the emergency continues. If we don't continue the surge through the end of this fiscal year so that the legislature can act...our surge will lapse, and the next day, it's business as usual for the cartels."

Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, a McAllen Democrat, voted in favor of the new funding because he said he supported the Department of Public Safety. But he added that deploying guardsman militarized the border, hurting tourism and economic growth. "It sends the wrong message," he said.

Dr. David Drake, AgriLife Extension agronomist, San Angelo, reports that cotton yields in his regions were basically a little below average, and behind in maturity and harvest.

"We have a range of everything this year," Drake said. "We have the risky, West Texas cotton fields that were 'droughted' out and hailed out. And we had some on the other end of the spectrum that just happened to get a timely rain in the right spot and were above average."

Drake's responsibilities cover two major areas: Irrigated cotton in the Far West Texas Permian Basin area, and general production cotton in the Concho Valley region of West Central Texas. He also serves growers in a small part of the Rolling Plains, including Stamford and nearby counties.

"The crop was much later, in terms of when we got the rain and when it produced the fiber," Drake said. "A lot of areas still haven't been harvested."

Growers in his area also had a tough year with defoliation. Late rains caused the cotton plants that have already been treated to regenerate. "Cotton is a perennial crop, so it started growing again, and that really made it tough to knock the leaves off," he said.

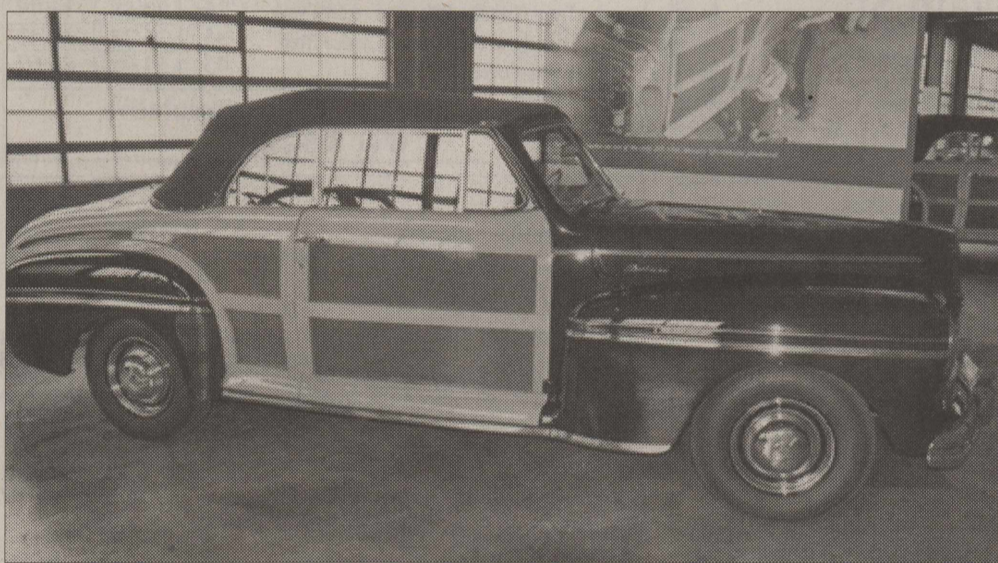
The freeze helped, but coming when it did, it hurt the crop in terms of quality, and the leaves stick on, and get mixed in with the fiber, resulting in too high leaf scores, according to Drake. The freeze also increases bark contamination. "Bark" refers to parts of stem, which are hard to gin out and result in dockage, he said.

Drake indicated that the general rule of thumb was that you wanted to get it all harvested within two weeks of a frost, but heavy rains prevented this from happening.

Drake estimated that about 60 percent of irrigated and "perhaps" 75 percent of dryland had been harvested by the first week of December. He said the harvest should be done, except for a few stragglers, by Christmas.

Drake also noted that some southern counties of Rolling Plains did not have a good year. "It's all dryland, but in a good year they can get really good yields, two bales per acre," he said. "But this year, it won't be that good, as a lot of fields failed and will be zeroed-out for crop insurance."

## Where have 'woodies' gone?



Nick Alexander, a BMW dealer in Los Angeles, has collected many of them for more in the past 12 years and planned to sell more than a 100 of them at a special auction in Pebble Beach, CA in December so he can focus on his ranches.

## Don't forget the helmet if giving bicycle as gift

Bicycles are always a popular gift at Christmas time, and many parents are shopping now for that perfect new bicycle for their child - maybe even their first bicycle. This is an excellent opportunity to teach children about the importance of wearing a helmet to protect their head. According to National Safe Kids, helmets can reduce the risk of severe brain injury by up to 88%, but only 45% of children wear bike helmets. Safe Kids also reports that bicycles are associated with more injuries in children than any other product except automobiles. Other studies from the organization found that nearly half of the hospitalizations related to bicycles are from traumatic injury to the brain. Helmets should be considered an important part of bike riding.

"Learning to ride a bicycle is not just child's play," said Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agent Lorrie Coop. "In addition to promoting healthy living habits, riding bicycles can teach children about becoming independent. With this new independence,

children need to learn to follow important safety rules. One of the most important rules is to always wear a helmet."

Parents can be great role models to promote bicycle safety by wearing helmets on every trip. A child who rides with companions wearing helmets or adults in general is more likely to wear a helmet himself. Even very young toddlers on tricycles should wear helmets to establish good habits.

When selecting a helmet for your child, follow these tips:

- \* Look for a helmet that has been certified to meet Consumer Product Safety Commission standards.

- \* Make sure the helmet fits properly. To do this, measure around the rider's head about an inch above his or her eyebrows, and select an appropriately sized helmet.

- \* When wearing a helmet, make sure the rim sits level from front to back and is worn low and just above the eyebrows.

- \* Make sure the helmet fits snugly. Adjust the helmet's size with extra foam pads, which are provided with most helmets.

- \* Buckle the chin strap on every ride.

- \* Replace a helmet if it

has been in a crash, even if no damage is visible.

In addition to helmets, parents need to find safe places to ride, such as parks, sidewalks, or playgrounds. It is important to supervise preschoolers when they are riding, and keep children younger than 10 from riding bikes in the street.

When teaching children to ride bicycles, also educate them on these tips for safe bicycle riding:

- \* Always wear a bike helmet.

- \* Make sure the bicycle is the right size for the rider and in good working order.

- \* Wear the proper clothing - neon, fluorescent, or other bright colors when riding day or night.

- \* Teach children to make eye contact with drivers.

- \* Ride in the same direction as other traffic.

- \* Use hand and arm signals.

- \* There should only be one rider per saddle.

- \* Keep at least one hand on the handlebars.

- \* The bicycle must have a white light on the front and a red reflector or red light on the rear (for riding at night).

- \* Use effective brakes that are capable of making the braked wheel skid.

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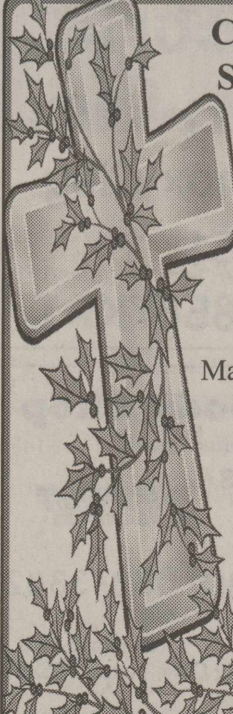
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## Mac's Views

In referring to the lower prices for gasoline in last week's column, it might have sounded like I was urging Knox County residents to make short drives to get even lower prices at the gas pump. It wasn't that at all. I just wondered why the price couldn't be lower here.

I'm all for supporting our local businesses and liked the Knox County Visionary Group's effort to do so with a mailer last week as part of Small Business Saturday. All the businesses were included with suggestions on what they had to offer. From a business standpoint, I have to wonder why it didn't place a similar advertisement in one of the small businesses--the Knox County News-Courier.

Our communities don't always provide everything we need. That's why we drive to places like Haskell, Seymour and Stamford or even sometimes to Abilene or Wichita Falls. The bigger stores also usually have lower prices and we all have to try to make our dollars go farther.

However, I still urge you to shop locally when you can as it will help your friends and neighbors to keep their businesses open. Check your shopping list and see what can be purchased here. It's certainly more convenient instead of making those 40- to 140-mile roundtrips.

When purchasing big items, like furniture or appliances, you can usually avoid higher delivery prices and the local places will continue to service them efficiently. So consider this when making purchases elsewhere.

It's interesting that people will gladly ask their local businesses to support athletics and community efforts, but the same ones head out of town to do all their shopping. It's a two-way street, if you want them to support local efforts, then support them by buying here.

As part of the Childress-based Blackburn Media Group, the News-Courier, which keeps you updated on all the activities in the county it can, really needs local businesses to thrive. When they advertise their products and services, it allows us to stay in business. Many small newspapers have failed at the same time as local businesses failed.

I believe it's a two-way street here also and try to support the businesses who support the newspaper, but it's hard sometimes as I wish more restaurants would consider buying ads to expand my eating choices.

While still talking about shopping, I have to admit that I don't like Black Friday, having to fight the crowds to try and find that elusive "great deal" that always used to be gone before we got there. Others, including my two daughters, love the hunts for those bargains. It seems to have lost its allure with Betty, too. She didn't even want to stop at the Abilene Mall last weekend when we ventured south to take our granddaughter home.

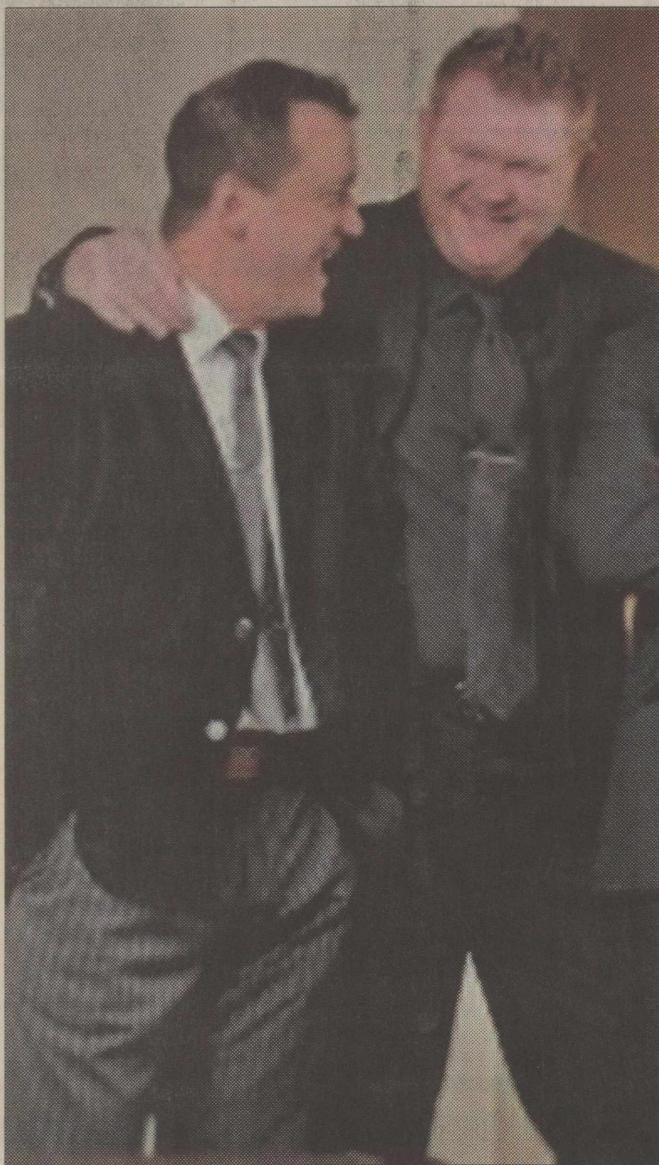
Cyber Monday, where you shop on the internet, isn't for me either.

I'll likely be back by the time many of you read this, but did take some time off to venture out to Tucson, AZ for the first time to play in a Ryder Cup-like event matching my team from the South, mainly DFW and Florida, against a team from the North, primarily Philadelphia-based.



JAMES MCAFEE

## Master's Voice returns



Ricky Capps and Justin Morphis with the Master's Voice will return to the First Baptist Church Monday at 6 p.m. Saturday for a Christmas concert.

# 4-H retreat set in Brownwood

BROWNWOOD— The 4-H Teen Leadership Retreat is scheduled here Jan. 9-11 at the Texas 4-H Conference Center.

"This year's program will focus on increasing knowledge and skills in the 4-H project areas of veterinary science, dog project, STEM subjects, food challenge, Fuel Up and Play 360 and leadership," said Mark Carroll, AgriLife Extension 4-H and youth specialist and conference center program director.

The retreat provides a "state-level leadership experience" for attendees, allowing them to explore new or revised projects and curricula resources and return to implement them in their counties.

To register, go to the center's website, <http://texas4hcenter.tamu.edu>. Registration is \$115 for youth and \$80 for adults, which includes two nights lodging, four meals, snacks and all program supplies.

# Keep pets safe for Christmas

The most wonderful time of the year is upon us, and what better way to prepare for the holidays than including your furry friends in the festivities? However, with all of the hustle and bustle of this busy season, we often forget to adapt our celebrations for the safety of our pets. Here are some ways to keep Fido and Fluffy safe while rockin' around the Christmas tree.

When it comes to decorating your home, there are a few items to leave behind if you have a curious dog or cat lurking around. Animals are often attracted to the sparkly tinsel and ribbons left lying out, and these can easily obstruct their digestive tract if ingested, often requiring emergency surgery. Make sure to keep these decorations out of reach or out of sight.

"Mistletoe especially can cause vomiting and diarrhea as well as neurologic signs such as seizures," said Dr. Stacy Eckman, clinical assistant professor at the Texas A&M College of Vet-

erinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. "Other holiday plants, such as poinsettias, can also cause vomiting and diarrhea when eaten."

Holiday candles are another decoration that can make your home feel that much more festive, but be sure to put them high enough up where a pet cannot accidentally knock them over. To play it safe, place candles on a stable surface and blow them out before leaving the room.

You've heard time and time again to not feed Fido any leftovers, but this can be especially difficult to abide by during the season of sharing and caring. Even when he gives you those puppy dog eyes, remember that certain human foods, especially chocolate and other sweets, can be detrimental to his health. If possible, keep pets in another room during mealtime, and make sure that there are lids on the trashcans to prevent any sneaky pets from getting ahold of the discarded pie.

"Many pets who are

feed leftovers and are not used to them can develop vomiting and diarrhea due to the abrupt change in diet," said Dr. Eckman. "Chocolate, especially dark chocolate, can be very dangerous with signs including vomiting and diarrhea, hyperactivity, tremors, heart arrhythmias and possibly death depending on how much is eaten."

If you have a live Christmas tree in your home, make sure not to add fertilizer to the tree water, as it can upset your dog's or cat's stomach when drunk. Whether your tree is fake or real, it should be securely anchored to the ground to prevent it from tipping over and falling on a pet, which can cause serious injury.

"Cats in particular like to climb the Christmas tree or chew on the branches," said Dr. Eckman. Additionally, any glass ornaments should be placed higher up on the tree, leaving the low-lying branches for the less fragile ornaments.

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