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# THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

HOME OF ZACHARY RODRIQUEZ

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2015

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## Munday pool to open this summer

MUNDAY — There's good news for the kids in Munday. All signs point toward the swimming pool being open this summer.

The Munday Park Project is making an effort to raise additional funds to help get the pool ready for the summer. "All donations will be used to make repairs to the swimming pool, paint it and pay for expenses throughout the summer," said Hali Kuehler.

In addition, a drive-by fundraiser is scheduled Sunday in front of Casablanca on Main Street, starting at 11 a.m. The cost for a BBQ sandwich, chips and dessert will be \$8. All money raised will go to help with the opening of the pool.

Kuehler also indicated that a clean up of the park is scheduled Saturday starting at 8 a.m. Volunteers are needed, especially ones who can help with tree trimming.

## Stamford lawyer takes over Knox County Abstract



James McAfee/The Knox County News-Courier

Bobby Burnett hands over Knox County Abstract to James Decker

MUNDAY — James Decker, a lawyer who is a partner in the Shahan Guevara Decker law firm in Stamford, has assumed the role as president of Knox County Abstract office here in Munday.

Decker will be handling home closings and practicing law out of the office at 125 W. Main Street, seeing clients by appointments.

Decker earlier acquired Sovereignty Abstract and Title in Haskell.

Bobby Burnett, now the 50th Judicial District judge with an office in Seymour, had operated the office here since March 1, 1973.

"I have complete confidence in Mr. Decker's legal ability and integrity," Barnett said. "I am confident he'll provide efficient legal services to those in Munday, Knox County and the surrounding area."

Decker graduated from Texas A&M University in 2006 with a bachelor of science degree in agribusiness. He then received his Juris Doctor (JD) from the Texas Tech University School of Law in 2009



Sheri Baty/The Knox County News-Courier

First responders and parents converge on the scene of mock drunk driving accident and repond

## Students see first hand the dangers of drinking, driving

Special to the News-Courier

KNOX CITY — Students from Knox City and Benjamin got a dose of reality last Friday when a "mock" scenario of what can happen when teenagers mix drinking with driving was played out in a program called "Shattered Dreams."

"The dreary, rainy day added the emotion and awareness, I believe," said Sheri Baty, the wife of Louis Baty, superintendent of the Knox City/O'Brien Consolidated Independent School District.

"The drunk driving accident was very realistic as the first responders arrived, including the fire department, the Knox City police department, the Department of Public Safety and the Knox County Sheriff's office. The Knox County EMS soon arrived as well as Smith Family Funeral home."

Students and parents involved had to truly go through the process as students in the

car accident actually went to the hospital and parents had to truly go and sign their student out.

"The young man who caused the accident did have to experience the field sobriety test and go to jail," Baty noted. "He was arraigned and appeared before the judge, and convicted."

"The day ended with true funerals for the victims of the accident as well as the other students who were picked throughout the day that represent people who lose their lives every 15 minutes to a drunk driver. The service was highly emotional as parents of the students stood before the crowd and gave the eulogy of their child. Words truly can not express the emotion in the auditorium."

Organizers of the Shattered Dreams programs expressed their love and concern for the students and prayed for their good choices.

## 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, May 28

MHS school awards, 10 a.m., MHS Auditorium

### Friday, May 29

MHS graduation, 7 p.m., MHS Auditorium

KC/O'Brien Junior High graduation, 7 p.m., W.R. Baker Auditorium

### Saturday, May 30

KCHS graduation, 7 p.m., W.R. Baker Auditorium

## Knox Notes

### Blood drives scheduled in Knox City, Munday

Blood drives will take place at Knox County Hospital and the Munday Clinic on Tuesday from 1-6 p.m. "Thanks to the high donor turnout at Knox County Hospital, we have expanded the blood drives in Knox County to include Munday," said Frances Baker, Meek Blood Center donor recruiter. "We hope that this will cut down on the waiting time and allow us to accommodate everyone who wants to donate blood." Each donor will receive a T-shirt and a complimentary total cholesterol test. Those who have eligibility questions may call 325 670-2880.

### Volleyball camp in KC

KNOX CITY - Knox City High School volleyball coach Brenna Hoegger will conduct a volleyball camp here Monday through Wednesday at the KCHS Gym. Kindergarten thru fifth graders will receive fundamentals from 9 a.m. until noon and then fifth to eighth graders will get individual attention. The cost will be \$40 with additional siblings getting a discount to \$20.

### Big Country Clay Shoot

GOREE - The second annual Big Country Clay Shoot, in memory of Kole Gray, is scheduled June 6 one mile east of here on Highway 277. Registration will start at 8 a.m. Shooting begins at 8:30 a.m. on a seven station course. The main event will be 50 birds with an entry fee of \$55 that includes a meal. The 30-bird shot will cost \$15 with cash prizes running all day. The flush will feature three-man teams shooting 30 birds in 60 seconds. The highest overall shooter will win a shotgun. For more information, contact Terry Gray at 940 203-1071 or Nathan Urbanczyk at 940 203-0822.

See NOTES Page 10

## Corrections

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

## News on the go



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

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## Perry's pro-life measure moves forward

LUBBOCK — After close to four hours of debate on the senate floor, pro-life legislation sponsored by Senator Charles Perry (R - Lubbock) received preliminary approval by a 20-11 vote margin.

HB 3994 is pro-life legislation that modifies the current process a minor must go through to obtain an abortion through a judicial bypass.

"We must ensure that the judicial bypass process is used as intended, not frivolously but as a tool to protect minor victims from abuse," said Senator Charles Perry. "HB 3994 strengthens parental rights, protects minors, and reduces unlawful abortions."

HB 3994 is the first piece of major pro-life legislation to pass in the 84th Legislative Session. The bill has the combined support of

Texas Right to Life, Texas Alliance for Life, Texas Catholic Conference, and the Texans for Life Coalition.

"I am proud that the final legislation is supported by all the major pro-life groups in Texas," continued Perry. "This bill could not have passed without the unified efforts of the various stakeholders, my fellow legislators, and the leadership of Lt. Governor Dan Patrick and House Author Rep. Geanie Morrison."

"The final version of the bill encompasses many needed reforms to the judicial process available to minors seeking an abortion without involvement from their parents," said Emily Kebodeaux of Texas Right to Life. "We appreciate the leadership that both Senator Perry and Representative Morrison have shown by

getting this crucial legislation a vote in the final days of the session."

"We are thrilled that the Senate has given preliminary approval to this bill to reform the judicial bypass," said Joe Pojman, President of Texas Alliance for Life. "This bill restores the right of parents to protect their minor daughters from abortion. We commend Sen. Perry for his strong defense of this wonderful bill."

The senate will give final approval to this measure on third reading tomorrow. If signed by Governor Greg Abbott, HB 3994 will become law on September 1, 2015.

If you have any questions or comments about this bill or any of Senator Perry's legislative agenda, please feel free to contact our office at 512-463-0128



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

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
\$36 a year in the county  
\$42 a year outside the county



**NOTES**  
From Page 1

**Benjamin building available**

**BENJAMIN** - Janice Tolson reminds anyone interested in renting the Benjamin Ex-Student Community Building call her at 940 256-1119. She's also looking for volunteers to mow the grass.

**Conservation meeting**

**KNOX CITY** - The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Wichita-Brazos Soil and Water Conservation District will meet June 10 at the Knox County Service meeting room to set local conservation priorities. For more info, contact Charles Schur at 940 658-3526 X3.

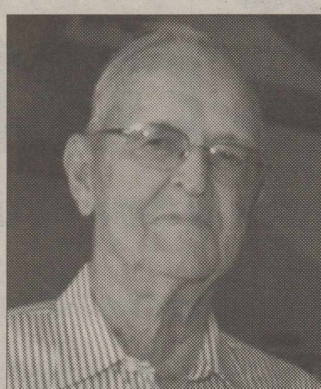
**Deaths**  
**Floyd Reed, Sr.**

Floyd L. Reed Sr. passed from his life on this earth on Saturday, May 23, 2015 in Munday at the age of 87. He was born on Dec. 25, 1927 in Arkadelphia, Ark. to John and Mary Reed. Floyd married Eldrene Pruitt on March 16, 1951 in Goree. Floyd and Rene were both members of the First Baptist Church in Munday. Floyd was saved during a revival at the First Baptist Church in Bomarton, TX in 1943, close to the area where he grew up.

Floyd graduated from Munday High School in 1946 and attended Hardin Simmons in Abilene after his graduation.

Floyd served our country for three tours in the United States Army, enlisting in Abilene and ending his tours in December of 1953. In between tours he was employed by the U. S. Postal Service in Dallas. After serving in the U. S. Army, he and Rene lived in Jal, NM, working for the Odessa Permian Oil and Gas Company before moving back to Munday in 1954. He was a self employed farmer for over 40 years in the Munday area.

During his life he served on many committees and boards, including the Munday ISD school board, the Knox County Tax Evaluation board, the Knox County Draft Board, the



**FLOYD REED, SR.**

Tax Appraisal board, the Knox Prairie Corp (serving as president), the Potato Grower's board and the O'Brien Gin.

He was an avid Munday Mogul fan and spent many hours attending and watching his three grandsons and one granddaughter in their various school activities. He also was a coach and helped with the Munday Little League. In his latter years, he was an active member of the Dairy Queen Liar's Table Club and enjoyed the fellowship with his friends.

Floyd was preceded in death by his parents John and Mary Reed, his wife Eldrene "Rene" Reed, two brothers, Royce Joe Reed and Paul Reed, four sisters, Jewell Thomas, Mary Catherine Wilson, Margie Thomas, and Virginia Yates.

He is survived by three sons Floyd Reed Jr. and wife, Phyl-

lis of Seymour, Mark Reed and wife Pam of Munday, and Eddie Reed and wife, Kristine of Suffolk, VA; grandchildren Jai Reed and wife, Jana of Ft. Worth, Trae Reed and wife Kami of Seymour, Brant Reed and wife Laci of Seymour, and Amber Reed and husband Logan Burdine of Boulder, CO. He was also blessed with six great grandchildren, Alex, Abigail, and Aiden Reed of Fort Worth and Brilee, Brenn and Bray Reed of Seymour. He is also survived by two brothers George Reed and wife Nancy of Willis, TX and Lloyd Reed of Keller, TX and sister Sarah Sharp and husband Wayne of Electra, TX.

Services were held Wednesday at the First Baptist Church in Munday with Bro. Shane Kendrix officiating. Interment followed in Johnson Memorial Cemetery under the direction of McCauley-Smith Funeral Home.

Serving as pallbearers were Amber Reed, Jai Reed, Trae Reed, Brant Reed, Alex Reed and Logan Burdine. Serving as honorary pallbearers were great grandsons Brenn and Aiden Reed.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of Wichita Falls, the American Cancer Society or First Baptist Church of Munday.

**Gladys Wanda Mincey**

Gladys Wanda Mincey, 92, passed away Friday, May 22, 2015. The funeral service was held Wednesday at Abilene Funeral Home Chapel of Hope, 3349 N. 12th Street in Abilene with Reverend Paul Chambers and Reverend Gary Wilcox officiating. Burial followed at Knox City Cemetery under the direction of Abilene Funeral Home. The family received friends at a visitation on Wednesday until service time at the funeral home.

Mrs. Mincey was born Jan. 25, 1923, in Jones County, Texas to the late Guy and Adie Tankersley Henderson. She was a member of the Knox City Four Square Church where she was a charter member. She was a mighty woman of faith. Gladys lived



**GLADYS MINCEY**

in Abilene 17 years, coming from Knox City. She was a seamstress and did alterations for the public. She loved making children's clothing and donating them to charities. At Christmas time the grandchildren expected their homemade pot holders and quilts.

Left to cherish her memories include two daughters, Wanda Westbrook and Jerene Parks and husband Bill, all of Abilene; nine grandchildren Bobby Westbrook, Debbie Webb and husband, Thomas, Chris Westbrook, Michael Westbrook, Sherice Lemons and husband, Jerome, Katrina Parks, Stephen Parks, Angela Parks and Nathan Parks; 17 great grandchildren; and 20 great-great grandchildren.

Mrs. Mincey was preceded in death by her loving husband Nathan Mincey; her parents and a son-in-law Darwin Westbrook.

Online condolences and guest book may be signed at [www.abilenefuneralhome.com](http://www.abilenefuneralhome.com)

**David Ray Speck**

David Ray Speck went to be with his Lord and Savior May 20, 2015. David was born to Bertha Bailey Speck and Alvin Ray Speck on Aug. 22, 1951. He graduated from Knox City High School in 1969. He spent his life working in the oil fields and loved his work. He was well respected for his work ethics, knowledge, and loyalty to the companies he worked

for and the people he worked with.

He was a lifetime member of the Foursquare Church in Knox City, which his grandparents, the Reverends Floyd and Jewel Bailey, were the pastors for 35 years.

He married Beverly Smith in June 1996 and learned to travel and enjoy life during the later years of his life. He loved taking a cruise the best.

David was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents. He leaves behind to cherish his memory: his loving wife Beverly Speck; a sister Carol Judiscak and Joe; a brother

Danny Speck and Sherry and his other mother Karen Speck.

In addition, his children: Elisha Gromatzky and husband Ryan, David Kyle Speck, Speck, Shana Marin, Melanie Grindstaff and Sam, Dwayne Chaney, 11 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Funeral Services were held Sunday at Foursquare Church with Gary Schnable officiating. Burial followed the services at Rochester Cemetery under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Homes. Visitation was held Saturday at the funeral home in Knox City, located at 210 Ave. A.

**Throckmorton loses coach, 2 starters**

**THROCKMORTON** - Coach Shane Mallory is leaving Throckmorton after guiding the Greyhounds to a state football title in his first season, accepting a similar post at Hermleigh High, another six-man school.

The move will mean that returning starter Coletyn, who rushed for 1,283 yards last season, will not be back since he is Mallory's step son.

It's not the only starter lost to move as Noah Batts, a junior safety, will be joining his father Troy, the former Throckmorton superintendent who has taken a similar position at Union Hill.

**Vernon College recognizes four Knox students**

**VERNON** - Four Knox County students were on the President's List and Dean's List announced here at Vernon College.

On the President's List for those with 4.0 grade averages were Whitney Loper of Knox City and Stephanie Sanchez of Munday. Making the Dean's List with 3.5 grade averages were Russell Bega of Goree and Teresa Miller of Benjamin.

**Winters names new football coach**

**WINTERS** - Matt McCarty was named as the new head football coach/athletic director at Winters High School last week.

McCarty, who has been an assistant coach at Bandera High School, indicated he had a preference for a shotgun spread, but would decide on a system that best fits the personnel he has on hand.

**Knox County Aging Center**

**Menus for week of June 1-5**

**Monday:** Chili w/beans, cornbread, spinach, corn, cookies.

**Tuesday:** Crispy chicken filet on a bun, tomatoes, lettuce, potato wedges, carrot and raisin salad, fruit.

**Wednesday:** Glazed meatloaf, bliss potatoes, bread stick, mixed vegetables, cake.

**Thursday:** Sweet and sour chicken, rice, carrot/peas, salad, dessert.

**Friday:** Hotdog on bun, baked potatoes, seasoned broccoli, pineapple gelatin.

**Weather Whys?**

**It can rain frogs, fish**

It's been all over the news that it was "raining" spiders in Australia the past few days. It's not possible to rain cats and dogs, but sometimes you hear about frogs and other animals coming down from the sky. Is this possible?

It is, and it's happened many times throughout history, says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "There are reports of it raining frogs, fishes and even snakes going back almost 2,000 years," McRoberts says. "In the past 300 years, many of these have been carefully documented and witnessed by hundreds of people. Most of these have involved frogs and fish, but others have seen such things as corn, snakes, flowers, and yes, spiders such as in Australia. In 1873, it was reported that parts of Kansas City were covered with frogs that had dropped from the sky."

**What causes these things to fall from the sky?**

The most generally accepted answer is that small creatures, such as fish or frogs, are sucked up high into the air by either very strong thunderstorms or tornadoes, McRoberts explains. "Over the ocean, a waterspout - a tornado that forms over water - can produce strong enough winds to carry small fish into the air. There are instances of some of these creatures being carried long distances because there was no water nearby. Maybe one of the strangest occurred in 1877 when The New York Times reported that several small alligators had fallen from the sky onto a South Carolina farm, and in August of 2001, the Wichita, Kansas, area experienced rain mixed with cornhusks, some of them 30 inches long."

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Pastor Shane Kendrix

**Service Times:**  
**Sunday**  
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.  
Worship: 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.  
**Wednesday**  
Awanas, Pre-K to 6th grade:  
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Youth: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Happy 90th Birthday**

**Joe Flores**

You are invited to a 90th Birthday Celebration honoring Joe Flores Saturday, May 30, 2015 3-5 p.m. Santa Rosa Hall Help celebrate Texas Ranger baseball style!



# Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

It's been a "stormy like" Monday morning, but nothing more than thunder and rain has happened over this way. It is wet, but we are very thankful that, so far, we have not had any destructive wind and hail. On Saturday night the wind sort of moved things around for some, but still nothing too bad. There are varying comments regarding the rain—some are tired of it, and some love it. The way I see it, we were dry so long that we need to be very thankful and not complain too much. Of course, the wheat farmers are beginning to worry as it's getting close to harvest time and with all the rain, the yield may not be as good as they hoped for. Plus, if it doesn't dry out, the combines can't get into the fields! Then there's those who raise cotton. It's sure too wet to plant now. However, I think in the broad scope of things we will all feel like this moisture has been very beneficial.

### About our ill

I have not had any late word on Buddy Tolson, so I'm hoping that means he's still doing pretty well. We hope so.

Fred Carver is having a few problems. He went Wednesday for a biopsy on his lung and then has a body scan on Friday. Hopefully all these tests will turn out OK, but it will be good to get everything checked out. He seems to be feeling OK. Just something that needs attending to. Please remember him and Jan and the rest of the family in your prayers.

I saw Carol Dickson on Friday, and she is doing great. Still not sure when she will begin her chemo and radiation therapy, but I'm sure she would like to start it and get it over with—the sooner the better.

Earlene Meinzer has moved to the Munday Nursing Center, but hopefully her stay will be a short one. She is on some new medication since her stay in the hospital recently, and doctors are trying to get it regulated. Drop by to see her as well as the other residents when you are in Munday. That helps pass the time for them, and you will feel better also.

Our friend, Jo Nell Cornett, who lives in Knox City, has been hospitalized for several days after suffering a stroke. On Saturday she was somewhat improved, and hopefully that progress will continue. She and several of her friends were "regulars" at Bud's Cafe (daily), and we miss her being with them. We wish her well.

### Sympathy extended

## Assignment: Texas The house build - landscaping

It's been a while since I wrote anything about my house build but things have progressed: albeit slowly. The good news is the house is finished. For the past two years, we've enjoyed living in our farm style home north of Childress. The house has everything we wanted: a small footprint, open design, out in the country but not too far from town. Above all we have great neighbors right down the county road and it is a place where my kids spend as much time outdoors as they do inside.

Since 2011, however, Childress (like the rest of Texas) was under a severe drought. With the drought came water restrictions and with the restrictions came the inability to water enough to establish a landscape. Therefore, my thoughts turned to drought resistant plants.

A year after we moved in, the landscape was still in limbo. All of the construction traffic had the soil in the front yard compacted and unable to grow anything. Since the soil is the foundation of all that grows, I had to get a handle on the problems therein. So with a chisel plow, I began the arduous process of ripping the soil and hoping for rain. In the late spring of 2014, the rain began to fall. Hindsight is 20/20 but I should have planted grass last spring. Since the rain has been scant here for four years I didn't want to spend the

money on planting grass seed. So throughout the summer of 201, I just tended the soil.

In September of last year, I spent \$40 on a bag of annual ryegrass seed and after plowing the yard one last time, I broadcast the seed and used an old harrow to drag the soil. Again the rain fell and a couple of weeks later, I had a good stand of grass in the yard.

Ryegrass is a cool season plant that grows well in the fall, goes a bit dormant during the cold months of winter, and then comes back vigorously in the spring. It has an aggressive root system that breaks up subsurface hardpan and while the grass was doing its thing below, above ground the cover was slowing the rainfall and letting it soak in and improve the soil moisture in a way that hasn't been seen in a few years.

Come spring, I was ready to complete the landscaping. Although I now have a well and can water at will despite water restrictions, I still wanted to be a good steward and plant grasses and ornamentals that were native and could thrive in our semi-arid climate.

So for the lawn, I opted for a buffalo grass/blue grama mix. Both grasses are native to the area, do well with little water, and can withstand our fickle weather. To plant the grass I used a Classen Turf Overseeder. The Classen is like a self propelled, no-till seed drill that lets you plant seeds without preparing the seedbed. In other words, I left the ryegrass in place and planted the new, permanent turf seed into the existing grass stand. The existing ryegrass

My sincere sympathy to the families of two long-time Knox County residents who have lost loved ones during the past week. David Speck of Knox City died last Wednesday while at work. His funeral was Sunday in Knox City. Floyd Reed of Munday passed away on Saturday after a several months' illness. His funeral was Wednesday in Munday.

### Senior supper

On Wednesday night the Methodist and Baptist Churches joined together to honor the one lone 2015 graduate of Benjamin High School. Kelsey Brown was the honored guest and was joined by her mom Michele, sister Emily, and little son Zane. The meal was Mexican food—enchiladas, beans, rice, and salad, plus dips and chips, with Chocolate Delight for dessert, and tea. Superintendent Olivia Gloria and James and Jill Jackson were also present to enjoy the evening. Kelsey was presented a bible from the Methodist Church, and a book, "God's Promises for Graduates" from the Baptist Church.

Graduation for high school, junior high, and kindergarten will all be on Friday night at the Ex-Student Building.

### Here'n there

Evelyn Balis, our friend for many years, and a friend to several over here as she was county treasurer for several years, will be leaving on Friday for Richardson, where she will be making her home. She will enter a nursing facility as she is no longer able to be by herself and maintain her home. We will miss her, but wish her well in her new surroundings.

Susan and Tracy Cartwright are proud grandparents of two more granddaughters. Matthew and his wife have a new baby girl, as does Ashley and Tony. But I don't have all the "scoop" on them, date of birth, weight, names, etc., but just know they are here and as far as I know, all are doing well. These two new little girls make Tracy and Susan four little granddaughters.

Debi and Mike Moorhouse returned home Friday night after a week's vacation in Arizona. They met her cousin and her husband, Bob and Kathy Yeager Reim of Seattle, out there for a time of R & R. They did lots of sightseeing, but also just enjoyed visiting, relaxing, and of course, eating!

Lynn and Michael Rogers, Kaylie and Mad-die of Snyder, and Taylor and Weston Herring of Munday, spent the weekend with Debi and Mike Moorhouse.

## The 501 Moving piano isn't easy

"You find out who your friends are when you drop a piano." That's a quote from my friend Gary. Underline friend.

I dropped my piano. Gary and his mother drove 38 miles through the dark of night to help me pick it up. Thank you.

Pride cometh before a fall. When piano moving is going nicely, don't push your luck. Don't push the piano either if it's the least bit tipsy. Or if you're tipsy. I wasn't tipsy.

Never try to catch a falling piano. I didn't. That's why I'm not trapped under it.

Everything happened in slow motion. I should mention it's a hefty 97-year-old upright -- not a wimpy console or whatever those pianos are called that came along at mid-century to fit ranch-style houses.

Things had been going well. I'd managed to use the killer farm jack and two sturdy boards and two bricks to carefully tilt the piano incrementally to slide furniture dollies under it. What could go wrong?

A dolly doesn't keep a piano from tilting and falling. I plan to remember that.

When a piano crashes, the strings vibrate for several seconds thereafter. Impressive. But when you hit the keys, expect nothing. I got nothing. Disheartened, I texted my friend Terri. She was slated to help me refurbish the piano room the next day in advance of a family gathering

complete with grandkids. Terri and son Gary headed my way immediately. Piano-savvy for his 16 years, Gary once tried to catch a falling piano. The episode knocked him out of sports for the rest of the year -- tough for a weightlifter. Gary knew what he was getting into.

Awaiting their arrival, I began moving things that were anywhere near the fallen piano. We would need room to maneuver. I latched onto a fresh-painted screen door propped in the house to dry.

Note: An old screen door can be as unwieldy as a piano when the paint's still wet and handholds are few.

Again, everything happened in slow motion.

When I stepped out the door into the darkness, screen in hand, I met a tub of ripped-up linoleum. Who put that there? I lost my footing but not my grip on the screen. We crashed together, sideways off the porch. Coiled garden hoses broke my fall. A mattress would have been better. When my head hit the concrete I saw stars.

Just then the cellphone in my pocket blurped. It was my husband in the city texting me he was going to bed. Flat on my back, I texted him back from the farm to wish him good night. No need to bother him with the details.

I lay motionless a while longer. I was tired. If you fall off the porch and the next thing you have to do is pick up a fallen piano, you might as well rest a while.

Happy ending:

The upright is upright again. It plays! It's still just as out of tune, but it's never sounded better to me.



HANABA MUNN WELCH

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Liberty Church of God in Christ pastor Gene Ward offers words of encouragement to Knox City High graduates

## Church leaders share with KC graduates

KNOX CITY – Ronnie Lambert, pastor at the First Baptist Church Knox City, encouraged graduates to be storm chasers, but reminded them the calm in the storm will always be Jesus Christ during the Knox City High School Baccalaureate service here Sunday night.

Pastor Gene Ward from Liberty Church of God in Christ brought the message.

Leaders from the other churches also

played an intricate role in the service. Abundant Life pastor Tex Cox had the opening prayer while pastor Gary Schnable of Four Square presented the scripture reading and closing prayer.

Due to extenuating circumstances, pastor Jim Wright of First United Methodist Church was unable to attend.

Special music was provided by Hailee Cox of Four Square and Cobyrey Logsdon of O'Brien Baptist Church).

## Rodriquez has busy all-star grid schedule

KNOX CITY – Knox City High School senior Zachary Rodriquez has a busy schedule this summer before attending Cisco College as he has received invitations to four all-star football games, including one in Canada.

First, Rodriquez, who was named to the Division 1 Region 2 all-region six-man team at center, will get a taste of 11-man football in the Greenbelt Bowl at 6:30 p.m. June 13 in Childress.

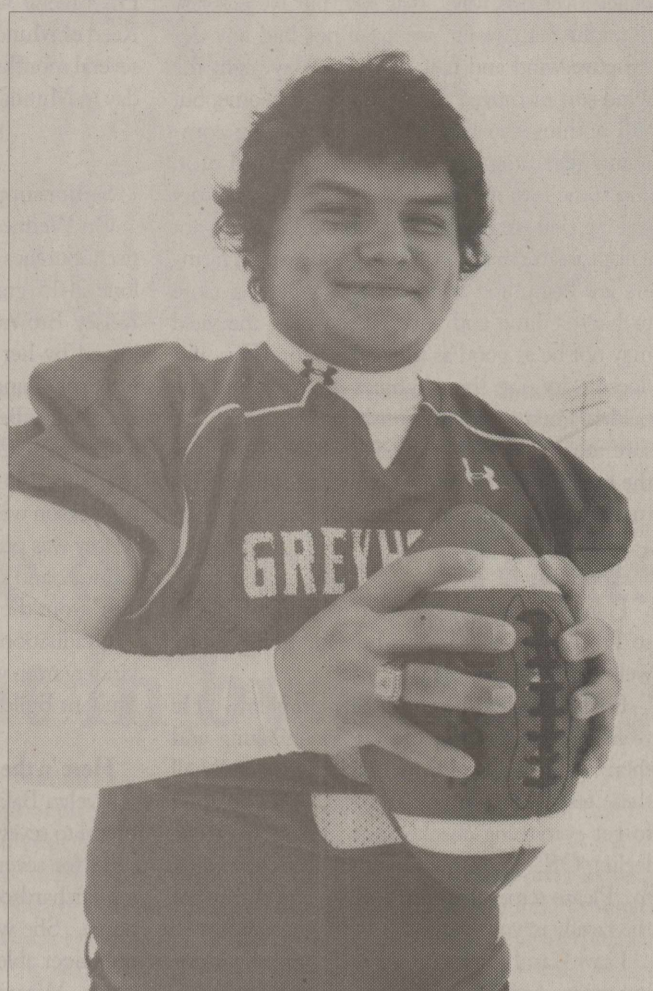
Then he'll return to six-man action at 7:30 p.m. June 20 in the Don Hardin Texas Bowl in Blanket.

The home town fans will then get to see him in action once again when the Brazos Bowl is held in Greyhound Stadium here June 27 at 7 p.m.

Greyhound teammate Krys Campos will also participate in the Knox City game.

Players will arrive June 24. Following workouts that day, the coaches will draft East and West teams. The coaches are Bret Tyler and Brandon Smith from Valley and Dewayne Lee and Dale Pustejovsky from Strawn.

Rodriquez will join six-man players from elsewhere in the United States to play a team

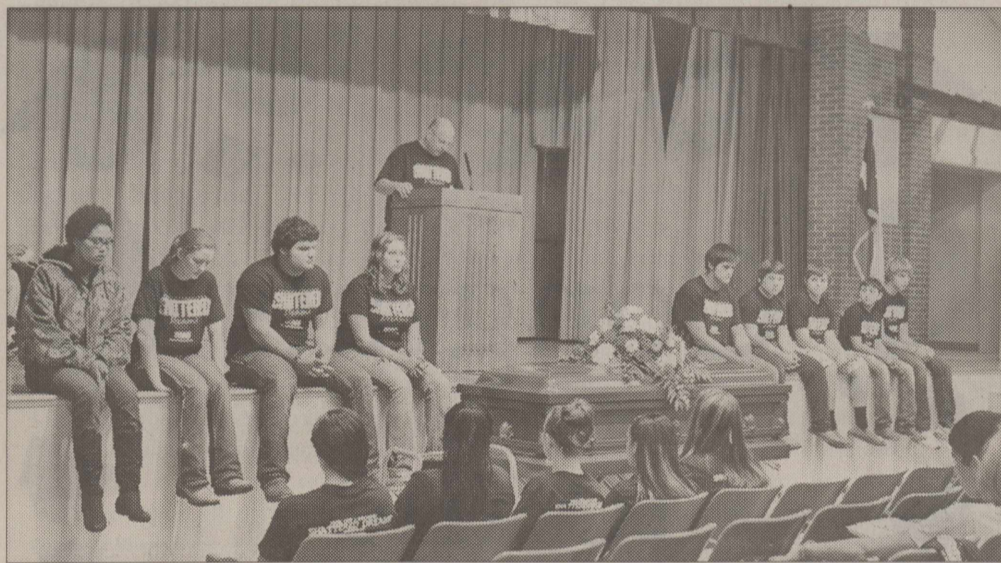


Zachary Rodriquez

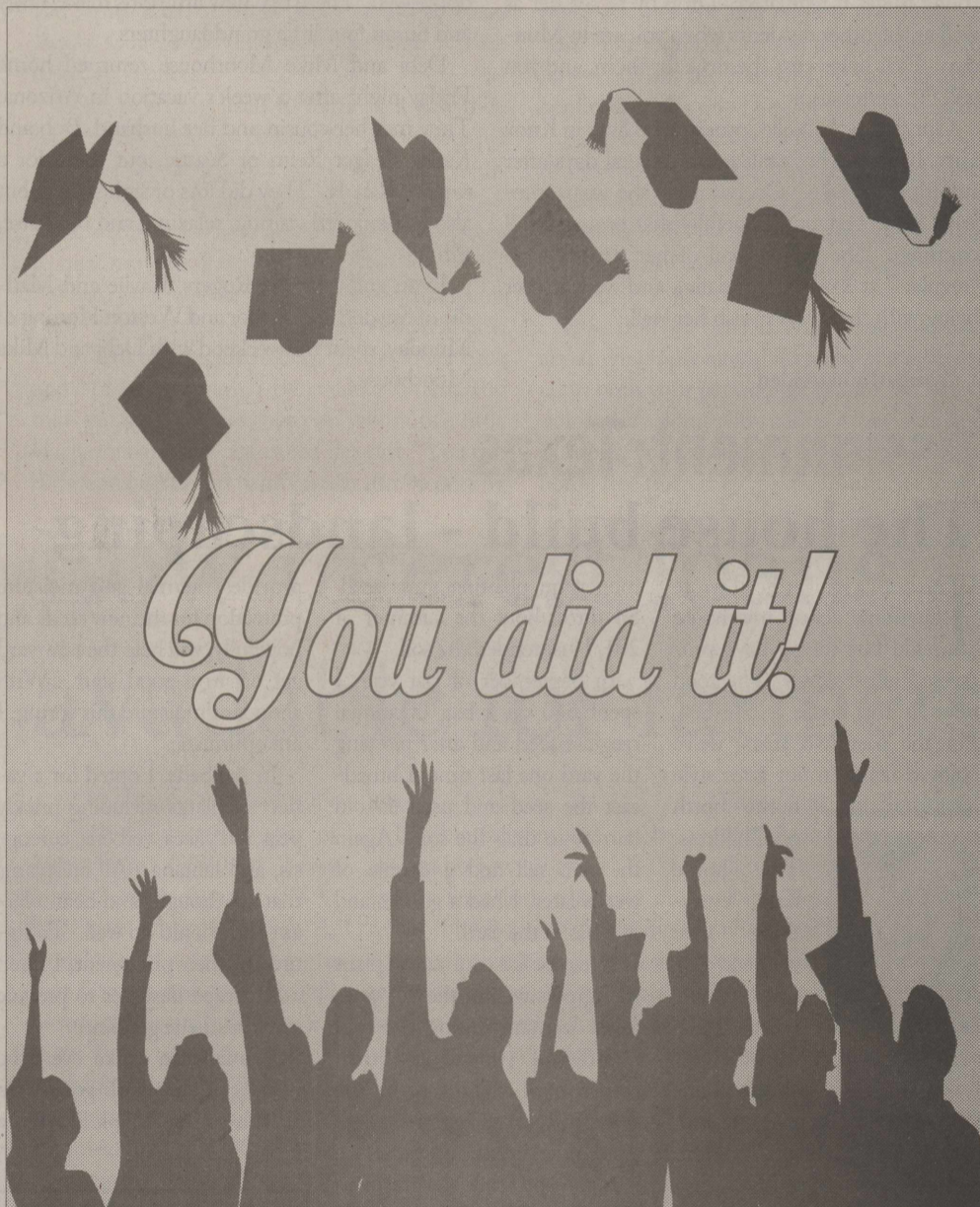
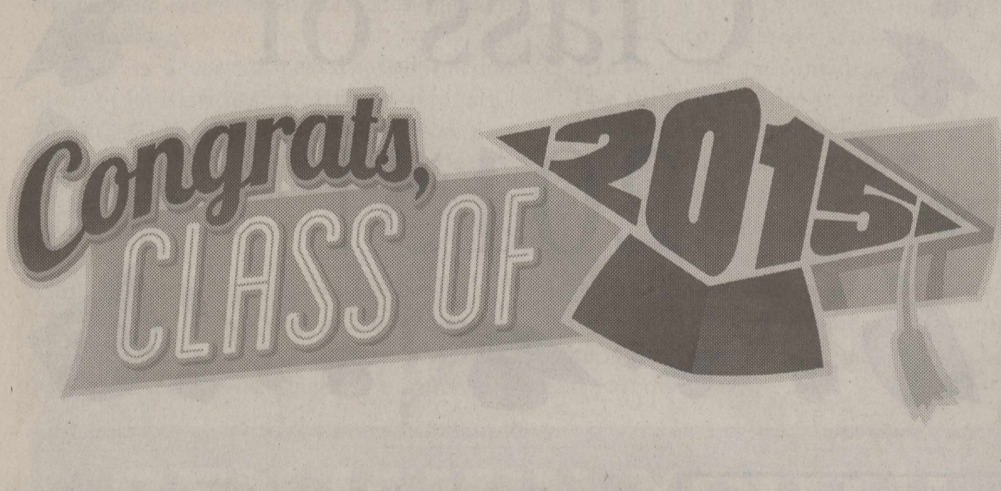
from Canada in the Canam Bowl Southey at 11 a.m. July 4 in Saskatchewan, Canada.

Rodriquez hopes to play football at Cisco College this fall. He indicated he would major in physical education.

## Kid dies every 15 minutes



Each student on stage represented the fact that someone dies every 15 minutes in an automobile accident caused by drunk driving, bringing home a message from the Shattered Dream experience



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## Munday High School Class of 2015



### AD Awards



Athletic director Patrick Corcoran presents the AD awards to Alfonso Nunez, Raci Dillard and Janie Salinas. Courtesy photo

### Munday grads told to follow the 4Gs

MUNDAY — Father John Perikomayil of the St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Rhineland made a connection to cell phones in his sermon to graduating seniors at the Munday High School Baccalaureate service here Sunday night at the MHS Auditorium.

He pointed out the 4 Gs—God, Goals, Generosity and Gratitude—emphasizing the love of God and the selfless love of others after being

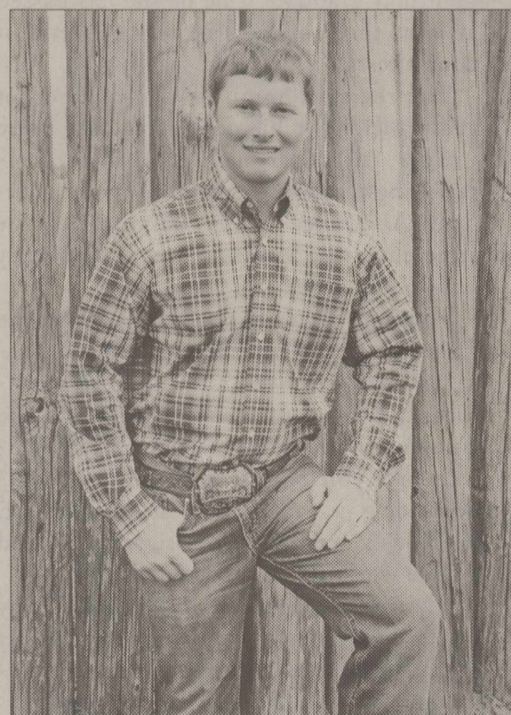
introduced by M'Kayla Ericson.

Sanjuana Carranza provided the invocation and then Maria Vega read the scripture message following the singing of "How Great Thou Art."

Following the sermon and the song "Amazing Grace," Ethan Ramos gave the benediction.

Nancy Wilde served as the accompanist on the piano while Skylar Gomez, Alexis Nunez, Taylor Thompson and Ana Vegas served as ushers.

### Parker Finley going to ACU



Parker Finley

MUNDAY — Parker Finley, the son of Lynn and Kevin Finley, has completed his home schooling and will be attending Abilene Christian University in the fall with plans to major in finance.

Finley, who maintained a 4.0 GPA and earned 21 hours of college credit in tests, was awarded scholarships totalling \$70,000 toward his college education.

"Parker loved the flexibility of his home school schedule," mom Lynn said. "He worked with his grandfather learning welding, farming, carpentry, business and much more."

He was also active in youth activity at the Seymour Church of Christ and enjoys fishing, camping, snowboarding, Jiu-Jitsu and trap shooting.

His mother also mentioned that he is currently restoring a 1969 Chevy pick-up.

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## A Honor Roll



Making the A Honor Roll at Munday Elementary were: Stephanie Scott, Karley Myers, Allie Willison, Claire Redwine, Carlie Willison, Macy Flowers, Jaxon Bowman, Justin Tidwell, Kayton Shahan, D'Keyden Toliver in front row; Kyson Latham, Kylan Crawford, Taylor Herring, Kierslynn Myers, Mackenzie Castille, Haiden Bowman, Jelani Lopez in middle row; and Elijah Estrada, Caroline Alvarado, Trevor Thompson, Hunter Urbanczyk, Lily Arismendez, Amrie Lof-tin in the back row.

## Perfect attendance



Alexa Vega, Carlie Willison, Karley Myers, Olivia Myers, Rafael Fernandez, Natalie Garcia, Caleb Quintana, Ethan Walker, Brooke Urbanczyk, Christopher Rodriguez, Brooklyn Rodriguez, Haiden Bowman, Jacklyn Diaz, Julie Rangel had perfect attendances for 2014-2015 at Munday Elementary.

## Seniors can graduate regardless of testing, maybe

By Kent Mahoney

John Doe is a freshman at the local high school. He is not a very good test taker and worries about his pending graduation in three years. He studies hard, makes B+ grades, but just doesn't test well. He is required to pass five standardized tests in high school before the end of his high school career. Tests can be taken any time, and he will keep retaking until he passes. John failed his standardized history by a couple of percentage points. He has re-taken the tests as many times as he can to satisfy his graduation requirements.

Thanks now to the Texas Legislature and a signature by Gov. Greg Abbott, John Doe's situation can turn out for the better. Senate Bill 149 was signed into law last week and it states that students like John Doe can still graduate, but there is a process.

Louis Baty, superintendent of Knox City-O'Brien CISD commented, "fortunately this bill did not impact the Knox City High School graduating class of 2015. All of our seniors passed the End of Course Exams required for graduation. The fact that all of our students met the testing requirements is a testament to the students and the quality education they are receiving at Knox City High School. Our students are very fortunate to be in small classes that allow for more individualized instruction.

"This is a very important and needed piece of legislation since this group of students has been impacted by the changing testing requirements. However, in order to graduate, students still have to earn their diploma by passing all classwork and meeting all other state requirements except passing the end of course exams.

"I believe the teachers in the classroom are best at determining whether a student has performed well enough to earn course

credit instead of a state assessment instrument developed by a "for profit" testing company."

According to SB149, a student may receive a diploma if the person is eligible for a diploma under Section 28.0258.

Here are the highlights:

- It applies to juniors and seniors only who did not comply with testing standards

- The school district sets up a committee to review the student's situation

- The student must have finished all other course work

- Other requirements related to attendance and discipline

If these conditions are met, the student may graduate if he or she has passed at least three of the five required end of course tests.

The review committee is comprised of the principal or his designate; the course teacher, the department chair or lead supervising teacher, the parents and the student. Alternates to this committee can be selected in the event someone previously listed cannot perform their duties.

The committee can ask for any of the following to satisfy the diploma requirements. They can ask for additional remediation, an end-of-course assessment, the completion of a project related to the subject, or a portfolio of work samples demonstrating a proficiency in the subject. Previously completed assignments and course work may be considered.

The student's grades in the subject may also weigh in on the decision, as well as advanced placement courses and dual-credit courses he or she may have taken.

As of this school year, and going forward, John Doe will be allowed just a sliver a leeway when it comes to standardized testing, but passing all the tests the first time is the recommended path by teachers and parents alike.

## Beware of ticks, fleas brought in by pets

COLLEGE STATION - Summer's long, warm days make for perfect outdoor playtime for the whole family, especially our pets. However, with this abundance of outdoor activity comes an increased risk for our pets to carry fleas and ticks into our homes. Not only are these pests a nuisance, but they can also bring with them a variety of diseases harmful to both humans and animals.

Both of these pests are attracted to the warmer temperatures, making it easy to hitch a ride on Fido as he plays outside. Luckily, ticks are fairly easy to spot.

"Ticks tend to accumulate around the face and the ears, but can be on any area of the body," said Dr. James Barr, assistant professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

After attaching itself to its host, a tick then takes a bite, often too painless for you or your pet to notice. However, this bite can transfer many diseases or even become infected. If this happens, a trip to the veterinarian may be necessary to treat the infection.

Fleas, on the other hand, are more difficult to find. "They can be found anywhere on the body, but like to congregate in dogs on the lower back and tail-head region," Barr said. "Often, you may not see the fleas, but you will notice little black dots on your pet, called flea dirt." You can differentiate flea dirt from regular dirt by putting

a drop of water on the dot of "dirt." Flea dirt will make the water a reddish color due to the digested blood.

"Ticks are known to carry diseases such as Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever," Barr said. "The most common disease that fleas transmit to dogs are tapeworms, which are transmitted to the dogs when they ingest the fleas in an attempt to get the flea off of their body."

Although the risk of disease and infection is worrisome, there are a variety of effective options available for flea and tick prevention.

"There are so many good options available now that it is possible to keep dogs and cats almost 100 percent free of fleas and ticks," Barr said. "For example, a good preventative is regular — but not too frequent — bathing and the application of a good flea and tick preventative."

Keep in mind that it is important to also treat the environment that your pets spend time in. Treatment of your yard, automobile, bedding, or anywhere else that your pet frequently inhabits may be necessary if fleas and ticks have infested the area.

It is best to consult with your veterinarian about which preventative products are best suited to both your pet and geographic location. By doing this, along with taking a few simple precautions, you can help keep your pets and your home free from these pests all summer long.

## Low interest loans available for farmers

COLLEGE STATION

— The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Texas Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director, Judith A. Canales, announced last week that farmers and ranchers still have time to apply for low interest loans available through the FSA direct farm ownership program. Applications must be approved by Sept. 30 to take advantage of the funding avail-

able.

Eligible farmers and ranchers can borrow up to \$300,000 to buy farmland, construct or repair buildings, pay closing costs, or promote soil and water conservation. The interest rate can be as low as 1.5 percent with up to 40 years to repay.

"If you are thinking about purchasing or expanding your farm or ranch, our affordable loans can help," said Canales.

"There are no backlogs or waiting for funds, so give us a call today."

New farmers and ranchers, military veterans, and underserved farmers and ranchers also are encouraged to apply. Each year Congress targets 80 percent of available loan funds to beginning and targeted underserved farmers and ranchers. Targeted underserved groups include American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians, or other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, and women.

For more information about farm loan, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans), or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <https://offices.usda.gov>.

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## Citizenship Awards



Courtesy photo

Citizenship awards at Munday Elementary were presented to: Karley Myers, Trevana Dennis, Diana Marmelojo, Julie Valk, Braelyn Waters, Alexa Vega, Christopher Rodriguez, Joe Jasso, Noah Lyles and Jonah Hernandez in the front row; Raleigh Molina, Olivia Myers, Kylen Crawford, Ixel Davila, Taylor Herring, Brooklyn Rodriguez, Blythe Waters, Luis Marmelojo, Jaidence Wren, Kassidee Henderson and Gabrianna Castorena in the middle row; and Rigo Armendariz, Rachel Hernandez, Trevor Thompson, Haiden Bowman, Erin Cottingham, Isaac Garcia, Melissa Carmona, Eme Urbanczyk in the back row.

## Most Improved Awards



Courtesy photo

Receiving most improved awards at Munday Elementary were: Rafael Fernandez, Kendal Rocha, Catlina Perry, Jr Martinez, John Mark Cooke and Kiyla Wilson in the front row and David Walker, Gracie Alvarado, Ann'Elyse Clark, Baleria Gonzalez, Natalie Miranda, Nicolas Hernandez in the back row

## Knox 4-Hers do well in district contest

By Corrie Earthman

The Knox County 4-H Club competed in a variety of contests, including educational presentation, share the fun, public speaking and science, engineering and technology posters, in the District 3 4-H Round Up in Vernon earlier in the month.

The Consumer Decision Making competition was also hosted in the same building.

Qualifying Senior 4-H members in each category will now have the opportunity to represent District 3 at the 4-H State Round-Up in June.

District Round-Up is a great way for 4-H members to meet other children, learn about new topics and skills and practice public communication.

Kathryn Cude gave an Educational Presentation on women's fashion in the late 1700s and won first in her Senior Clothing and Textiles category.

Callie Cude was awarded second place in the Senior Sheep and Goats category with her presentation on goat budgeting.

Ryan Earthman's presentation on building a chicken coop merited third in his category Open Ag/Natural Resources.

All three of them qualified for the state competition in June.

As a team, Bryanne Cude, McKayla Coplen and Josiah Coplen gave an educational presentation over fashion through the 1960s, 70s, and 80s, winning second in Intermediate Clothing and Textiles.

With her presentation teaching how to piece a quilt, Corrie Earthman received first place in the Intermediate Clothing and Textiles category.

Shawn Earthman's presentation in the

Health and Safety category compared the negative effects of nail polish to the benefits of Jam-berry adhesive nail wraps. She was awarded first place.

Morgan Earthman taught the judges how to make fresh squeezed lemonade with her educational presentation in the category Open Family and Consumer Sciences, earning second place.

Nate Earthman's presentation taught how to make a paper airplane for an icebreaker or get-to-know-you activity. He placed first in Junior Promote 4-H.

Share the Fun is a contest where 4-Hers have the opportunity to perform their talents in front of a crowd.

Ryan Earthman played a Celtic fiddle medley on his violin that won him second in the Senior Musical/Instrumental category. He will advance to State Round-Up.

Corrie and Shawn Earthman performed a classical violin duet for the Intermediate/Junior Musical/Instrumental category and were awarded first place.

Receiving 4th place in Intermediate/Junior Musical/Instrumental, Morgan and Nate Earthman played the popular fiddle tune, "Bile Them Cabbage Down."

The last activity of the day was Consumer Decision Making, a contest that gives 4-Hers practice in comparing multiple items and making the wisest decision. Callie Cude participated in the Senior category while Josiah Coplen, McKayla Coplen and Bryanne Cude competed as a team in Intermediate.

All of Knox County's participants did a great job this year. Thanks for all of your work!

If you are interested in joining our 4-H club please call the Knox Co. Extension Office at 940 459-2651

## June hurricanes catch people off guard

GALVESTON — September may be the peak month for hurricanes, but history shows the calendar can play tricks — some surprisingly strong storms have formed in June, says a Texas A&M University at Galveston professor.

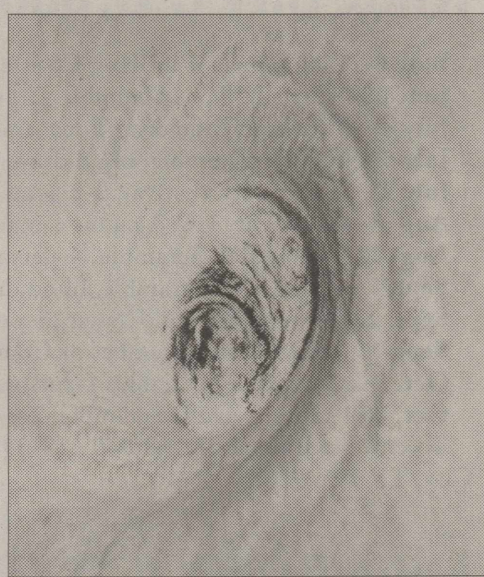
William Merrell, holder of the George P. Mitchell '40 Chair in Marine Sciences with more than 35 years of marine experience, says that gulf-formed hurricanes can strike quickly and they tend to catch people totally off-guard. He notes that over the past 150 years, most of the upper Texas coast has received numerous strikes from gulf-formed hurricanes.

"This is in sharp contrast to Louisiana and the lower coast of Texas where significantly less than one-half of storms making landfall form in the Gulf," Merrell explains.

"Gulf-formed storms have three nasty characteristics besides forming close to us: they form early in the season, their forward speed often accelerates as they make landfall and, most troublesome of all, they often intensify as they make landfall."

Gulf-originated storms generally occur earlier in the hurricane season than Atlantic hurricanes, Merrell adds, noting that June is the busiest month on record for Gulf-originated storms making landfall in Texas while Atlantic hurricanes peak in September.

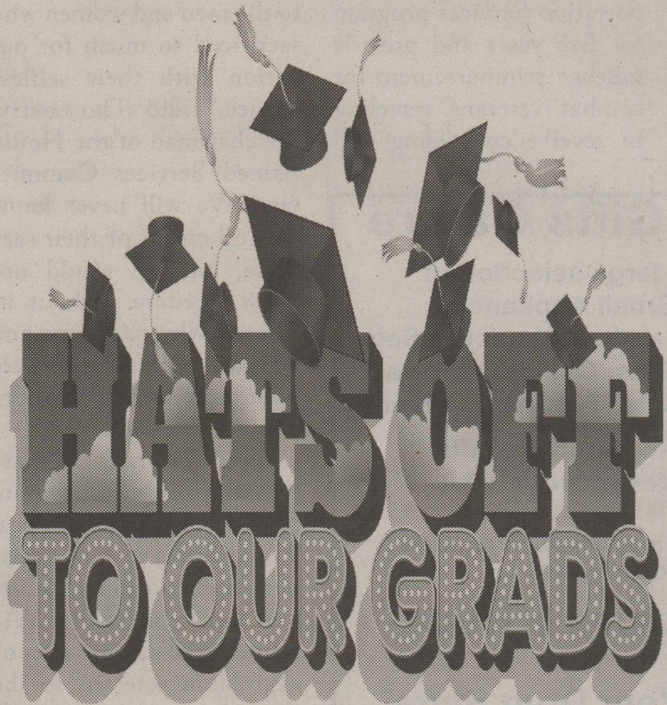
Such storms often catch people off guard, he adds. "It's a strange part of human nature, but in June, at the beginning of the season, we are not yet conditioned to hurricane dan-



gers even though we know from past experience the true dangers of hurricane season," he says.

"Our minds allow us to forget past hurricanes when the weather is clear and no storms are forecast. Even though we know better, we are often unprepared when hurricane season starts. Add to that the fact that with Gulf-formed storms, we don't have the 'benefit' of watching an Atlantic hurricane slowly approach us causing destruction in its path and building concern among weather forecasters. We are caught by surprise, time and time again, when storms form early in the season."

## Congrats, Class of 2015!



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Additionally, during the month of May, we'll be holding a drawing for existing customers (whose accounts have been in service and are current as of the drawing date) at each of our office locations. Each winner will receive 4 tickets to the Schlitterbahn Waterpark for splashing summer fun! Existing customers are automatically entered in the drawing for waterpark tickets and no further action is required.

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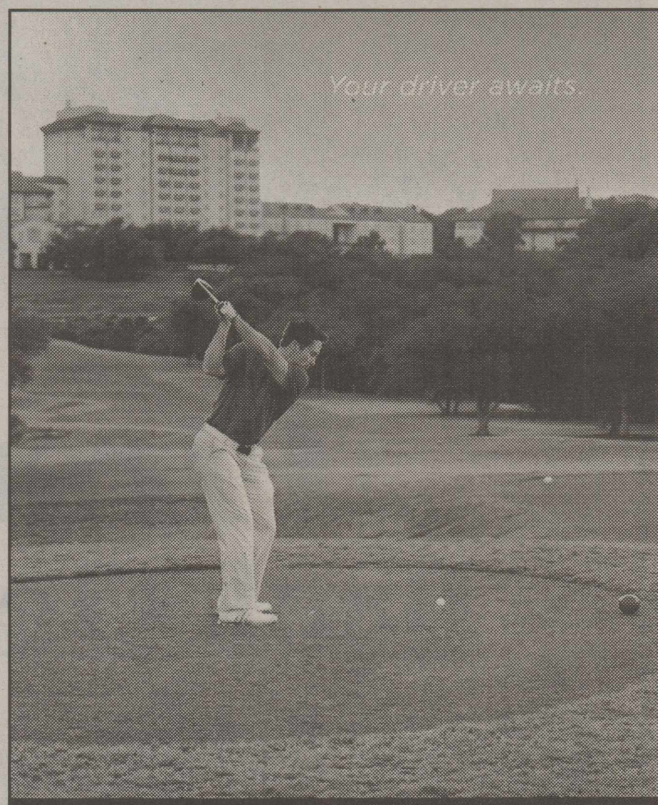
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Promotion dates: May 1 - May 31, 2015. Some restrictions may apply. Services where available. Up to three connections waived. After three connections, additional connections are \$20 each. To qualify for existing customer drawing, accounts must be in service and current as of drawing date.

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# Clergy can refuse to perform same sex marriages

AUSTIN — The Texas House voted to let clergy members refuse to perform marriages that violate their religious beliefs — further shielding the nation's largest conservative state from a possible U.S. Supreme Court ruling allowing gay couples to wed.

It was approved 141-2 after sailing through the Senate last month. A final, largely ceremonial House vote will send it to Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, who is expected to sign it into law.

Republicans say the bill will keep church elders from being sued for refusing to perform weddings that clash with "sincerely held" religious beliefs. Democrats didn't object, but took to the House floor to say passing it won't stop gay marriage from being legalized nationwide eventually.

The Texas measure is less divisive than so-called religious objections measures elsewhere, applying only to religious wedding ceremonies and largely restating existing state law — hence Democrats not voting against it.

Gay marriages have been banned in the state since voters approved a 2005 amendment to the Texas Constitution.

Supporters contend that such measures protect the freedom to exercise religious beliefs from government intrusion. Advo-

cacy groups argue they allow businesses to refuse service to or otherwise discriminate against gay people.

The Supreme Court has heard debate on the issue and should the justices rule later in favor of same-sex weddings, it would supersede the state constitutional prohibition.

Supporters of a bill prohibiting government employees from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples chose not to attempt to revive it as an amendment to the clergy bill, but weren't shy about saying they'd like to keep gay marriage out of Texas.

"When you look down the road and you see the legal and cultural environment changing — and you see that the Texas Constitution itself saw that those things would happen," said the bill's House sponsor Rep. Scott Sanford, a McKinney Republican. "The Legislature should pass a law that's necessary to protect all religious denominations."

Sanford said religious leaders in other states had been threatened with lawsuits and even prosecution for refusing to lead gay marriages, but couldn't cite examples when pressed by Democrats.

"This bill is a shield and not a sword," Sanford said.

# Church notes

## KC Gone Fishing

KNOX CITY — The First Baptist Church Knox City will conduct a vacation bible school day camp from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. on June 20. The theme will be Gone Fishing "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" from Matthew 4:19. Pre-registration is scheduled 6:30-7:30 p.m. on June 17 and late registration at 8:45 a.m. June 20. Stories, games, food, fun and movie time included.

## Weinert sets VBS

WEINERT — The First Baptist Church Weinert will hold its vacation bible school Thursday from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The theme will be Saddle Ridge Ranch: Roundin' Up Questions, Drivin' Home Answers. Children ages 3 thru the sixth grade are invited. Activities of the day will include bible study, music, crafts, lunch, snacks and recreation. For more information, contact Mary Murphy at 940 673-8269 or Dan Bullock at 940 673-8310.

# Area News

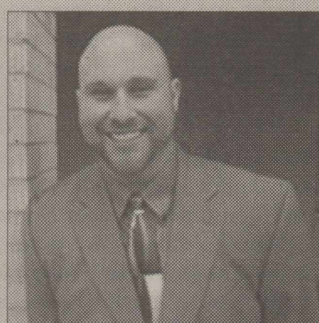
## National Trails Day

QUANAH — A guided trail hike will highlight National Trails Day at Copper Breaks State Park. Park rangers will lead visitors on a short guided trail hike at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 6, pointing out wildlife, plant life, geological features, and discuss area history and folklore and tell stories. All participants on the short hikes are urged to have comfortable walking shoes, a hat or cap, and plenty of water.

## StarWalk set June 13

QUANAH — Copper Breaks State Park, now an International Dark Sky Park, will kick off the 20th year of the StarWalk program on Saturday, June 13 at sunset, or around 9:00 p.m. The StarWalk starts with a naked eye tour of the night sky over Copper Breaks State Park followed by a closer look through telescopes and binoculars.

# Preacher moving



Rev. Shane Kendrix will be leaving his post as pastor at the First Baptist Church Monday to accept a similar post at the First Baptist Church in Frederick, OK. He'll be moving his family this weekend.

# Knox City C.C. golf schedule

- June 6—21st annual Wild Hog Classic, 3-lady scramble, \$180, 8:30 a.m.
  - June 20—Guys & Dolls Scramble, 2-person scramble, \$75, 1:30 p.m.
  - July 4—Bill Baker Memorial Tournament, 2-person scramble, \$100. 8:30 a.m.
  - July 5—July 4th Scramble, blind draw, \$15, 1:30 p.m.
  - July 25—Knox City Festival, 3-person scramble, \$75, 8 a.m.
  - Aug. 8—Knox City CC Ag-Oil, 4-man, \$240, 8 a.m., 2 p.m.
  - Aug. 22—Glow Ball Scramble, 4-person, \$25, 5 p.m.
  - Sept. 7—Labor Day Scramble, blind draw, \$15, 1:30 p.m.
  - Sept. 12—Knox City Fall Classic, 3-person, \$75, 1:30 p.m.
  - Sept. 19—Knox City Chamber of Commerce Scramble, 3-person, \$120, 1:30 p.m.
  - Oct. 3—Glow Ball Scramble, 4-person, \$25 (includes meal), 5 p.m.
  - Oct. 10—Guys & Dolls Scramble, 2-person scramble, \$75, 1:30 p.m.
- To enter tournaments, call 940 658-3911 after 6 p.m. or send to PO Box 734, Knox City, TX 79529

# Lake Creek golf schedule

- June 27--3 lady scramble
- July 11-12--3 person scramble
- Aug. 9--Guys & Dolls
- Aug. 23--1 person scramble
- Sept. 12-13--3 person scramble

# Baker scholarship events scheduled July 3-5

KNOX CITY—The W.R. (Bill) Baker Memorial Scholarship Committee has announced its schedule of events for July 3-5 that will include a golf tournament and a coed volleyball tournament on July 4 along with informal class reunions and other activities.

The Bill Baker Memorial Golf Tournament will feature a two-person scramble at the Knox City Country Club. Entry fee will be \$100. Contact Kelly Robinson at 806 773-8088 to sign up.

To enter the volleyball tournament, call Michele Stanfield at 940 256-0318.

If a class is interested in getting involved, contact Patti Lain Currie at 325 721-3001.

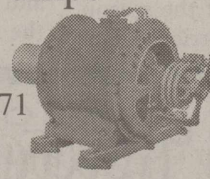
Last year's events raised \$3,500 for scholarships for 2014 Knox City High School graduates: Tanna Moeller, Micaela Peters, Lyndon Baty, Zachary Carter, Christopher Richardson, Kelsey Vasquez and Tynne Eaton.

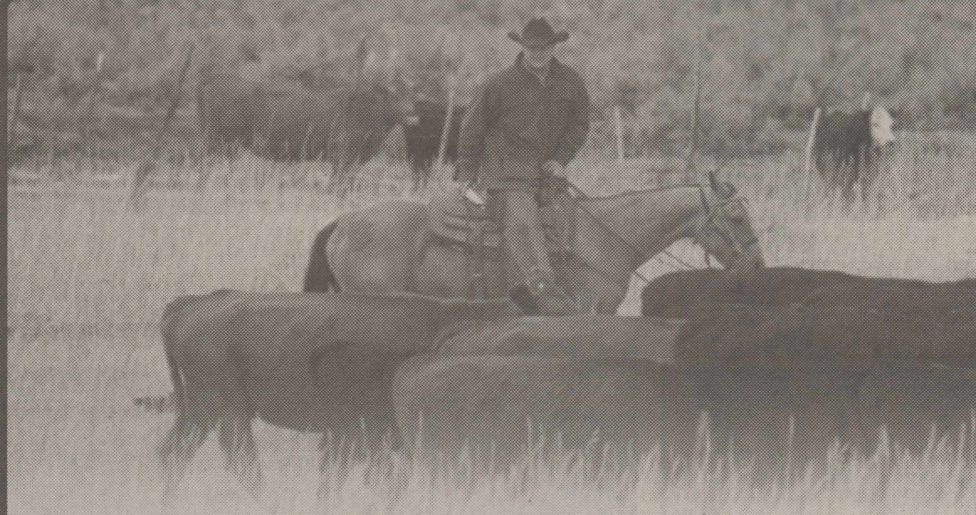
All 2015 seniors who apply this year will receive scholarships, announced Jimmy Don Moore.

Contact Moore at 813 326-9044 or Tamie Grindstaff Weiershausen at 940 256-0400 to make donations.

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# Bill would help vets get transportation

WASHINGTON—U.S. Congressmen Mac Thornberry (R-Clarendon) and Rick Larsen (D-Everett) introduced "The Rural Veterans Travel Enhancement Act of 2015," H.R. 2291, that would reauthorize the Veterans Transportation Services program for five years and provide mileage reimbursement for combat veterans traveling to receive counseling and

care from veterans centers.

"We have a responsibility to the men and women who sacrificed so much for our nation with their selfless service," said Thornberry, the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. "We will never know the full extent of their sacrifice, but we would not know freedom without it. That is why programs and legislation like this one are so important in our work to better serve them."

The Veterans Transportation Service program provides funding to local VA facilities to hire transportation coordinators and purchase vehicles that VA-trained staff can use to connect more veterans to the care they need. Amarillo transported 6,047 Veterans to appointments between Oct. 1 2014 and March 31, 2015. The program is a cost-effective way to help veterans access health care by saving money on ambulance costs and mileage reimbursements.

"Access to health care does not just mean having enough doctors. It means making sure veterans can get to appointments with their doctors. My bill will help break down travel barriers so veterans don't have to wonder how they will get to their next healthcare appointment," said Larsen, a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee.

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- 120 L. Street, Munday 3/2 (\$59,900) **REDUCED**
- 203 S. Birch, Knox City 3/1 (\$39,000) **NEW**
- 962 CR 132 on 20 +/- Ac, Rochester 3/2. (\$139,000) **NEW**
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- 405 6th St., Rochester 3/2 (\$79,500) **NEW**
- 1216 CR 113, Rochester 3/1 on 15 ac. (\$69,900) **REDUCED**
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- 405 S. Hilmar, Weinert, 3/2 w/ shop (\$112,500) **NEW**
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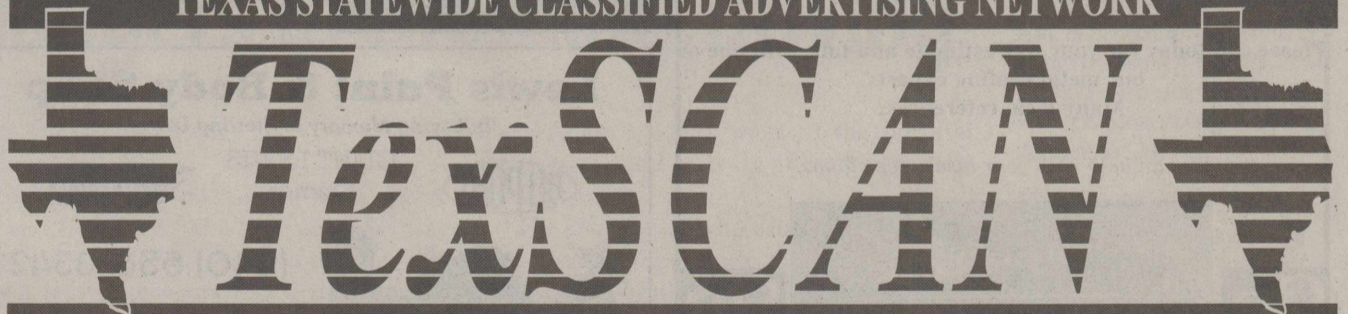


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Mac's Views

# Have we had enough rain?

There's no doubt all the moisture we've received in April and May has been a blessing, an answer to all the prayers from the past couple of years when drought conditions were evident.

However, is it maybe time to say we've gotten enough?

I'm sure many farmers have to think so. It's almost harvest time for wheat, but the fields are too wet for combines to start it.

Some wheat farmers lost their crops to hail damage. Hopefully, insurance will cover these losses. The same wet fields are likely to force a delay in planting cotton.

At Tuesday's meeting of the Lions Club here in Munday, David Kuehler indicated his rain gauges had measured almost 13 inches of rain in the past 45 days. Other places in Knox County may have received even more.

Miller Creek was at 98.9 per cent capacity as of Tuesday, up from the 79.2 mark of a week earlier. If you recall, it was 7.9 back in early April.

Kuehler did say that boating is still dangerous at the lake because of large logs just under the surface that could cause damage to boats.

I heard that David Booe caught a pair of yellow catfish, tipping the scales at 53 and 63 pounds. Some nice size blue and channel catfish have been caught, too. More good news is that some bass have been added to the lake. Kuehler did warn anglers to make sure their fishing licenses were current as there were plenty of game wardens out there.

While water restrictions will be lifted, we all should continue to not over use water.

Publisher Chris Blackburn touched on the subject of the importance of shopping locally, but now it's my time.

Since we get a lot of other newspapers in our office, I ran across an interesting let-

ter to the editor in the Goldthwaite Eagle about how one resident decided it was time to change her shopping habits and support one of the local businesses, a neighbor in the community.

She noted how in the past she had travelled to Brownwood to shop at the Wal-Mart, only getting the "here and now" things from local stores that she named.

Doing some research, she found that the local businesses did charge more because they had to pay more because they can't buy in bulk like the larger corporations and they also pay more for deliveries.

So she decided to be a good neighbor and shopped locally, finding in comparing costs that she ended up spending \$18 more. However, she would have spent \$8 of that in gas travelling to Brownwood plus all the extra time it would have taken. After spending money on extras she probably didn't need and then finding a place to eat to "calm down," she wasn't sure of any additional savings.

"I want to sincerely apologize to my local businesses here for this experience was quite humbling," she wrote.

Maybe it's time for more Knox County residents to follow her example.

However, I also think the local businesses should do their best to not overcharge either and should support each other, too. It would be nice, for example, for local businesses to support The Knox County News-Courier with some advertising support so that I can reach the goal my publisher set of getting every business in the county to get out their sales message with us at least once a month.

In closing, I'm happy to report that Allene Brown is back home after suffering a heart attack and spending 11 days in a Lubbock hospital in the month. Adding to her problem, according to daughter Sandy King, was a case of double pneumonia.

In addition, it was nice to see Janet Dillard back at Munday High School. She was using a wheelchair after having surgery for a broken leg, but indicated she could also get around some on crutches.

# KC swimming pool will not be opened

KNOX CITY - Knox City administrator Sam Watson indicated that the swimming pool in Knox City would not be open this summer.

"It's just too expensive to run and repair," he said.

In an earlier meeting of the city council, Zeke Duke was elected as the Mayor Pro-

Tem. Duke will handle the duties of mayor since the council decided not to name anyone to fill that position after there were no candidates to replace Kent DeVille in the May 9 election.

Following the lead of the North Central Texas Municipal Water Authority, the council lifted the Stage 4 water restrictions

# NRCS open house

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will have an open house for the public at 9 a.m. on June 8 here at the James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center to showcase the latest conservation plant releases and plant technology, and celebrate NRCS's 75th anniversary.

"Over the years, the development of plant materials has solved a multitude of nature resource problems," said Gary Rea, NRCS plant materials center program

manager at Knox City. "We have developed plants that grow in the toughest environments, providing conservation solutions that didn't exist before."

The open house will include presentations on the history of the center, wildlife habitat management, pesticide applicator rules and regulations, planning and preparing for wildfires, calibrating herbicide sprayers and grass drills, using conservation tillage implements, and landscaping with native plants.

# Circle Bar Ranch to host Quail Appreciation Day

TRUSCOTT - The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Knox County will conduct a Quail Appreciation Day here Tuesday starting at 8:30 a.m. at the Circle Bar Ranch.

"I encourage anyone with an interest in the outdoors to make an effort to be there," said Jerry Coplen, the extension agent for Knox County. "Property owners, wildlife managers, ranchers, hunters, naturalists, or just the generally curious will be able to take away some useful information from this program."

"We know historically that quail experience "boom and bust" population swings and obtaining reliable research data can be quite challenging. Quail management is an ongoing process and there is always something new to learn about this bird that has captivated generations of wildlife enthusiasts."

Coplen also said the Circle Bar Ranch provides an ideal location for participants to explore what the future holds in terms of quail management strategies since it has had an active quail management strategy for several years and timely rains the past two years have certainly benefitted the quail population in terms of nesting habitat and food sources.

Morning classroom sessions will cover the following food sources and supplemental feeding, cows and quail, predator management, restocking quail and research updates. The group will travel after lunch to nearby sites to discuss management goals of the ranch, range plant identification and habitat evaluation. Another stop will be made to look at preset "dummy" nests to evaluate nest success relative to nesting cover and predator species.



JAMES MCAFEE

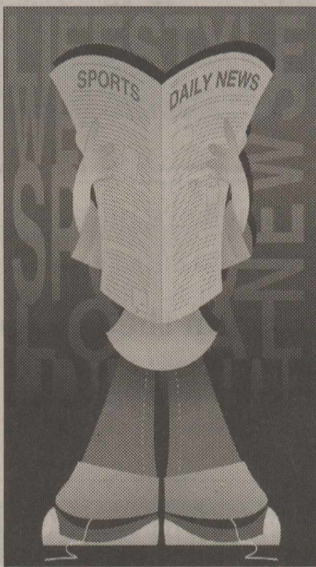
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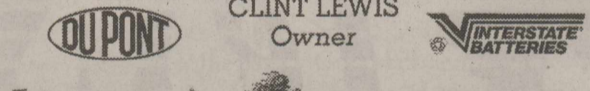
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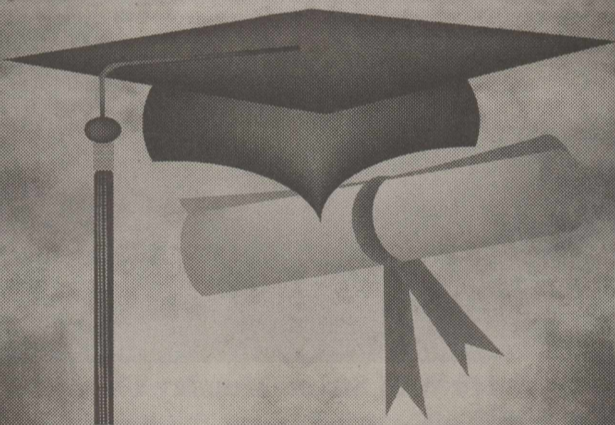



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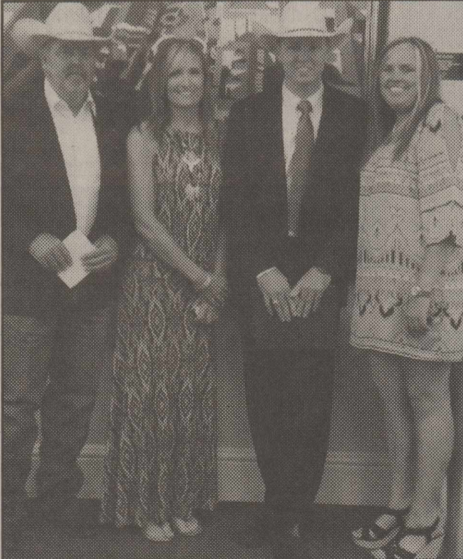


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**Farming family** Mike & Robyne Stewart; children Pate and Larami  
**Born and raised** My three brothers and I grew up a few miles west of Weinert. We all started and finished school there. I moved to Munday in 1998 and have lived here ever since.  
**Years in farming** I am a fourth-generation farmer. My great-grandfather, W. I. Stewart, started farming in northern Haskell County, southern Knox County in the 1900s. I got my start in 1978 and have been farming ever since.  
**When did you know you wanted to be a farmer?** Growing up in a farm family, I had a strong urge to continue the family operation and tradition.  
**Crops grown** Wheat and corn  
**Best thing about being a farmer** The best thing is being your own boss.

**Challenges of farming** Weather, fluctuating markets, and the cost of inputs  
**Advice for future farmers** Have a strong risk management program and pray for rain.

*The Knox County News-Courier and FiberMax are proud to recognize the farmers of our area. We salute them for being the backbone of our communities and our economy. For the next four months, we'll feature farmers and their families. Look for them here.*





# Class of 2015

## Benjamin High School

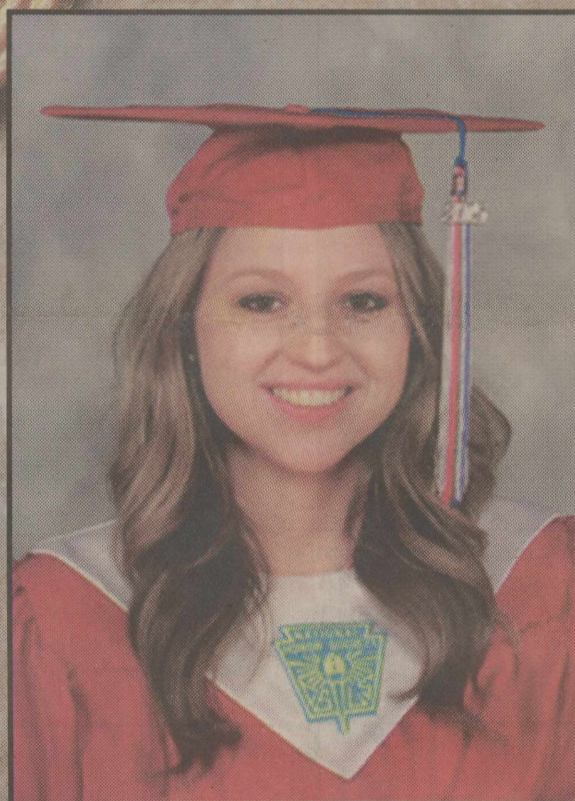


*Emily Brown*  
*Valetorian*

BENJAMIN  
COMMENCEMENT  
FRIDAY, MAY 29,  
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Ex-Students Building

## Knox City High School

KNOX CITY  
COMMENCEMENT  
SATURDAY, MAY 30  
7 P.M.  
WR Baker Auditorium

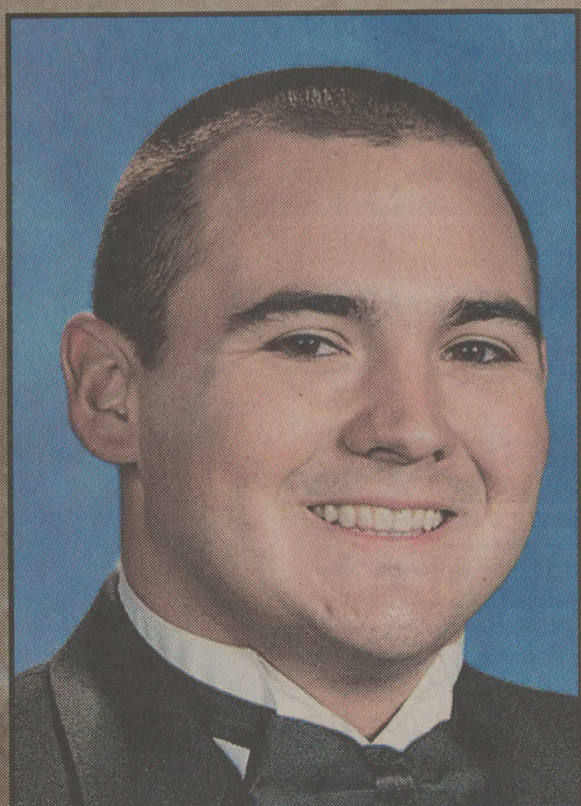


*Andrea Lynn*  
*Valetorian*



*Kinslee Cox*  
*Salutatorian*

## Munday High School



*Mitchell Lowrance*  
*Valetorian*



*Raci Dillard*  
*Salutatorian*

MUNDAY  
COMMENCEMENT  
FRIDAY, MAY 29  
7 P.M.  
MHS Auditorium

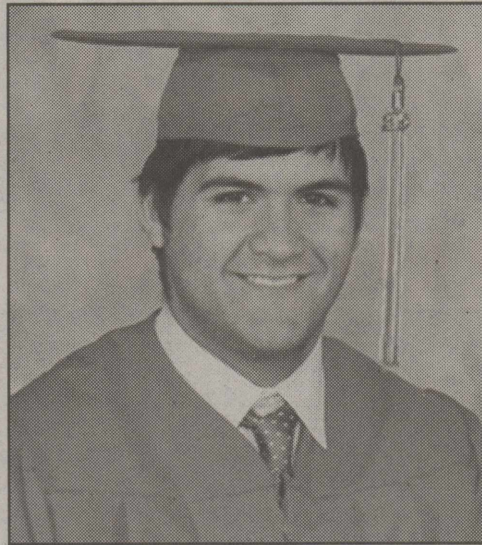


**Benjamin High School  
Class of 2015**

**Knox City High School Class of 2015**



Kelsey Brown, daughter of Michelle and Mark Brown, plans to take on-line college courses and continue to take care of her 18-month-old. Her memorable moment was getting to play her last basketball game with little sister Emily.



Krystofer Campos, the son of Angie and Isaia Campos, plans to attend college and major in kinesiology. Getting to warm up on the Texas Longhorns home turf was his most memorable moment in high school.



Kinslee Cox is the daughter of Melesha and Tex Cox who pointed to cheering at football games and just having fun with fellow cheerleaders as her best memory. She plans to attend West Texas A&M University and major in engineering.



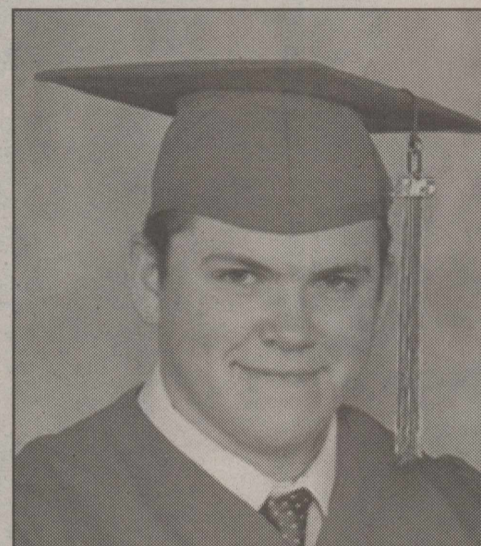
Keelie Ellen DeVille, daughter of Jenn and Kent DeVille, plans to attend Western Texas College and major in drama. Her memorable moment came when the couch broke during a performance of the school's one act play.



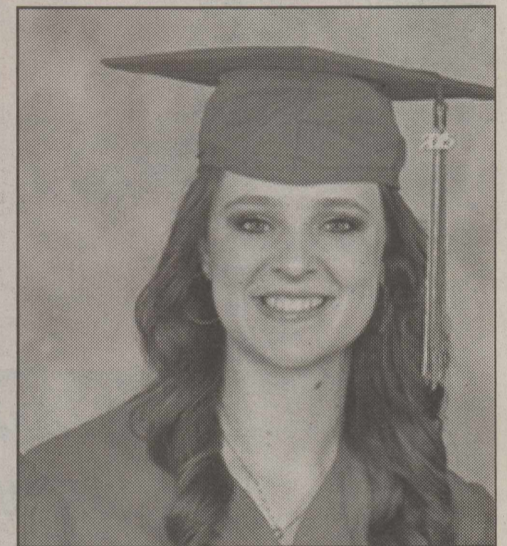
Gabriele Jaime's most memorable moments were going to CNA class and having a funny great time with Veronica and Christina at lunch. The daughter of Roxanna and Jose Jaime Sr. plans to become a CNA and then later an LVN.



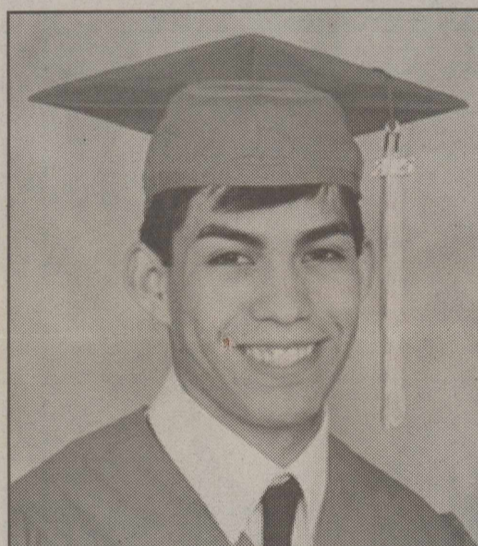
Andrea Lynn, the daughter of Scott and Lawri Lynn, plans to attend Baylor University in Waco and study business. Her most memorable moment in high school came when she advanced to the state competition in Austin in feature writing.



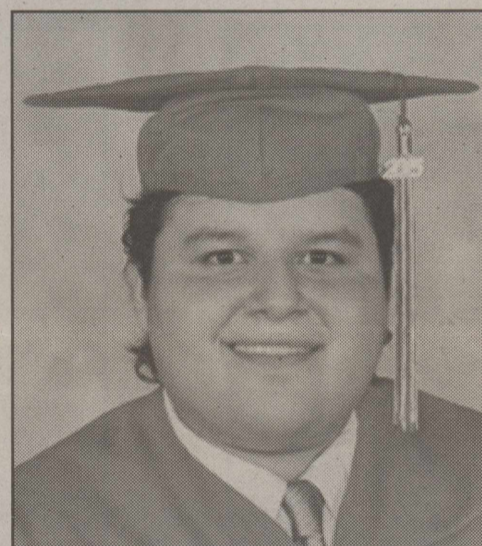
Michael Arthur Overmyer is the son of Shelia and Alvie Overmyer who plans to attend South Plains College and study law enforcement. His most memorable moment came when the band was stuck in Miami, FL by bad weather returning home from a trip.



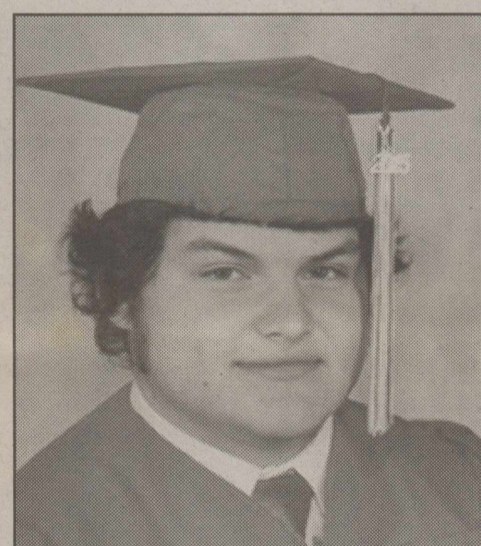
Leighten Raye Pepper, the daughter of Kimberly and Jarred Pepper, plans to attend South Plains College and get a degree in kinesiology. Her memorable moment came when she failed in an attempt to sing a cappella on the bus in front of the entire class.



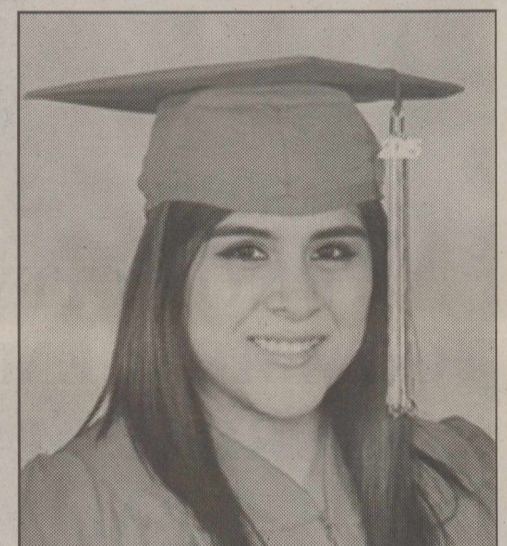
Israel Alejandro Rodriguez is the son of Maria and Jesus Rodriguez. Dressing up like cheerleaders to pump up the crowd at a pep rally was his most memorable moment.



Richard Rodriguez Jr., the son of Richard Rodriguez Sr., cited going on all the FFA trips as his favorite memory. He plans to study radiology at South Plains College.



Zachary Scott Rodriguez plans to attend Cisco College this fall. He is the son of Rhondi and Augie Rodriguez. His memorable moment came when driving to Lometa, taking a wrong turn before getting there to just 45 them by halftime.



Ariel Justine Ruiz, the daughter of Rosemary Moya and Alberto Ruiz, plans to become a certified phlebotomist. Her favorite memory was when the seniors did a skit at the last pep rally.

*We Would Like to Congratulate  
Moriah Schnable & Zachary Rodriguez,  
along with the rest of the Class of 2015 and  
Offer Best Wishes for the Future!!*

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**Class of 2015**

*Good Luck from  
Dan & Becky Offutt*

*All Your Hard Work Paid Off!*

**Congratulations to the Class of 2015**

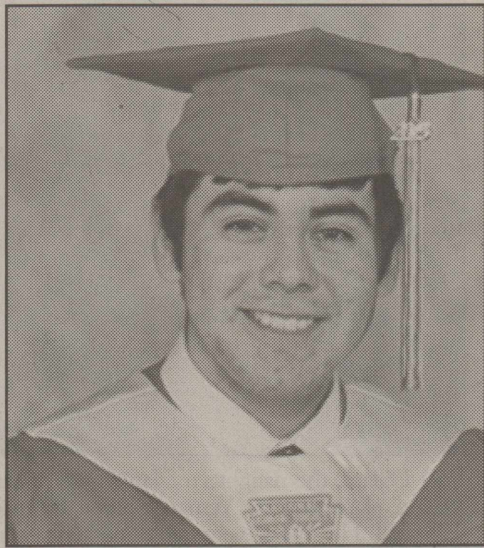
**bee House**



# Knox City High School Class of 2015



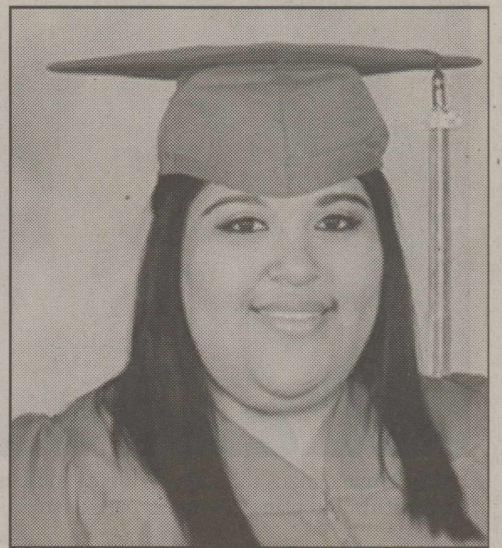
Moriah Schnable is the daughter of Amy and Gary Schnable. She plans to move to Wichita Falls and get a job to prepare for the following year when she goes to Weatherford College to study sonography and medical imaging. Her memorable moments came on band trips and the time on the stage crew for the one act play.



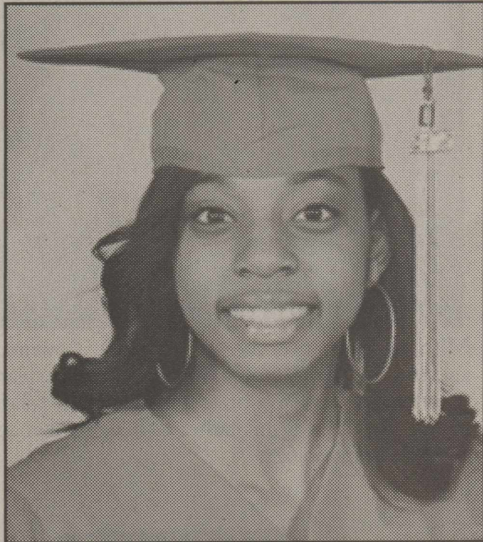
Adrian Eloy Silva, the son of Maria and Salvador Silva, plans on attending the University of North Texas and major in biomedical engineering. His memorable moment came when Mr. DeVille tricked Joe Nelson at home plate during the end-of-year softball tournament.



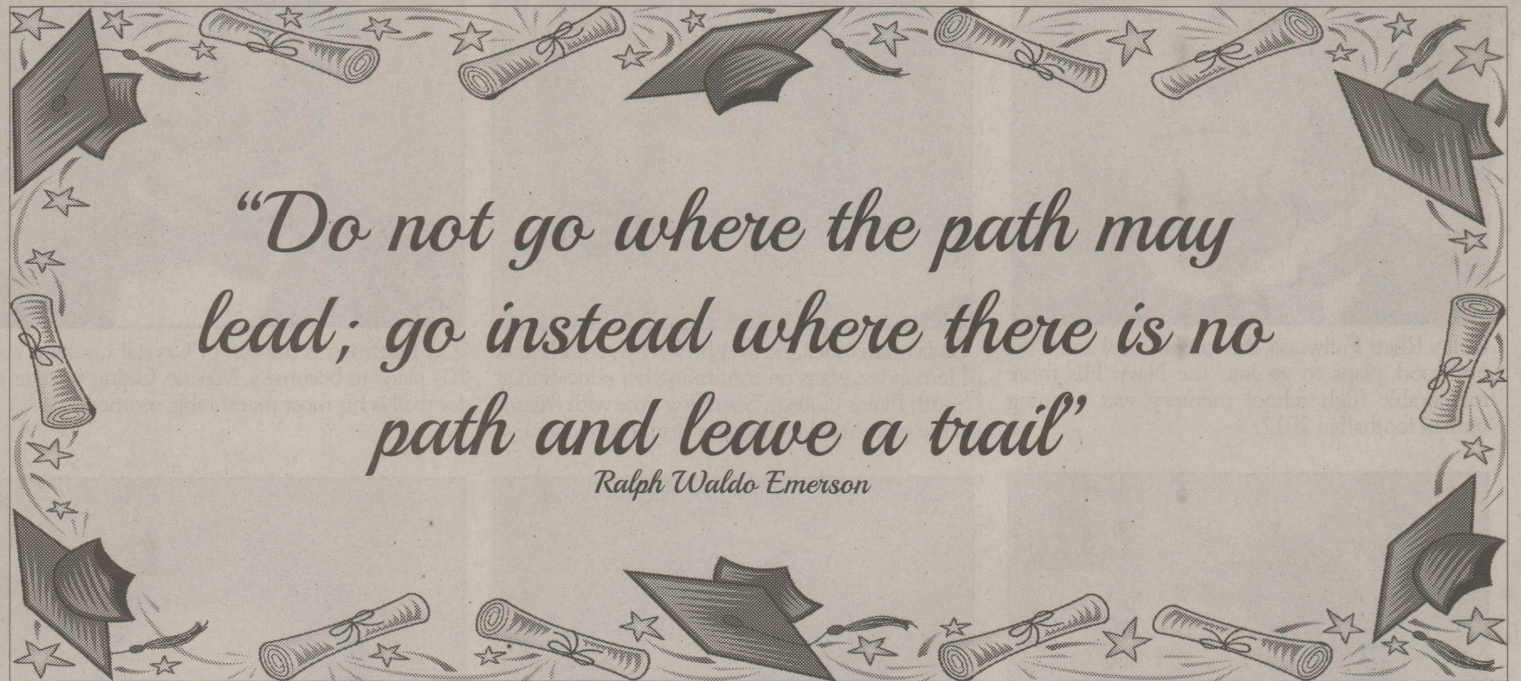
Marlie Fae Steele, daughter of Melissa and Charles Steele, plans to attend Midwestern University and pursue a degree in athletic training. Friday nights on the sidelines along with her dad and sister during football games were her memorable moments.



Joanna Trevino plans to become a physical therapist assistant and a massage therapist. The daughter of Martha and Roberto Trevino will enroll at South Plains College in the fall. Her most memorable moment came as a freshman when the team had a lot of bonding adventures.



Essence Latrice Ward, daughter of Doris and Gene Ward, plans to start college at Cisco College and major in nursing. Watching videos with Keelie was her most memorable experience.



**Graduation is only a concept. In real life every day you graduate. Graduation is a process that goes on until the last day of your life. If you can grasp that, you'll make a difference.**

~Arie Pencovici



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2015 Graduates  
on all of your  
accomplishments!*

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We are proud of you!**

**Congratulations, Graduates!**

**2015**  
We Wish You the Very Best!

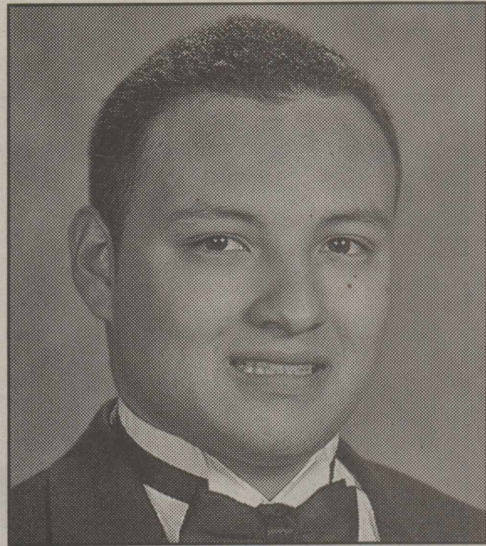
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**Congrats, CLASS OF 2015**

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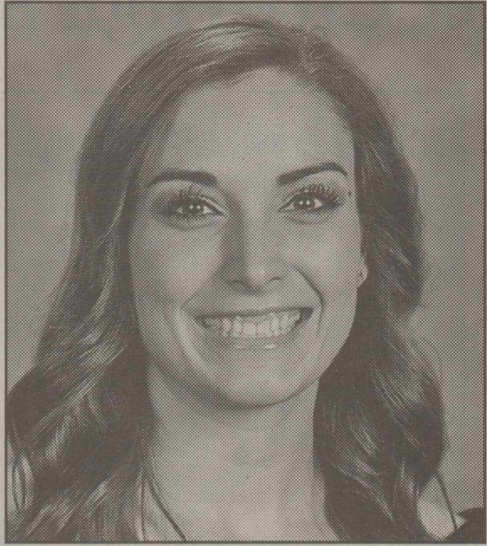




Pedro Armendariz is the son of Monica and Pete Armendariz and plans to work after graduating.



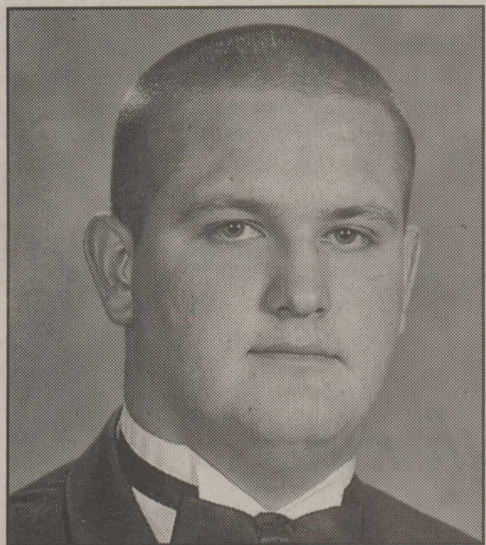
Sanjuanna Carranza is the daughter of Cristina and Daniel Carranza and her future plans include going to South Plains College



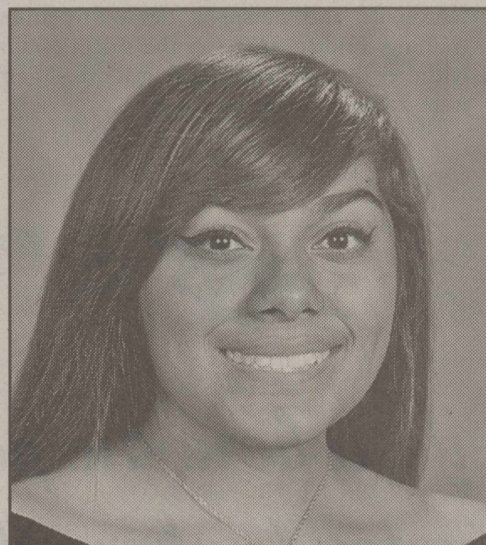
Raci Dillard, the daughter of Janet and Robert Dillard, plans to go to Vernon College and play volleyball. Her most memorable moments were earning trips to state competitions in debate, academics, one act play and track.



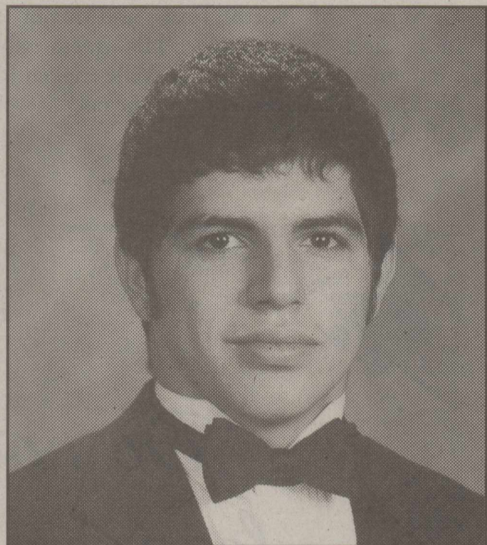
M'Kayla Ericson is the daughter of Rebecca and Greg Clark and plans to attend West Texas State A&M and do social work. Going to state in debate and finishing in the top 8 was her most memorable moment in high school.



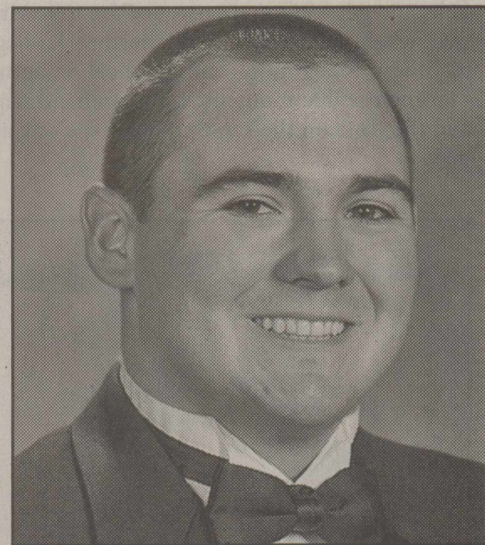
Colby Rhett Fullwood, the son of Carol and Curt Fullwood, plans to go into the Navy. His more memorable high school memory was winning state in football in 2012.



Elida Hernandez, the daughter of Sylvia and Leon Hernandez, plans on continuing her education at South Plains College. Spending time with friends is the memory she cherishes from high school.



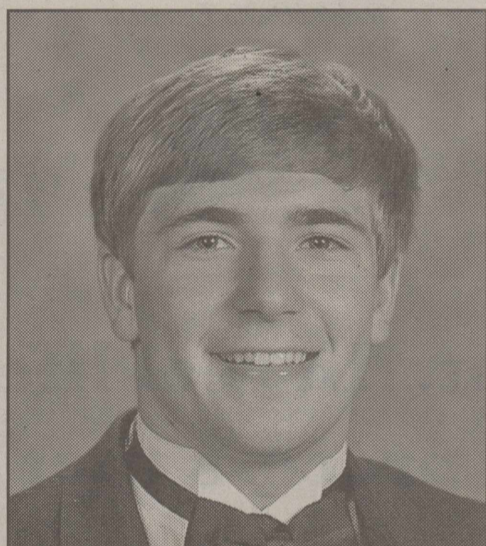
Zac Huffman is the son of Crystal Graham and has plans to become a Marine. Going to state in football is his most memorable moment.



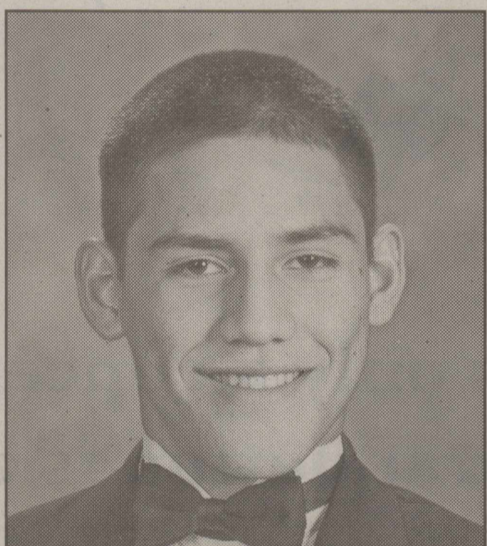
Mitchell Lowrance, the son of Jamie Lowrance and the late MHS coach Ronny Lowrance, plans on attending Tarleton State and eventually follow in the foot steps of his father to become a coach and teach kinesiology.



Hilda Mendez is the daughter of Gloria and Antonio Mendez and plans to go to South Plains College to pursue a degree in physical therapy. Breaking a 13 year streak in band and starting a new one was her most memorable moment.



Chandler McCombs, the son of Tina and Cory McCombs and Cassandra Beach. He plans to attend Texas Tech and earn an education degree so he can follow in his father's footsteps and become a coach. "Beating Baird in the football playoffs" was his favorite memory.



Alfonso Nunez is the son of Mary Helen and Sergio Nunez and plans to go to ITT in Arlington to learn how to become a welder. Going to state in track is his most memorable moment.



**Way to Go, Graduates!!**

David Booe, President  
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**2015**

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*We join your family, friends and the entire community in wishing each of you well in your future endeavors.*

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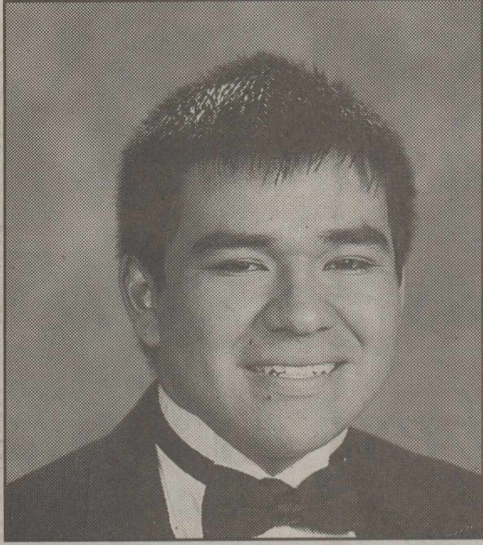
"Congratulations- We're Proud of All 2015 Graduates"

**CitizensBank** N.A.

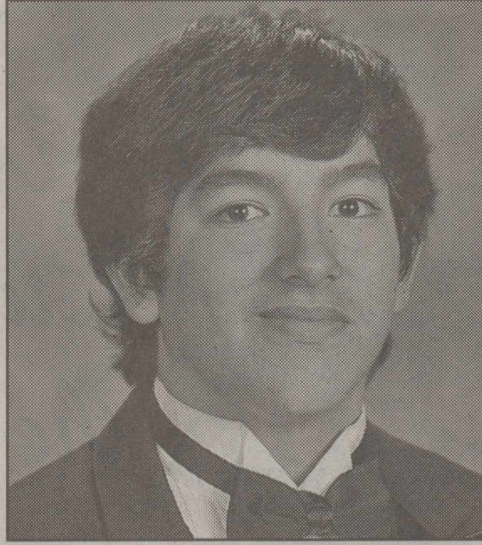
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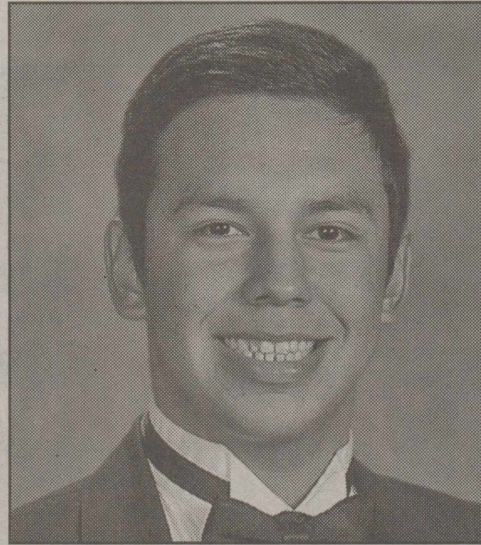




Victor Perez, the son of Victoria and Fidel Perez, plans to stay in Munday and become a farmer. Winning state in football back in 2012 and getting to play in the stadium where the Dallas Cowboys play was his favorite memory.



Ethan Ramos, the son of Betsy Peek Pinkerton and Arturo Ramos, has future plans to become a diesel and automotive technician. Winning state in football back in 2012 was his most memorable moment.



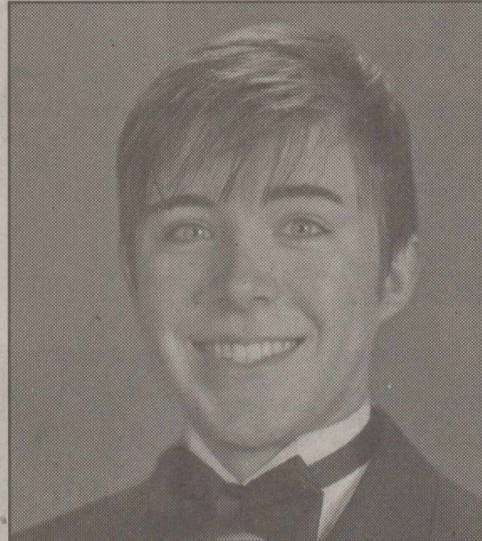
Diego Reyes' most memorable moment was the time he spent being the place kicker for the Munday Moguls last fall. He's the son of Maria and Jose Reyes and plans to go to Vernon College and eventually become an automotive mechanic.



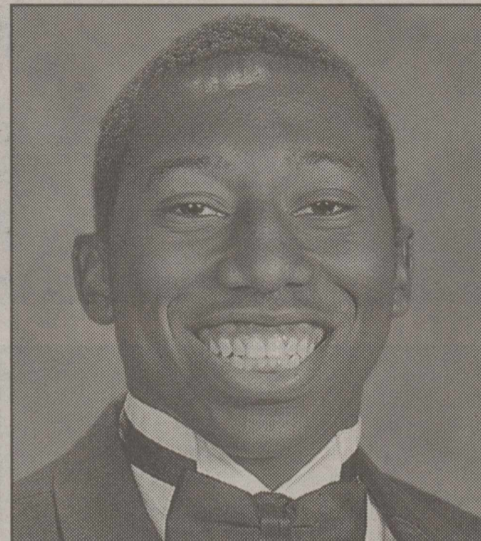
Sanjuanita "Janie" Salinas, the daughter of Ruben Salinas, received a scholarship from Butler College in El Dorado, Kan. to run cross country. Her most memorable high school memory was being welcomed back to Munday after winning a silver in the state cross country meet last fall.



Rebecca Serrato is the daughter of Lupe and Daniel Serrato who plans to enter the LVN program in Seymour. Her memorable moments were the times joking around and playing pranks with Mr. Spake.



Montana Simmons, the daughter of Tina and Cory McCombs, called making the all-region band in jazz as the highlight memory. Pursuit of happiness is one of her goals.



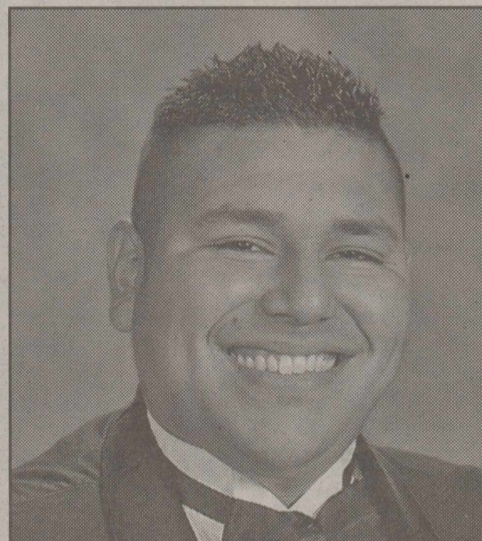
Craig Thompson is the son of Patricia and Collier Thompson who plans on becoming a diesel mechanic. Having my cousin Temerrick (Reagins) with me through everything was his most memorable moments.



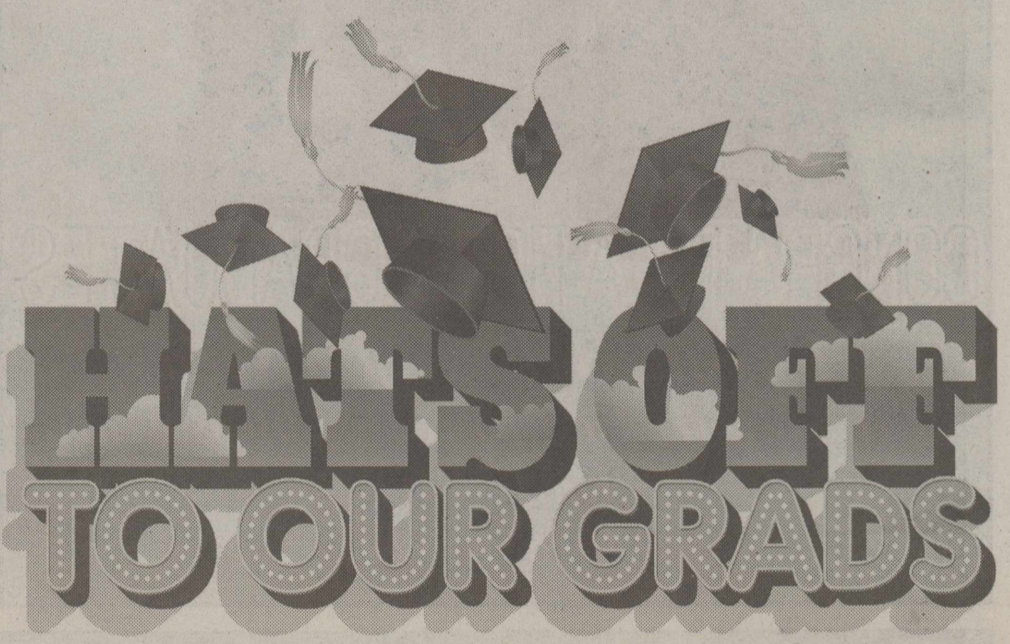
Maria Vega recalls her favorite times were those with friends. She is the daughter of Enedina and Alejandis Vega who plans on continuing her education at Midwestern University.



Jenna Wertz, the daughter of Marguerite Roberts, plans to start at South Plains College and then transfer to Angelo State to pursue a degree in psychology. Her favorite memory is advancing to state in solo and ensemble.



Dillon Angel Yzaquirre is the son of Patty and Mike Yzaquirre who plans on working after graduating.



*Leighen-*  
 You've reached the milestone you've worked so hard to accomplish - Graduation!!  
 Now an entire world ... An entire lifetime awaits you.  
 Go. Live. Breathe. See. Explore. Be. You exhibit more strength & maturity that most. When you stumble - and you will - remember the foundation that your life has been built upon. We love you. Incredibly proud of you. We are thankful to be a part of your life!!  
 Congrats, LP!  
 Dad & Kim  
 Nannie & Pepaw  
 Aunt Stephanie

*Congratulations MHS Seniors!!*

*Best Wishes, Class of 2015!*

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*Best wishes to all 2015 Graduates!*

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*Job Well Done! Congratulations to All Knox County Graduates!*

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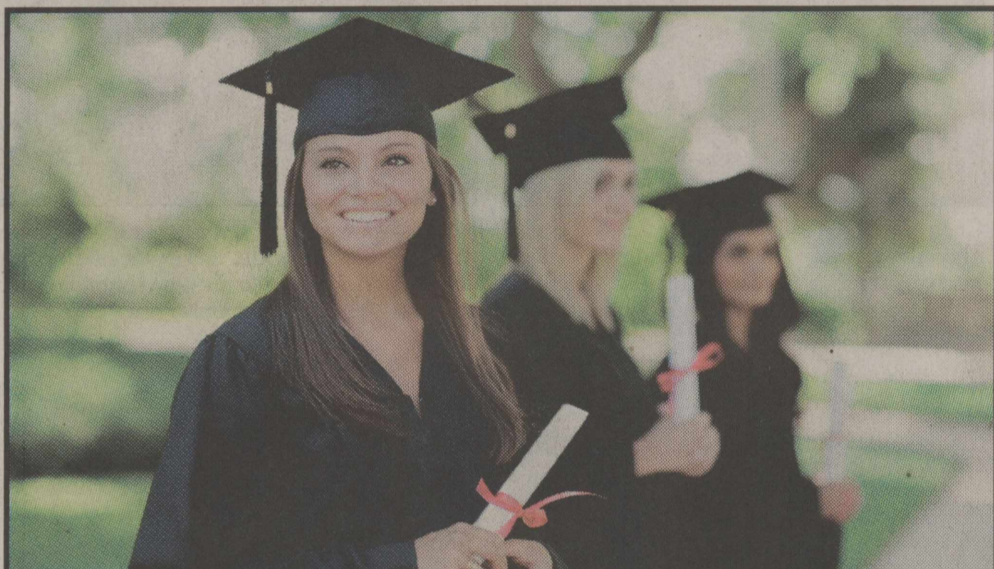
*Class of 2015*

*"For I know the PLANS I have for you" declares the LORD "plans to PROSPER you and not to harm you, plans to give you HOPE and a FUTURE."*

*Jeremiah 29:11*

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*Wishing the Class of 2015 the best of luck in all you do! Congrats! You did it!*



**CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES**  
*From Bill & DiAnn*  
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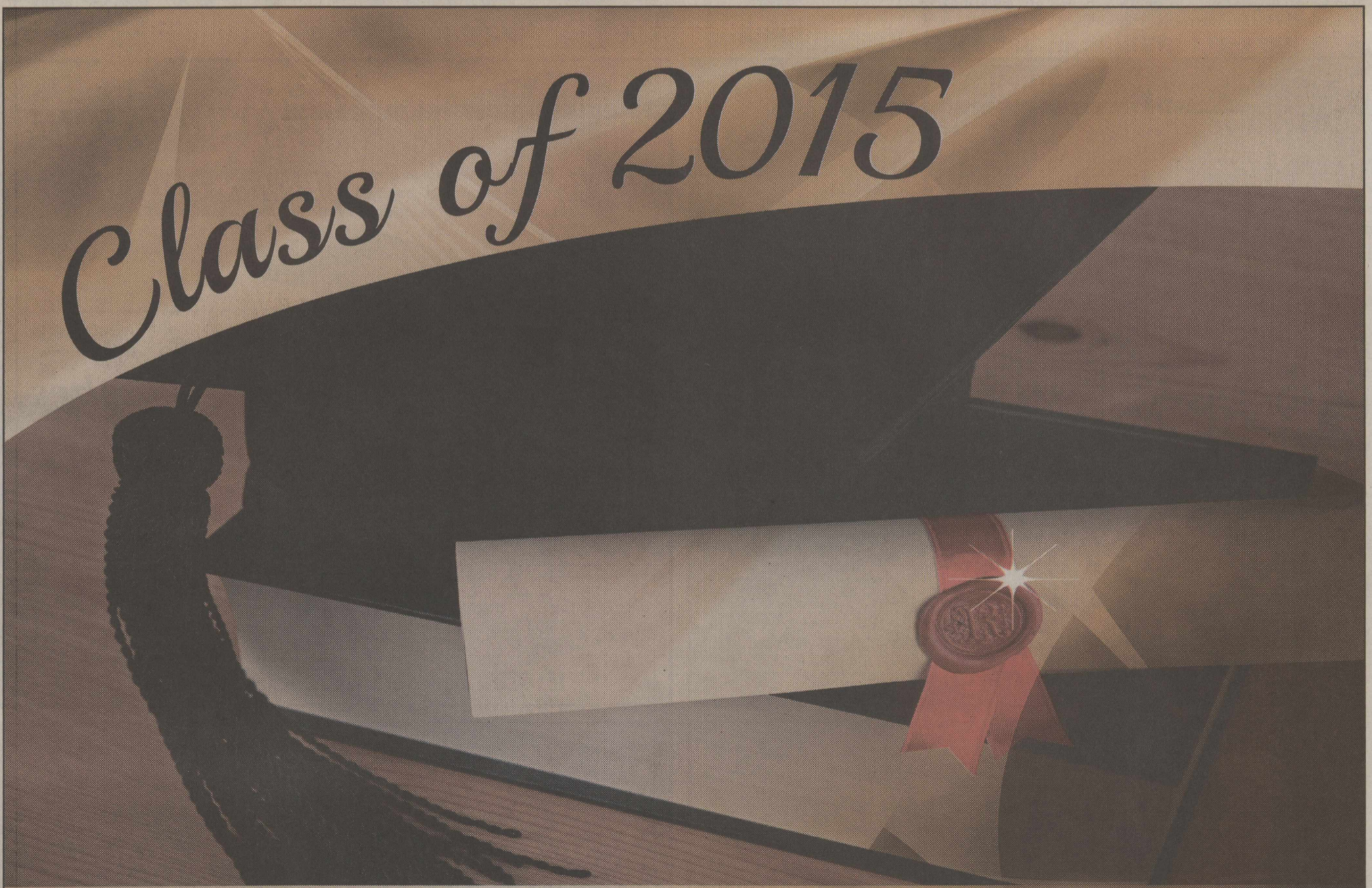


CONGRATULATIONS ON  
A FANTASTIC SENIOR  
YEAR!



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*Raci Dillard*



*Graduation is a time for reflection on the labors of the past, the accomplishments of the present and the possibilities of the future.*

*Best of luck in all you do!*  
*Blackburn Media Group*