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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2015

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Knox Calendar

Please notify the News-Courier to add or update your events and meeting times. Emailed submissions to kcnewscourier@gmail.com are preferred, but will also be accepted by phone at 940 422-5350. The deadline for inclusion in the next week's issue will be 5 p.m. on Fridays.

Thursday, Jan. 1
Happy New Year

Friday, Jan. 2
Munday basketball JVG, JVB, VG, VB vs. Quanah
Knox City basketball JVG, JVB, VG, VB at Newcastle

Tuesday, Jan. 6
Munday Lions Club, noon, Perry Payton Community Center
Benjamin basketball VG, VB vs. Woodson
Knox City basketball JVG, JVB, VG, VB vs. Spur
Munday basketball JVG, JVB, VG, VB vs. Windthorst

Thursday, Jan. 8
Benjamin basketball JH at Chillicothe
O'Brien basketball JH at Spur
Knox City JV basketball at Knox City Tournament

Friday, Jan. 9
Munday basketball JVG, VG at Harrold
Benjamin basketball VG at Chillicothe
Knox City basketball VG, VB at Patton Springs
Knox City basketball JVB at Knox City Tournament

Saturday, Jan 10
Knox City JVB at Knox City Tournament

Monday, Jan. 12
Knox County Commissioners Court, 1:30 p.m., Knox County Courthouse

News-Courier subscriptions hike announced

The price of subscriptions to The Knox County News-Courier will be going up, effective with this issue. The annual rate will be \$36 in Knox County, \$42 elsewhere in Texas and \$52 outside of the state. As usual, discounts will be available for two or three year plans.

All print subscribers will receive a complimentary online subscription by providing their email addresses.

"The hike is necessary because of increasing postal and printing costs associated with the mailing and printing of the newspaper," said editor James McAfee.

In addition, the cover prices of the weekly issue will be increased to \$1.

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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The Knox County News-Courier

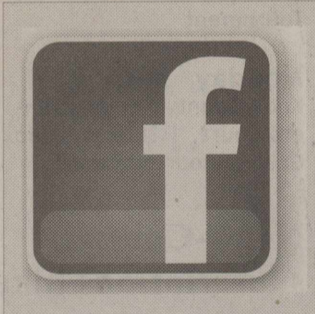
It is the mission of this newspaper to promote the rights of individualism in the American Declaration of Independence. The right of life, liberty and the ownership of property are the cornerstone of freedom. Government's sole purpose is to enhance our liberty and freedom. Therefore, we hold every elected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

DEADLINES

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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



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Deaths

Gerald Tidwell

Bro. Gerald Tidwell a resident of Durant, OK passed from this life into the arms of his Lord and Savior on Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2014 at the age of 76. He was born in Munday on Sept. 14, 1938 to Everett and Blanche (Coltharp) Tidwell. Gerald married Margaret Yandell in Munday on Aug. 18, 1957.

Bro. Tidwell was a four year letterman in high school sports at Munday High School and was All State in track and field. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree with majors in English and Bible from Hardin Simmons University in Abilene. After college, he continued his education and received his Masters of Divinity from the Southwestern Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. Gerald surrendered to the ministry and began pastoring his first church in Roby at the age of 18. He went on to pastor at the Faith Baptist Church in Iowa Park, First Baptist Church of Tula, First Baptist Church of Seminole, North Fort Worth Baptist Church of Fort Worth and finally retired from the First Baptist Church of Durant after many years as its pastor.

Gerald established a Christian Counseling Center in Durant that operated for many years and provided



GERALD TIDWELL

counseling and support for those in need at no charge. He also served for three years as a missionary with Frontiers for Baptist Men and established many churches in the Northwest and Canada. After retiring from the First Baptist Church in Durant, he worked in the media business while continuing to preach on weekends in local churches. He was a devoted husband to his high school sweetheart, Margaret, for 57 years. He loved coaching his three children in little league basketball and baseball and was involved in numerous activities and organizations. Gerald was a proud supporter of the Durant Lions and enjoyed announcing the football games on FBC TV. He enjoyed traveling and helped organize many tours throughout Europe and the Holy Lands. But Gerald found his life's joy in preaching and sharing the gospel of

Jesus Christ.

Bro. Tidwell is survived by his wife, Margaret Tidwell of the home; son, Todd Tidwell and wife Kelly of Durant; daughter, Michelle Smith and husband Ryan of Los Angeles, CA; grandchildren, Kaleigh Holm of Plano and Carson and Sydney Smith of Los Angeles; great-grandchild, Kali Court of Plano; sister, Patsy Curtin of San Marco.

Bro. Tidwell was preceded in death by his parents, Everett and Blanch Tidwell; daughter, Cindy Ann Tidwell May 7, 2011; brothers, Ralph and Kelton Tidwell.

A church service in honor of his memory was held on Monday, Dec. 22, 2014 at the First Baptist Church in Durant with BGCO Falls Creek Program Director and Student Ministry Specialist Andy Harrison and President of Oklahoma Baptist University Dr. David Whitlock officiating. The honorary pallbearers were the Deacons at the First Baptist Church. Internment followed at the Highland Cemetery.

Family and friends may send online condolences and view tributes at www.holmescoffeymurray.com.

Services were under the direction of Holmes-Coffey-Murray Funeral Home, Durant, OK.

Kathryn Jane Belt-Compton

Kathryn Jane Belt-Compton of Knox City passed away Sunday, Dec. 21, 2014, at Haskell Memorial Hospital in Haskell. She was 75. Graveside services were held Monday, Dec. 29 at Oak Hill Cemetery in Lampasas with Rev. Rick Willis officiating. A visitation was planned for Dec. 26 at Smith Family Funeral Home in Knox City. Arrangements were made under the care of Smith Family Funeral Homes.

One of three children, Kathryn Jane Pharr was born Jan. 21, 1939 in Lampasas to Maude Oleta (Bowden) and Weldon Lewis Pharr. Kathryn was a homemaker and a member of the First Baptist Church in Lampasas.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Oleta and Weldon Pharr; her daughter, Cerelle Belt; brother, Ed Pharr; sister, Betty Ray; and brother-in-law, Allen Ray.

Kathryn is survived by

her sister-in-law, Melba Pharr of Knox City; and two nephews, A.J. Pharr of Lubbock and Weldon Pharr of Irving; and her soul-mate, Danny Compton of Knox City.

If desired, memorials can be given in Kathryn's name to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718.

Online condolences can be shared with the family at www.smithfamilyfh.com.

Jose C. Flores

Jose was born Oct. 15, 1959 in Moorehead, MN to Miguel and Cecilia Flores. Jose was a very loving and giving person. He loved kids and loved to fish. He also was an avid Dallas Cowboy fan and loved taking care of his animals.

Jose was preceded in death by one daughter, Christina,

his father, Miguel Flores, and two brothers, Alfredo and Gilbert Flores.

He is survived by his loving wife, Norma; his mother Cecilia Flores; two sons Alfredo Flores and wife, Cristina, and Jose Flores, Jr.; three daughters; Jennifer Sandoval and husband, Bonifacio, Jessica Flores and Joann Flores; three brothers Agustin Castorina and wife Cheryl, Jesse Flores and wife, Rosa, Miguel Flores, Jr.; five sis-

ters Nora Casiano and husband, Demi, Benita Flores, Lupe Bejar and husband, Joe, Graciela Hermosillo and husband, Jesse, and Diana Flores. Also, 11 grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Services were held Dec. 27 at Believers Chapel in Munday. Internment followed in Johnson Memorial Cemetery under the direction of McCauley-Smith Funeral Home of Munday.

Knox Notes

Lions Club seeking potential members

MUNDAY—The Munday Lions Clubs is inviting potential new members to check out the service club by attending and enjoying their Tuesday lunches at the Perry Payton Community Center as their guests during January.

Goree public meeting Scheduled Jan. 13

GORÉE—The City of Goree will hold a public meeting at 6 p.m. Jan. 13 in City Hall to discuss an application for a grant by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Knox County Aging Center

Lunch menus for week of Jan. 4-10

Monday: Meatloaf, Blessed potatoes, green beans, breadsticks, peach crisp.

Tuesday: Herb roasted chicken, pinto beans, green beans, bread, oatmeal cookies.

Wednesday: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, country gravy, seasoned corn, bread & cookies.

Thursday: Salisbury steak, yams, English peas, bread & fruit cup.

Friday: Ham sandwiches with salad, potato wedges & peaches.

FSA announces new yield data

WASHINGTON— U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Val Dolcini offered farmers new information to update program payment yields that will help them better select protections offered by the Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs.

"The Farm Bill provided landowners with the option of updating their farm program payment yields," said Dolcini. "This is the first time that many producers have been able to update yields since 1986. We've worked with the Risk Management Agency to make available certified yield data that producers can use to better calculate how the new safety net programs can offer the best protection against market swings."

Producers can check with their local FSA county office to see if data is available for them. This data belongs to the producer and only the producer associated with the crop insurance records will be provided this service. Updating yield history or reallocating base acres can occur until Feb. 27, 2015.

FSA also issued a reminder that from Nov. 17, 2014, to March 31, 2015, producers will make a one-time election of either ARC or PLC for the 2014 through 2018 crop years. For more information, producers are encouraged to make an appointment to go into their local FSA county office. To find a local FSA county office, visit www.offices.usda.gov. Additional information on the new programs is available at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

These programs were made possible through the 2014 Farm Bill, which builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past five years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for the taxpayer. Since enactment, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America.

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The Paperboy

Can we achieve the dream?

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

I thought my children just might grow up in a time without racial issues. No such luck.



CHRIS BLACKBURN

It's sad to see that a racial divide exists in our country. There is work to be done.

"Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into friend."

National leaders have had ample opportunity to seize the narrative and communicate peacefully, but that didn't happen.

Throughout the past few weeks, we've seen a deterioration of race relationships and it needs to stop.

"We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies."

Honestly - has hate ever solved anything? Perhaps by conquest, but love is always the answer when given the choice. Jesus Christ knew this to be true.

"I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak

of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word."

I pray that this is indeed the way mankind will coexist in the future. Can you imagine a planet in harmony?

"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."

Judging by the past few months, there is still suffering out there. Citizens are hurting. Police officers are hurting. True leaders must rise and begin a dialogue which leads to solutions to the core issues.

"A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus."

Amen to this statement. By the way, the italicized quotes are those of Martin Luther King, Jr. I wonder how much better race relations would be amongst all races if he had lived a full life. 2014 was the 50th anniversary of his assassination.

It's time we remember his philosophy and heal. I pray this can be done in 2015.

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 and you can follow him on Twitter @WCSBlackburn, although he doesn't tweet much.

The 501

The first item on my husband's 2014 Christmas wish list was a laser level so precise and professional you can't even buy it from the big-box retailers. He didn't get it.

It's hard to buy someone the perfect gift, whatever the cost, when said person remains undecided regarding brand and model. Quote me.



HANABA MUNN WELCH

Oddly enough, even before I knew my beloved had his sights set on a superb leveling device, I'd already bought him an antique level and scope at a garage sale back in the summer. It's the sort of wish list coincidence that puts a little extra magic into Christmas.

By the way, if you buy someone something vintage for Christmas, researching the item together online is as good as watching televised reruns of classic Christmas movies.

In our case, we watched "Home Alone" and then spent equal time learning about Swedish immigrant Ernst Alfred Bostrom (1855-1923) and his levels, one of which sat on our dining counter before our very eyes.

We found a 1909 advertisement that said "BOSTROM'S FARM LEVEL HAS TELESCOPE."

Wow! Another coincidence. Back when I paid \$8 for the mostly brass curiosity, I didn't know it was a "farm" level. I just thought it would make a good paperweight for an architect spouse with a bent for civil engineering. The ad says the level is for "draining, irrigating, terracing, ditching, grading,

road building, running fences, setting out orchards, leveling buildings and foundations, getting angles and every sort of work requiring a level." That's us, except we're too old to plant an orchard, and we don't irrigate.

The price in 1909 was \$15 for the level, tripod, plum bob, box, graduated rod and target. Makes me want to buy the extra stuff. Maybe next Christmas. Meanwhile, our Bostrom's level will be at home on the farm as a paperweight.

Same thing goes for the bird feeder grandson Cutter gave me - not that it'll be a paperweight but meaning we'll hang it at the farm. Cutter built it himself, except his friend Memory helped. Both are 8. They painted it too. It may attract jungle birds. The best thing? Cutter's mother captured several phases of the building project on video. Sturdy as the feeder is, the more lasting treasure is likely to be the video footage.

And there you have it. Sometimes it's not the gift that counts but the documentation that accompanies it - whether the object itself is a home-built bird feeder or a quintessential turn-of-the-century level. As long as you don't put a price on the documentation effort, the best things in life are indeed free.

You can't buy coincidences either.

Our gift to Cutter was a birdhouse kit. We had no idea he was building us the feeder. Nor did we know when we gave him a wooden architectural Legos puzzle that his mother had wanted to buy him the very same thing.

It would be nice to be able to plan such coincidences. But why displace the magic? It's part of Christmas.

Cotton prices expected to remain flat in 2015

BRYAN - Cotton prices are projected to remain flat heading into 2015 as China continues to hold large supplies of cotton and consumption rates remain low, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service cotton economist in College Station.

Dr. John Robinson gave a cotton outlook presentation at the 26th Texas Plant Protection Association Conference in Bryan recently.

"The cotton market is not booming as yarn prices remain flat," Robinson said. "We're not in a recession, but in a period of low growth and modest consump-

tion. We don't see anything that would pull up cotton prices in the near term."

Robinson said speculative funds have been swinging from net short to neutral, and cotton futures have just hung in there around 60 cents.

For now, Chinese policy is one of the major influencers of the market. "That, and the fact that more of the Chinese new crop cotton and reserves are getting used by China rather than buying U.S. exports continues to weigh heavily on market prices," he said.

"If you have cotton in the loan, I would think about

selling it and maybe use a call option strategy," he added. "The end of the year carryover is projected to be more than 4 million bales. That's more than enough cotton to fulfill demand."

The 2015 outlook has projections of 15 million to 16 million bales produced in the U.S. "We will still plant plenty of acres despite projections of fewer planted acres," Robinson said.

"I don't see any reason for new crop prices to be higher than old crop prices."

Happy New Year

Best wishes in 2015 from all of us to you!

*From the staff at the News-Courier
James, Cheryl, Vonda*

THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

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Advancing to state



Sheldon Baty, McKayla Bailey and Kate Baker will be competing in the state UIL Congress competition Jan. 12-14 in Austin after sweeping the top three places in the district competition earlier

Perry files bill on housing vouchers

LUBBOCK—Sen. Charles Perry filed SB 267 last week to ensure businesses have the freedom to choose whether or not to accept Federal Housing Vouchers as a form of payment for rent.

“Accepting federal housing vouchers was never intended to be mandatory,” said Perry. “Businesses should not be forced to partner with a governmental agency that significantly impacts its flexibility and day-to-day operations.”

Contracts drafted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) can be terminated without penalty. HUD can withhold rent, inspect apartments, control rent increases and mandate utility allowances. Additionally, sequesters can result in decreased or delayed payments

of rent.

Currently, 11 states and more than 30 jurisdictions have passed regulations requiring businesses to accept government housing vouchers as a form of payment for rent. These ordinances are passed under the guise of anti-discrimination but in reality force local businesses to accept one-sided lease contracts with numerous strings attached.

“There is a push in Texas to implement these Obama-style policies in many of our cities,” continued Perry. “The legislature needs to be proactive and protect Texas businesses before these ordinances become a significant problem for our growing state.”

Plan ahead for sober ride

AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Transportation reminds motorists that law enforcement will be out in force on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day in an effort to reduce crashes and discourage drunk driving.

“The New Year's Eve holiday has historically been a dangerous time on our roadways,” said TxDOT Executive Director Lt. Gen. Joe Weber, USMC (Ret). “Texans should plan ahead for a sober ride or risk suffering the consequences. Drunk driving will not be

tolerated in Texas.” TxDOT's annual Holiday Impaired Driving Campaign began Dec. 1 and runs through New Year's Day to promote the importance of planning for a sober ride. The campaign coincides with an increase in law enforcement patrols aimed at reducing the number of impaired driving crashes in Texas during the holiday season. Numerous law enforcement agencies throughout the state also will implement no-refusal initiatives.

Drivers arrested for DWI can face jail time

and up to \$17,000 in court costs and legal fees. The legal limit for intoxication in Texas is .08 blood or breath alcohol concentration (BAC).

During last year's New Year's holiday (from 6 p.m. on Dec. 31 to midnight on Jan. 1), there were 218 DUI alcohol-related traffic crashes in Texas resulting in 10 fatalities and 76 injuries (both incapacitating and non-incapacitating). These DUI alcohol-related fatalities marked an increase of 25 percent from the previous holiday.

Replacing water heaters now could save money

By Kent Mahoney

If you are in the market to replace your hot water heater, do it now, or suffer a huge price increase after April of the coming year.

According to the US Department of Energy, emission standards as well as size and venting requirements, could add as much as \$200 to the cost and installation of a new unit.

Standards that were set back in the 1990s have increased over the last few years and will continue to do so through 2019, according to the DOE.

“The standard will avoid about 316.8 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions, equivalent to the annual greenhouse gas emissions of about 62.1 million automobiles,” the DOE website says for units sold in 2004.

Gas, oil and electric heaters have had just one size limitation (20 gallons to 100 gallons) up until now. Going forward, gas and electric heaters will have two size limitation, 20 to 55 gallons and 55 to 100 gallons.

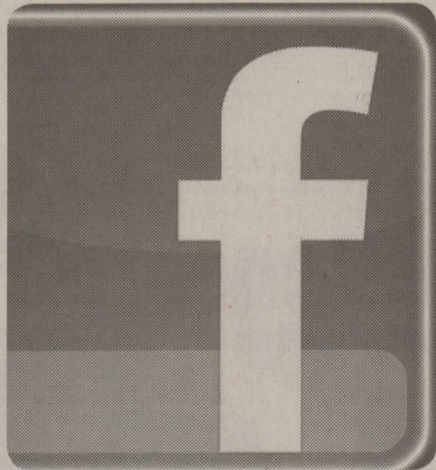
The energy factor of 0.67 for gas and

0.97 for electric have changed to 0.675 for the smaller gas and 0.8012 for the larger gas heaters. On the electric side, the factor has gone to 0.960 for smaller tanks and 2.057 for the larger tanks.

“Standards mandatory in 2015 will save approximately 3.3 quads of energy and result in approximately \$63 billion in energy bill savings for products shipped from 2015-2044,” the report says. “The standard will avoid about 172.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions, equivalent to the annual greenhouse gas emissions of about 33.8 million automobiles.”

Also changing is the requirement on the larger (55 gallons and higher) for the flue type. Rather than the tradition light metal flue, the new requirements are calling for a PVC pipe instead, which could add several dollars to a couple of hundred dollars to the price of installation depending on the height of the building.

If a hot water heater is older than 10 years, it is probably a good idea to change it out and doing so in the next three months could save you hundreds of dollars.



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Shirley Angerer retires from First State Bank



SHIRLEY ANGERER

MUNDAY—Shirley Angerer is retiring today from the First State Bank after 33 years.

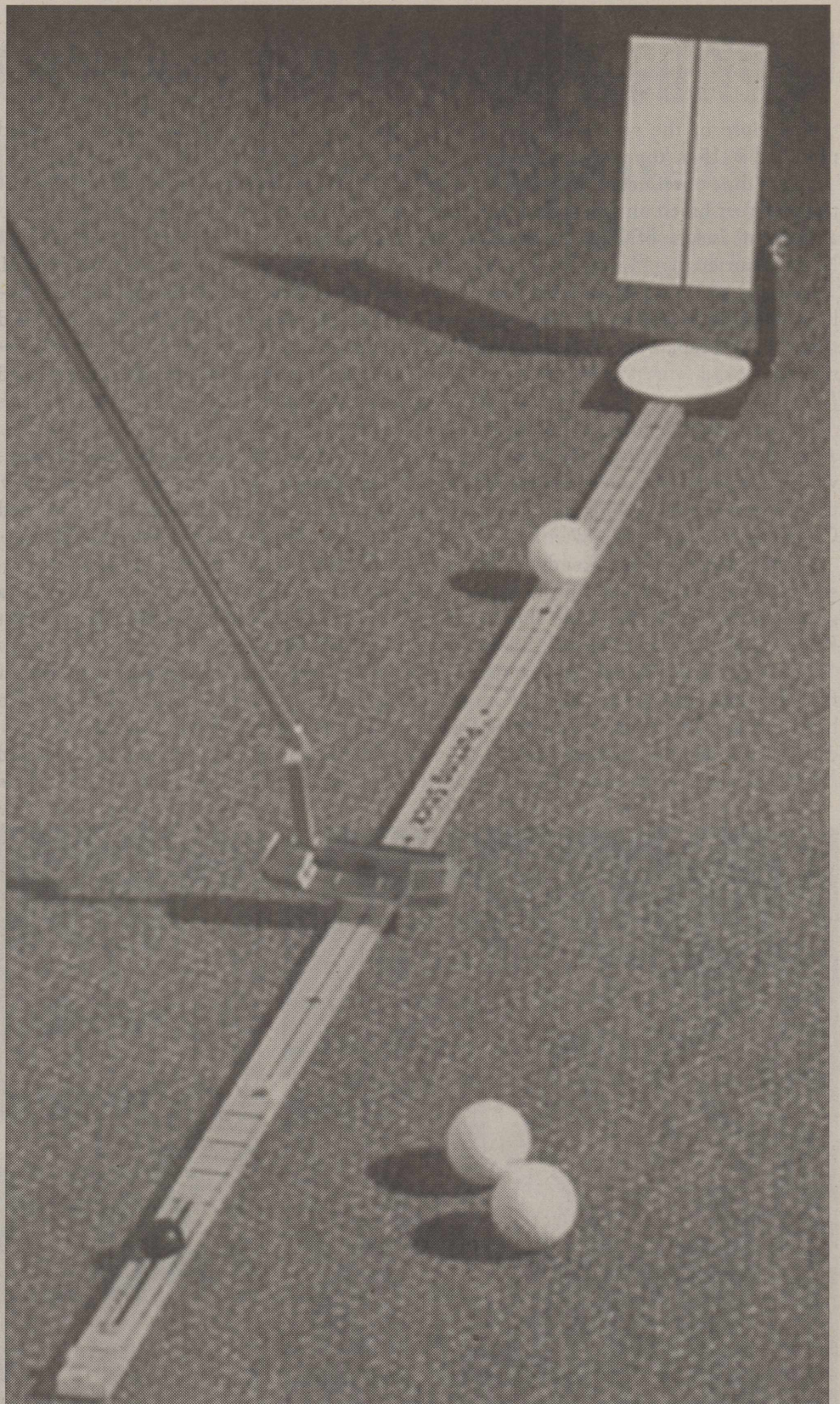
"They were remodeling when I started work here Aug. 31, 1981 and again now as I am leaving," she said.

Angerer has worn many hats at the bank of the year, including more than 10 years as a teller. "Bookkeeping was my favorite," she noted.

Angerer moved to Munday in 1970

when her late husband got a position with the Texas A&M Research Center and had three sons who graduated from Munday High School.

Pat works for Wylie Implement in Munday while Matt is a driller living in Vernon. Brad is deceased. "His proudest moment was being a member of the state championship football team in 1984," Shirley added.



Texas teaching pros using Putting Stick

A pair of Texas teaching professionals have joined a long list of other teachers who have incorporated the Putting Stick training aid into practice routines for their students.

Jon Sinclair of Sinclair's Golf Center in Eules started using the Putting Stick with all his students after seeing video evidence of how it helped Bo Van Pelt, who Sinclair tested before and after he started using the training aid as part of his putting practice. "The Putting Stick has proven itself with scientific evidence as well as pure results with the players I work with," Sinclair said.

Fellow Texas teaching pro Joey

Wuertemberger of the Jim McLean Golf Center in Fort Worth agrees. "The Putting Stick provides excellent feedback to my students in many different important areas, but most important it provides instant feedback on how the putter face is aligned relative to the putter path around impact."

Vlad Gribovsky of TPK Golf, the distributor of the training aid, added, "We've gotten endorsements from some of the game's other best teachers during the past year and have seen many touring professionals starting to incorporate it into their putting practice routines."

*Thanks for Reading the
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MUNDAY YOUTH SUPPORTERS

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<p>Munday Tire & Appliance Shahan Bros. 940-422-4821</p>	<p>Buds For You 422-4712 Furniture & Decor at Bud's #2 on Main</p>	<p>Jim Cowsert Farm and Ranch Appraisals 940-256-0708</p>	<p>THIS SPACE AVAILABLE!</p>	<p>PETTY FLYING SERVICE 800-687-3327 • www.pettyflying.com</p>	<p>First Bank Texas Munday Office 111 South Munday Ave. • (940) 422-4522 Equal Housing LENDER</p>
<p>Knox County Hospital District Your Hometown Healthcare Team</p> <p>Munday Clinic 940-422-5271</p>	<p>QUALITY IMPLEMENT CO. 940-422-4534</p>	<p>Knox County Hospital District Your Hometown Healthcare Team</p> <p>Munday Nursing Center 940-422-4541</p>	<p>CHARLES BAKER INSURANCE 422-4722 Agent: Jan Searcey, CIC</p>	<p>CAPITAL FARM CREDIT FCS 940-422-4323</p>	<p>Knox County Hospital District Your Hometown Healthcare Team</p> <p>Knox County EMS - Munday Station 940-422-4400</p>
<p>Glenn Herring INSURANCE AGENCY 940-422-4359</p> <p>Germania INSURANCE</p>	<p> LAWRENCE BROTHERS SUPERMARKETS 940-422-4133</p>	<p>THIS SPACE AVAILABLE!</p>	<p>THIS SPACE AVAILABLE!</p>	<p> Messer Photography</p>	<p>A+ AUTO & FARM SUPPLY PARTS & PLUS 940-422-4400</p>

Looking at 2014 in our rearview mirror

The close of the year 2014 is drawing nigh and 2015 is knocking at our door.

So it's time to reflect on the memories of the past year based on going back through a year of issues of The Knox County News-Courier.

Let's start making those New Year resolutions and try to keep at least some of them as we prepare to create new memories.

January

Sammy Baugh White, a lifelong farmer and voice of the Knox City Greyhounds who was one of the men responsible for the success of the Knox City Country Club, passed away at age 87.

Kristen Kuehler and Kendall Thompson claimed grand champion and reserve grand champion in the swine show at the Knox County Junior Livestock Show.

The Knox City Houndettes thought at first they had suffered a 48-38 to Crowell, but the Lady Wildcats had to forfeit because of an ineligible player.

The contract of Munday CISD super-

intendent Robert Dillard was extended through June 30, 2017.

The Turnrow Grill moved from Weinert to Knox City.

February

The UIL alignment was announced, putting Munday in District 7-2A/Division II, Knox City in 8-1A/Division I and Benjamin in 11-1A/Division II for football. Benjamin and Munday were placed in 8-1A and Knox City in 7-1A in basketball.

Knox County was blanketed with anywhere from eight inches to a foot of snow. Makaylie Steele of Knox City earned district offensive MVP, but the Houndettes fell 50-37 to Spur in bi-district.

The Munday Mogulettes suffered a 51-42 loss in double overtime in the first round of the playoffs.

Cecil Bingham, meat market manager at the Knox City Lawrence Brothers, died in a car crash on his way into work.

The Knox City Greyhounds claimed a 64-48 bi-district win over the Guthrie

Jaguars, but then dropped an 83-53 decision in the area round to Graford.

Margaret Martinez of Seymour took the Viewer's Choice award at the 20th Cotton Pickin' Quilt Show at the Knox Prairie Events Center in Goree.

March

The race for the Republican spot as Knox County Judge headed to a runoff as Jim Dillon garnered 44 per cent to 36 per cent for incumbent Travis Floyd.

The Knox City Greyhound Pride Band claimed the coveted Sweepstakes Award after receiving a 1 rating in a UIL contest in Anson.

A rare blood moon dazzled the skies of Knox County.

Jessica Wilborn of Knox City earned a first place in the extemporary speech category of the Oil Belt District.

Knox City High School principal Rick Moeller announced he was leaving to take over as superintendent at Paint Creek ISD.

Knox City High School had to settle for

the role as alternate in the District 10-1A UIL one-act play category.

April

Leona Burkham named top resident in Knox City.

Jordan and Melanie Ruiz won breed championships at Houston Stock Show.

The City of Munday raised base water rates by \$5.

Jim Dillon drops out of runoff election for Republicans' judge candidate.

May

The Knox City Volunteer Fire Department raised 4,500 at its annual benefit golf tournament.

Ryan Cottingham, Trey Singleton and Karen Longan were elected to the Munday City Council.

L.J. Collier of Munday and Tynne Eaton of Knox City claimed gold medals in discus at the state track meet in Austin.

Elias Nevarez and Kelsey Vasquez re-

CONTINUED on Page 7

2015
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REVIEW

From Page 6

ceived the coveted Fight Hearts Awards at the Knox City High School athletic banquet.

Kimberly Marentes and Elissa Sepeda were recognized as valedictorian and salutatorian at Benjamin. Zachary Carter and Tanna Moeller took honors in Knox City while Haley Ericson and Tatum Bufkin headed the Munday class.

Raci Dillard took a bronze medal in the state poetry contest in Austin.

Ronny Lowrance recognized as winner of the Fighting Heart Award at Munday High athletic banquet.

June

Knox City and Munday decided to close their municipal swimming pools for the summer because of the drought.

Knox City-O'Brien and Benjamin celebrated homecomings.

JoAnn Albus and Belle Grill recognized as winners of Pioneer Women awards at Benjamin Ranch Rodeo.

Colin Howeth selected as the new KCHS principal.

The MHS cheerleaders won the spirit award at National Cheer Association camp in Lubbock.

The Blue team claimed a 71-26 win over the Red in the Brazos Bowl.

Richard Candelaria hired as new police chief in Knox City.

The KCHS cheerleaders claimed two awards at Universal Cheerleading Association camp in Grapevine.

July

The Munday City

Council approved a renovation of the historic Rock Church.

The 26th annual Watermelon Festival was held in Knox City

August

James McAfee named as new editor, general manager for The Knox County News-Courier.

The Knox County Hospital added a Coumadin Clinic.

September

Reinvestment zone approved for Knox County.

Sheriff Dean Homstad receives award from Texas Department of Transportation.

Career Day at the Knox Prairie Events Center a big success.

Munday celebrated its every four year homecoming.

Raci Dillard crowned homecoming queen.

Vonda Carter and Cheryl Daniel joined the staff at The Knox County News-Courier.

October

Goree, Weinert and O'Brien celebrate homecomings.

The Munday Purple Cloud band received 1 rating at UIL regional marching contest while the Knox City Pride band got a 2 rating.

Munday named all-star community.

November

Judge Travis Floyd re-elected while deputy Lisa Cypert earned enough votes to replace Annette Offutt as district clerk, Rosie Ake elected as treasurer and Augie Rodriguez as justice of peace. Daniel Godsey and Nathan Urbanczyk elected as new county commissioners.

Janie Salinas earns silver medal at Class A state cross country meet in

Round Rock.

The Munday Mogulettes lose bi-district volleyball match against eventual state finalist Archer City.

Munday's Raci Dillard earned repeat Class A all-state honors in volleyball.

Knox City beaten by Ira, 58-8, in bi-district.

Munday blanked Baird, 47-0, in bi-district, but lose 26-13 to Winters in the area round.

Ranch Royalty & Cowboy Honor store opens in Knox City.

More than 600 enjoy Munday Community Thanksgiving Meal.

Santa Claus arrived in both Knox City and Munday as local merchants stayed open on a Saturday night.

December

The Munday Community Choir, under the direction of Sandy King, presented "The First Noel" at the First Baptist Church in Munday.

The Church of Christ in Munday hosted Breakfast with Santa.

Temerick Reagins, a junior at Munday High School, named to the second team Class 2A all-state team as a defensive end.

Knox City senior center Zach Rodriguez and junior safety Elias Nevarez named to the Six-Man Football Division I Region 2 all-region football team.

Rick Ake announced he was stepping down as the City of Munday administrator to accept a position with the Aspermont Small Business Development Center's Double Mountain Coach organization.

Get paid for your healthy New Year's resolutions

By Marshall Dawer

Every year, about 45 percent of Americans make New Year's resolutions, especially commitments to exercise more, eat better and improve one's health. However, research shows fewer than half of those pledges will be successful.

But what if you could save money or even get paid for making and achieving some of those New Year's resolutions, especially those aimed at improving your health? That's the idea behind a range of new health benefits plans and incentive programs offered by a growing number of employers, including many companies in North Texas.

In fact, almost 80 percent of U.S. employers offer worksite wellness programs, many featuring financial incentives, according to the National Committee for Quality Assurance.

Helping to drive the trend is the recognition that more needs to be done to improve wellness and prevent disease. For example, the Affordable Care Act allows employers to make available to their employees rewards of up to 30 percent of the cost of coverage for participating in a wellness program or meeting certain health measures, such as for body mass index, blood pressure or cholesterol.

Here are three ways to help people make the most of their New Year's resolutions to improve both their health and finances:

- Some health plans offer gift cards, premium reductions or even direct financial contributions to health savings accounts for employees who engage in wellness activities, such as completing an online health assessment, a telephone-based health coaching program or an at-home health screening.

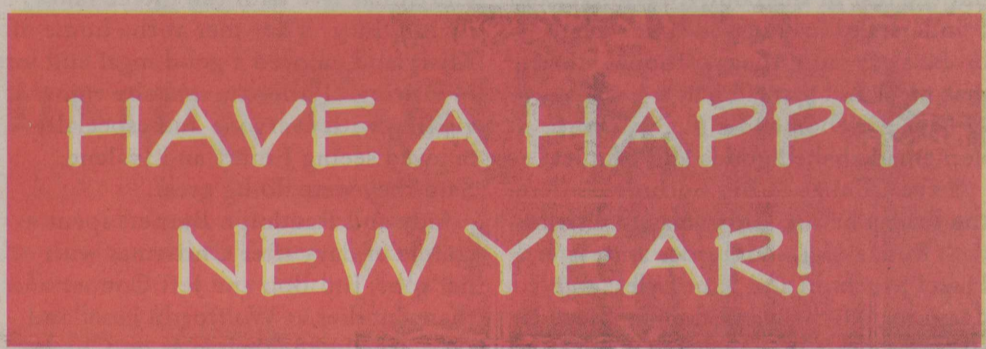
For instance, UnitedHealthcare offers employers in Texas Personal Rewards, a wellness program that enables an employee to earn up to \$600 per year, or \$1,200 per couple, for addressing body mass index, blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol levels.

- Another example is the Diabetes Health Plan. This plan enables people with diabetes to save up to \$500 per year through lower copays and discounts on drugs by following their doctors' recommended treatments, which are based on guidelines from the American Diabetes Association. The Diabetes Health Plan, offered by UnitedHealthcare, is an example of the growing trend of value-based benefit designs, which use incentives to help improve health outcomes.

- The new year is also a good time to evaluate whether you have the necessary level of financial protection to get you through an unforeseen medical issue. A life, disability or critical illness & accident insurance policy can provide peace of mind so you can focus on getting better. Some Americans are underinsured or lack life insurance altogether to protect their most important asset - their ability to earn an income. In addition, some people don't realize that giving up just one family night at a restaurant could be enough to provide a full year of additional life insurance protection through their workplace coverage.

The new year is a great time to reflect on your personal and financial health. By taking advantage of available resources, people can improve both their waistlines and their wallets.

Marshall Dawer, M.D. M.S. F.A.C.P. ABEM, Market Medical Director, UnitedHealthcare of North Texas



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Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

Well, after a couple of weeks of flu and recuperating, I'm finally getting a little news written. I'm sorry for not having any last week, but just wasn't up to getting it all together. The flu and other ailments have been raging over this way, and I'm pretty sure it has been taking its toll all over the area. It's sure not any fun, and it sure is nice once you begin to pull out of it. About the only effect I have now is that I'm still pretty weak. Guess that will be gone in time.

There was some news before Christmas. Janice Tolson called to say she had attended funerals of two relatives. One was for a cousin, Dale Doyle, in Eldorado, OK, and one was for an uncle, Otto Wade, in Ringling, Oklahoma. She said Mr. Wade was 94 years of age and leaves his wife of 76 years. She said the wife's health is not good, and of course, the loss of her husband is hard on her. Janice said Buddy is doing great, and the latest I have heard about her is that she has the shingles! I've never had them, but I understand they are very painful. Maybe they won't last long. Best news they have is another new great granddaughter. Chloe and David Stiewert have a new baby girl born early last week. No vital stats on her—just that they all are doing

On Dec. 20, Pam and Dennis Duke and their family once again hosted their annual open house and Christmas party. I didn't get to attend but am told it was again very well attended with lots of good food and a chance to visit friends and neighbors. That's a wonderful thing the Dukes do every year, and enjoyed by everyone.

Also on the 20th, my family had the family Christmas party at the home of Mike and Debi Moorhouse. Another event I had to miss because of the flu, but the rest of the family was there, and I understand had a good time. They broke away from the traditional Christmas meal and instead had a "feast" of Mexican food and a huge array of homemade baked goods and candies.

Steve Conner of Big Spring was here the Friday before Christmas to visit his dad, Bud, and grandmother and sister, Hazel Stockton and Kim Lyles, and daughter, Michele and family. Steve is still off work from an accident he was in several weeks ago. Pressure built up in an oil well he was checking and blew out. Anyway, the impact blew him several yards, and he's still sore from it. He was scheduled to see his doctor again and may be released to go back to work. He's ready, I

On Tuesday, Dec. 16, the 'bunch' at Bud's Cafe in Knox City had their Christmas party at the cafe. Most of the employees (except those who were sick) were there for a wonderful meal and Chinese Christmas.

The Christmas news is kinda sparse. So much sickness that lots of folks just stayed home and tried to get better. Imagean Young had company on Christmas Day. Daughter, Deann Lamb, came over for the day from the Munday Nursing Center. She thinks she might be home sometime in January or early February. Other guests of Imagean were Valerie Mendoza and Mike Young of Benjamin, and Jessica Lamb of Bowie. She said they all had a good time.

Charles and Linda Griffith were in Lubbock Christmas Day with their daughters and their families at the home of their daughter and son-in-law,

Lori and Rickey LaShomb. Also there were Amy and Vince Tyson and family of Clovis, NM, and Becky and Kemp Jones and family of Knox City. Linda "came down" with a middle ear infection after she got back and just feels horrible. Said she may be some better now but still does not feel the best in the world.

Irene Reed was home by herself Christmas trying to get over a terrible viral infection. Said her daughter, Teresa Kuehler, brought her lunch to her, and she stayed right in the house, ate it, and tried to get to feeling better. She's a little better today but still not well by any means.

Brittney Kuehler of Wichita Falls spent Christmas with her parents, Mark and Teresa. Dicky and Laura McCanlies spent Christmas with their daughter, Jenna Copeland and family in Wichita Falls. Lonnie Bohannon of Abilene and Chance and Chase Bohannon of Eastland spent Christmas with their parents and grandparents, Betty and Roger.

My sympathy to the family of Charles Hertel today. Charles passed away early last week after many years of failing health. His funeral—graveside rites—was held last Saturday at the Benjamin Cemetery.

I have also learned of the death of Donna Saffel. Donna's husband in Gerald Saffel, who was in law enforcement here in Knox County several years ago. My sincere sympathy to that family also.

My daughter, Diane Evans, and granddaughter, Ashlee, of Childress were here on Saturday. They and Mike and Debi Moorhouse had lunch with me and a nice visit. Diane's husband, Mike, was stripping cotton and didn't get to come.

Philomae Roberson and grandson, Tres Pierce, and Briceton Pierce spent Christmas Eve with the Pierce family in Olney. They met at the home of Misty and enjoyed a good meal and lots of visiting. Philomae said she enjoyed visiting with everyone and especially enjoyed seeing Jimmy and Ivalene. Said they were doing great.

Judy and Randolph Barnett spent a couple of days after Christmas with her sons, Jim Bob and Jeff Conner and their families at Wolfforth. Janet and Gary Reed had Christmas on Christmas Eve with her children here. Enjoying the day were Blaine Neil and family of Abilene, Clayton Conner and family of Lubbock and Michele Barrientez and family of Benjamin. Blaine's daughter, Shay, had undergone some bone graft surgery on Monday. No word yet if it did what it was supposed to do. That problem is a result of the 4-wheeler accident she was involved in last March.

Dorothy Spikes and Penny Eaton enjoyed Christmas visiting with her sons, Guy in Seymour and Rusty and his wife, Janice, of Archer City. Her other son, Tye, who lives near Huntsville was unable to be here as he is recovering from a fall from his horse. He's doing better but is unable to drive, so is dependent on someone else to take him places. Of course, he doesn't like that but is dealing with it pretty well. Guy's wife, Donna, and son, Chris, were visiting their daughter (and sister) Sara in California for the holidays.

I'll try to have more holiday happenings next week. Meanwhile, Happy New Year to you all. I hope 2015 is extra good to you.

Church Directory

Abundant Life Christian Fellowship
308 E. Main, Knox City 658-3384

Assembly of God Church
260 First St., Munday 422-4769

Believers Chapel
12444 Hwy. 22, Munday 422-4885

Benjamin Baptist Church
Benjamin

Church of Christ
Benjamin

Church of Christ
507 SE 2nd, Knox City 657-3131

First Baptist Church Goree
208 N. 3rd, Goree 422-5265

First Baptist Church of Knox City
200 S. Central, Knox City 657-3141

First Baptist Church of Munday
220 S. 5th, Munday 422-4559

First Baptist Church of O'Brien
902 Grand Central, O'Brien 658-3553

First United Methodist
Benjamin

First United Methodist Church
406 SE 2nd, Knox City 658-3517

First United Methodist Church
630 W. Main, Munday 422-5144

Foursquare Church
221 E. Main, Knox City 658-3345

Gillespie Baptist Church
Hwy. 222 657-3285

Gilliland Baptist Church
Gilliland 658-5125

Liberty Church of God in Christ
302 N. Aspen, Knox City 657-5569

Munday Church of Christ
330 N. 3rd, Munday 422-4731

Saint Joseph's Catholic Church
10180 CR 6010, Rhineland 422-4994

Santa Rosa Catholic Church
210 N. Ave G, Knox City 658-5062

West Bula Community Baptist
207 N. 6th, Munday 422-8046

Gifts for grandkids



James McAfee/The Knox County News-Courier

Homer Lowrance puts one of the gifts for a grandchild into a Christmas gift bag. His late wife Jacqueline made five quilts before she passed away earlier this year and Homer gave them to the grandkids at Christmas.

Painkillers will be harder to come by

WASHINGTON—New federal rules have moved products with hydrocodone into a stricter drug class usually reserved for the most dangerous and addictive substances. So it will be more difficult to refill prescriptions for the most popular painkillers.

The Drug Enforcement Administration cited the seven million Americans who abuse prescription drugs and the 100,000+ overdose deaths from painkillers as the reason.

The rule change means:

*Prescriptions for hydrocodone combination painkillers can only be for a

30-day supply.

*No refills will be allowed.

*Each prescription must be handwritten by a doctor, not a nurse practitioner, physician assistant or other midlevel provider.

*No phone or fax prescriptions will be allowed.

The changes will be the most burdensome for patients with cancer, disabilities and those who live in rural areas like Knox County or in nursing homes.

Physicians will now have to think twice about whether it's necessary to prescribe one of the drugs or maybe

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New helicopter to assist Texas game wardens

Five need-to-know winter energy savings tips

AUSTIN — The Texas Game Warden unveiled its new Airbus AS350B3e helicopter that will enhance the department's statewide law enforcement apparatus and assist with its search and rescue and disaster response efforts.

The aircraft is outfitted with the latest law enforcement technology and emergency response equipment including a rescue hoist, thermal imager, searchlight, public address system, satellite communication and night vision. Funding for the new aircraft, which was approximately \$5 million, was made possible through legislative appropriation during the 83rd Texas Legislative session.

"This helicopter is going to be a tremendous asset and force multiplier for the Texas Game Wardens," said Col. Craig Hunter, TPWD Law Enforcement Director. "We will not only be able to more efficiently move personnel and equipment across the state, but with the addition of the new hoist system, we will be able to better leverage our marine and ground assets to enhance our search and rescue capabilities during times of disaster."

Among the new aircraft's advantages are its ability to carry additional game wardens including its K9 teams during remote search and rescue missions or other specially trained personnel for specific assignments. In addition to the new helicopter, the department also has a fixed wing 2009 Turbo Cessna Model 206 aircraft.



dens including its K9 teams during remote search and rescue missions or other specially trained personnel for specific assignments. In addition to the new helicopter, the department also has a fixed wing 2009 Turbo Cessna Model 206 aircraft.

December 21 marked the official start of winter and heavy storms have already blanketed much of the U.S. Before more storms hit and even colder days arrive, here are tips to keep houses warm and the utility bill affordable. Heating costs rise during the winter months but these tips can help reduce the amount of money spent on heating the home.

Adjust the temperature

To decrease the cost of heating a home, lower the thermostat setting when not in the home. The typical thermostat setting during the winter months is 78 degrees. Lower the temperature to 72 degrees when at work or leaving the home for more than a few hours.

Maintain the heating system

tem

One way to reduce the amount of energy spent during the winter months is to make sure the heating system isn't costing more money than it should to run. Have a certified HVAC technician check over the heating system before the cold weather sets in. A proper furnace tune-up will make sure the system is ready to go for winter.

Keep vents and registers open

Blocked or closed vents and registers make furnaces work harder than they should. Blocked vents do not allow for proper airflow. The furnace will continue to run but the rooms will not heat up. Always unblock and open all vents

and registers before running the furnace.

Check the thermostat

Before starting the furnace, check to make sure the thermostat is in proper working order. To reduce the electric bill, install a programmable thermostat to control the temperature of the home from a mobile device.

Turn down the water heater temperature

According to energy.gov, water heaters can account for up to 25 percent of the energy consumed in the home. By turning the temperature of the water heater down to 120 degrees, homeowners can reduce the amount of energy it takes to run the water heater.

Pet Talk

Cervical Spondylomyelopathy, also known as wobbler syndrome, is a neurological condition in dogs that affects their cervical spine, or neck region. A compression of the spinal cord and nerve roots, wobbler syndrome gets its name from the characteristic "wobbly" walk that affected dogs typically display from the disease.

"There are two forms of cervical spondylomyelopathy," said Dr. Megan Steele, a veterinary resident at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. "There is a disc-associated form that causes ventral spinal cord compression and dorsal, lateral bone and joint proliferation causing dorsolateral spinal cord compression."

Wobbler syndrome is typically a progressive disease most commonly found in larger dog breeds, such as Doberman Pinschers,

Great Danes and Mastiffs.

"Symptoms can vary widely from mild neck pain to an inability to walk in all four limbs," said Dr. Steele. "Often, pelvic limb weakness and ataxia, or weakness, is more severe than in the thoracic limbs. A classic, two-engine gait is seen in dogs with low cervical lesions causing a short, choppy gait in the thoracic limbs and a long, sweeping gait in the pelvic limbs."

Other symptoms often include weakness, difficulty getting up from a lying position, and possible muscle loss. Clinical signs are typically slow and gradual in onset, though acute worsening can occur. If your dog appears to show signs of any of these, especially difficulty walking or any unusual neck pains, a trip to the veterinarian for a diagnosis is a recommended.

In order to properly diagnose your dog for wobbler syndrome, your veterinarian

may perform advanced imaging such as radiographs, computed tomography (CT) and myelography to characterize the degree of spinal compression. "A definitive diagnosis is best made from an MRI as this gives us the best information of what is happening to the spinal cord itself, a soft tissue structure," said Dr. Steele.

Treatment for wobbler syndrome, like for many other disorders, is greatly dependent on the location and severity of the problem. Cervical surgical procedures are typically the recommended treatment option for the best chance of improvement, but as with any surgery, there is always a risk of complications. For affected dogs in which surgery is not appropriate, medical management is another reliable treatment option.

Medical management is a viable treatment option in dogs with mild clinical signs or dogs with spinal cord compression in multiple locations, or that have comorbidities making them poor surgical candidates. Medically treated dogs need to have restricted activity for at least two months, along with close observation and any other recommended therapy. The goals of medical management are to provide adequate pain control and hopefully delay or prevent disease worsening.

By Bob Moos

Southwest Public Affairs officer
U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Now's the time to check your health care coverage for 2015 or sign up for the first time.

More than 7 million Americans, including 733,757 Texans, got coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace during the program's first open enrollment period a year ago.

This year's marketplace open enrollment began on Nov. 15.

If you bought a health plan last year, you'll want to review it to make sure it still meets your needs. Every year, insurers make changes to premiums, out-of-pocket costs and benefits. Look for a letter from your insurance company explaining how your costs and benefits may change for 2015.

Even if you're satisfied with your current coverage, it'll be smart to log into your marketplace account at www.healthcare.gov and update your information on household income and family size. You may also contact the marketplace call center at 1-800-318-2596 to do that.

Updating your personal information is important, because you may be eligible for lower costs than last year. Eighty-four percent of the Texans who signed up during the first enrollment period qualified for help

with their premiums. That help reduced their costs by 76 percent on average.

Generally, if you bought a plan last year and do nothing this year, you'll be automatically re-enrolled. Yet as tempting as "doing nothing" sounds, you could be missing out on a better deal.

Nationally, 25 percent more insurers will offer coverage through the marketplace in 2015. By comparing all the available plans in your area at www.healthcare.gov, you may find one that saves you more money, offers more services or includes more doctors in its network of providers.

The open enrollment season runs until Feb. 15. But if you want any changes in your coverage to take effect on Jan. 1, you must act by Dec. 15.

Like last year, this year's open enrollment gives the uninsured the chance to obtain coverage through the marketplace. The private health plans all cover a comprehensive set of benefits, including doctor visits, hospital stays, preventive care, pregnancy and prescription drugs.

Health plans sold through the marketplace must treat you fairly. Insurers can't deny you coverage because you have a medical issue, such as cancer or diabetes. Nor can they charge you more than they would someone who's in good health.

By completing an application at www.healthcare.gov, you'll find out if you qualify for savings you can use right away to lower your premiums and out-of-pocket expenses. The application has been streamlined since last year so that it requires less

time and work from most new enrollees.

The marketplace simplifies your shopping for coverage by letting you make convenient comparisons of health plans. You'll get a clear picture of what benefits you'd get and what premiums and deductibles you'd pay. Then you can enroll in the plan that best fits your needs and budget.

If you expect frequent doctor visits or need regular prescriptions, you may want to pick a plan that has higher monthly premiums but pays more of the costs when you require care. If you don't foresee many visits through the year, you may prefer a plan with lower premiums.

Also, before you buy a plan through the marketplace, check whether your doctor is in the plan's network. Your out-of-pocket costs will be lower. The most direct way to find out is to call the insurance company's customer service line. You can get the number through www.healthcare.gov.

The website has been improved over the last year so that it can better accommodate the heavy demands that will be placed on it as millions of consumers shop, compare and enroll. If you like, you'll be able to access the website on your cell phone and sign up for coverage.

At the marketplace call center, an additional 1,000 customer service representatives have been hired to assist consumers who call 1-800-318-2596. You can also visit localhelp.healthcare.gov/ to locate the organizations in your community that will assist you in signing up for coverage.

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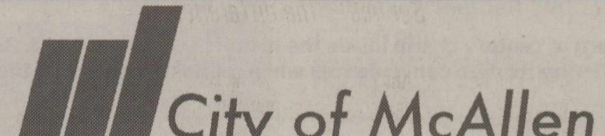
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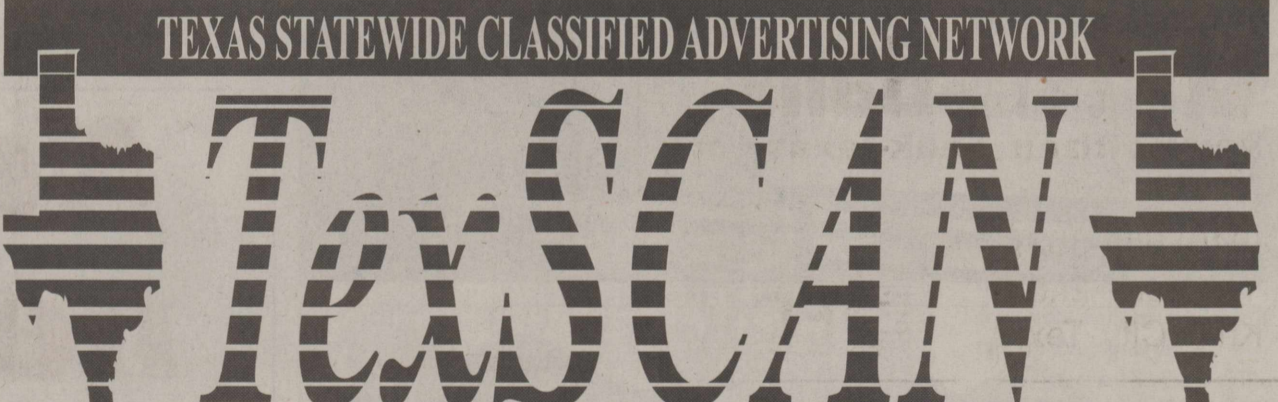
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Mac's Views

Wow, we just missed a White Christmas by two days. Driving to the Metroplex for Christmas with the kids and grandkids, I must have missed the weather forecast because I was certainly surprised last Saturday to wake up and find it snowing.



JAMES MCAFEE

After finishing up a look back at 2014, I thought it might be a good time to talk about the historic Lee House Bed and Breakfast in Munday. "It's been booked since Thanksgiving," said Karen Longan, who with husband Bill restored the old two-story house built by Dr. J.T. Lee, one of the city's founders, back in 1903.

Like other Munday residents, the Longans watched sadly as the home deteriorated as it set vacant for almost 15 years. "We were afraid it would be torn down," Karen said after the Longans purchased it in 2004.

The couple took on the do-it-yourself assignment of restoring the home, proclaiming "we're not doing a renovation, we're doing a restoration."

The Longans finished the upstairs in 2006 and started renting it. It wasn't until 2009 that the project was finished where the entire home was available for rent. "Actually, we still do a few

renovations even now," Karen added.

Restoring and protecting Munday's history is dear to Karen's heart since she is president of Keep Munday Beautiful. It's sad to see all the old dilapidated places around Knox County, but it is a common occurrence in a lot of small towns today. Driving through Vernon, two of the homes where I lived as a kid are either in that condition or torn down. The exception was the brick house.

The Lee House, which now features five bedrooms, 2.5 baths, two parlors, a dining room and a kitchen, has all the modern conveniences, but retains an essence of the past with plenty of antique memorabilia inside.

I was lucky enough to spend three nights here when I started work here back in August and took a few photos (shown elsewhere on this page) to show others in Knox County what can be done with a lot of hard work to restore something worth saving.

Here are a few of the comments I read in the guest book from people who have stayed in the Lee House:

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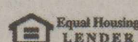
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