

THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

HOME OF STAN WOJCIK

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2015

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Wojcik named Knox County Judge

By James McAfee
The Knox County News-Courier

BENJAMIN — Stan Wojcik of Knox City was selected as the new Knox County judge, replacing the retiring Travis Floyd, at a special meeting of the Knox County Commissioners here Monday morning.

Wojcik, who had announced he had filed for the position in the upcoming March 1 primary, will fill out the remainder of Floyd's term.

For the past 31 years, Wojcik has been the owner-operator of Air-Ag. Inc. in Knox City.

During this time, he has served multiple terms as president of the Knox City Country Club; helped start the Knox City Economic Development board and served

as a vice president; served on the Knox County Municipal Water Authority board; served as president of the Knox County ARB board; and has been a member of the Knox City volunteer fire department.

Wojcik served as a crew chief on the USS Saratoga from 1972 until 1978 after graduating from John L. Leonard High School in (?). He then served as an ag pilot in Florida, Georgia and Texas before starting his own business in Knox City.

Wojcik indicated his objectives were to serve the county and its people and uphold the law, assist in planning and maintaining a healthy county budget that allows growth and to allow the departments to carry out their duties while acting in an advisory capacity.



Courtesy photo

New Knox County Judge Stan Wojcik is sworn in Tuesday by county attorney Lina Trevino.

Beware of 'good deals' from thieves

By Dean Homstad
Knox County Sheriff

In the recent few months, there seems to have been a rash of burglaries and thefts. Stuff just seems to disappear. When caught, it seems that the person(s) have either sold the stuff to a pawn shop or some individual, or the stuff just cannot be located.

It is appropriate to condemn the person that takes YOUR stuff, but guess what, that person, in a lot of cases, is selling YOUR stuff to your neighbor, or someone else not too far away. If the person buying the items gets a great deal, of course they are going to buy the items. After all, it is a great deal, pennies on the dollar in most cases.

It makes a person fighting mad. You worked to make the money to buy YOUR stuff, then some low life takes it away from you and almost gives it away.

But wait a minute, isn't the person buying YOUR stuff just as guilty as the person that took it? Most persons cannot pass up that good deal, especially if it is going to save some of their hard earned money. After all, someone will buy the stuff.

In a recent theft, several 5 gallon buck-

ets of hydraulic oil were taken along with several other items. Now what in the world is a thief going to do with that. You cannot put it in a vehicle like engine oil. The only thing it is good for is some type of equipment with hydraulic controls. That could be farm equipment, oilfield equipment, construction equipment and so on.

What I am trying to get across is that old saying, "if it looks too good to be true, it probably is."

If you are offered a great deal on ANYTHING, show your interest, call law enforcement, cooperate with the law enforcement to set up a buy or something. To gripe or gossip about it days later that "ole sorry tried to sell me the world for a great price and I KNEW it was stolen", makes no sense and is of no use to anyone. The stuff is probably already gone.

On another note, everyone knows at Christmas time as well as any other time, if you have valuables in your vehicle, lock the doors and have the items hidden, either covered with something or locked in the trunk. Someone may still break the windows. How-

See DEALS, Page 8

House OKs Red River Property Protection Act

WASHINGTON - The "Red River Private Property Protection Act," H.R. 2130, introduced by U.S. Congressman Mac Thornberry (R-Clarendon), passed the House of Representatives last week.

The bill, which passed by a vote of 253-177, would provide legal certainty to landowners by ending any questions about the federal government's ownership of disputed land along the Red River.

"This is a big victory for the landowners along the Red River and also for property owners everywhere who deserve to know that the federal government cannot come in and take away what they own. I hope we can use this momentum to get the bill passed in the Senate and then signed into law by the President," Thornberry said. "I will continue working with the landowners, local and state officials, and Senator Cornyn (R-TX) until this issue is resolved once and for all."

Many landowners and other public officials are alarmed that Bureau of Land Management (BLM) actions might result in disputed claims of ownership. Since concern first arose in December 2013, Thornberry's office has held multiple meetings, phone calls, and other correspondence with landowners, as well as local and state officials, to coordinate action. Thornberry's bill reflects the input they received by listening to landowners, the Texas General Land Office, and many others.

"Texas families that have owned land along the Red River for generations deserve certainty that their property rights will be protected from overreach by the Obama Administration. Today's vote is a positive step toward ensuring the federal government's land

claims are restrained and Texas landowner rights are protected," Sen. Cornyn said.

The legislation will provide legal certainty to property owners along the Red River by:

Commissioning a survey of the entire 116-mile stretch of contested area along the Red River using the gradient boundary survey method developed and backed by the Supreme Court to find the proper boundary between private and federally owned land.

Ordering that the survey be conducted within two years by Licensed State Land Surveyors and approved by the Texas General Land Office in consultation with The Commissioners of the Land Office in Oklahoma.

Allowing landowners who hold the proper right, title, and/or interest in the contested area to appeal the determination of the survey to an administrative law judge. Landowners are also able to file for a modified Color-of-Title Act land patent request for public land that has been held in good faith and in peaceful adverse possession for \$1.25 per acre.

Preventing any contested land from being included in the Resource Management Plan outside of the provisions in the bill.

Requiring the BLM to sell the remaining federal lands along the Red River at no less than market value and setting forth procedures for offering adjacent landowners the first rights of refusal. The bill also explicitly states that nothing in the Act shall be construed to modify the Red River Boundary Compact and that the interest of Texas and Oklahoma and the sovereignty rights of the federally recognized Indian tribes north of the South Bank boundary line will not be affected.

Trevino will run for 50th DA

Special to The News-Courier

BENJAMIN — Knox County Attorney Lina Trevino has announced that she will be a candidate for the district attorney's position for the 50th District in the March primary.

The other announced can-

didate is Jennifer Hebert of Seymour.

The 50th District includes Baylor, Cottle, King and Knox counties.

Bobby Burnett, who had earlier been appointed to fill a vacancy as the 50th District Judge, had announced earlier he would seek reelection.

Knox Notes

Please notify the News-Courier about your upcoming events. Emailed submissions to kcnnews@knoxcountynews.com are preferred. The deadline for inclusion will be the Friday before the following week's issue.

Cowboy Christmas Ball

BENJAMIN — The Circle Bar Ranch Cowboy Christmas Ball is scheduled from 8-11 p.m. Saturday here at the Benjamin Community Building. The cost is \$20 with kids under 10 free. Proceeds will go to the Circle Bar Music Camp scholarships.

Schedules for masses

The two Catholic churches have announced their schedules of masses for the holidays. St. Joseph's in Rhineland will have masses at 11 p.m. on Dec. 24, 8 a.m. on Dec. 25, 6 p.m. on Dec. 31 and 8 a.m. on Jan. 1. Santa Rosa in Knox City will have masses at 9 p.m. Dec 24 and 10 a.m. Jan. 1.

Candidates file for primary

Special to The News-Courier

BENJAMIN — Monday was the deadline for candidates to file to appear on the ballot for the March 1 primary.

Lou Vail, chairman of the Knox County Republican party, indicated that the following filed:

County Commissioner, Pct 1: Johnny McCown;

County Judge: Augustin "Augie" Rodriguez and Stan Wojcik;

Tax Assessor/Collector: Mitzi Welch.

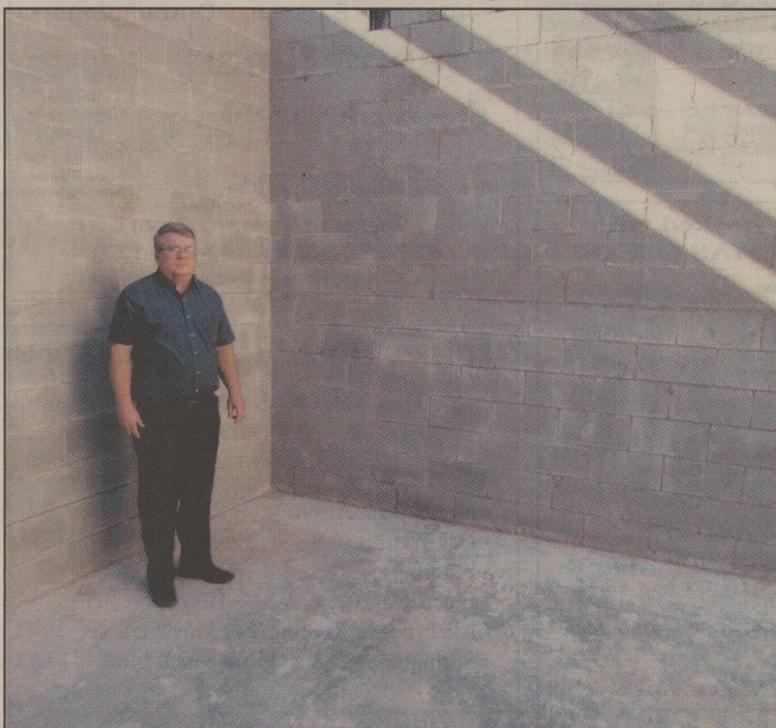
Efforts to contact Phillis Urbanczyk, chairman of the Knox Democratic party, by phone were unsuccessful, but people at the courthouse indicated that the following had filed:

County Commissioner, Pct. 3: Jimmy Urbanczyk;

Sheriff: Dean Homstad.

The last day to register to vote is Jan. 1. The first day to vote early is Feb. 16, with the final day of early voting scheduled Feb. 26.

Safe room in Knox City



James McAfee/The Knox County News-Courier

Louis Baty, superintendent of Knox City O'Brien CISD, is shown inside the 700-square foot "safe room" being built as part of the classroom addition at the Knox City Elementary campus. This room is designed to withstand a tornado and will be large enough to house all of the students on the campus.

News on the go

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

DEADLINES

Advertising: Noon Mondays
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Obituaries
Catherine Corcoran

Funeral Mass for Sandra Catherine Corcoran, 69, of Lindsay, will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, 2015 at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Lindsay with Fr. Phil Petta officiating. Burial will follow at a later date. A rosary, followed by a visitation, will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, at George J. Carroll & Sons Funeral Home in Gainesville.

Sandra, beloved mother, mother in law, grandmother, sister, aunt, niece, and friend, peacefully passed away Dec. 13, 2015 at her home. She was born on Dec. 16, 1945, in Muenster, to Al (Shorty) and Marie Catherine Hartman Walter.

Sandra was a proud mother to three sons, and grandmother to 8 grandchildren. Upon graduating from Sacred Heart High School, Sandra married Tommy Corcoran on June 26, 1964 and then began raising their family. They lived in Fort Smith, AR, Edmond, OK, and Gainesville, Texas before returning to Lindsay and building their family home. In addition to being a housewife, Sandra was employed by Bomber Bait for 15 years. In 1985, Sandra began a 30-year career with

Walmart in which the majority of those years she was a department manager. She enjoyed gardening, cooking, fishing, photography, football, playing games, and most of all, spending time with her grandchildren.

She is survived by her children Mike Corcoran of Muenster, Steve Corcoran and wife Jenny of Lindsay, and Patrick Corcoran and wife Cori of Munday. Her beloved grandchildren include: Caitlin, Sarah, Tanner, Justin, Campbell, Cherokee, Carter, and Keaton. Her brothers and sisters include: John Virgil Walter and wife Sammie of Dallas, Dolores Swirczynski of North Richland Hills, Jeanette Karr and husband Bill of Temple, Gene Walter and wife Marilyn of Muenster, Claude Walter and wife Nancy of Muenster, and many more nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband of 29 years Tommy Corcoran, brother in law B.J. Swirczynski, and sister in law Marie Walter.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Patsy King

Patsy Jeannette King, 75, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2015 at her home in Munday.

Patsy was born on July 30, 1940 in Haskell to W.A. (Bill) and Marguerite King. She graduated from Weinert High School in 1958 and attended Texas Women's University in Denton.

She worked for Charles Baker Insurance in Munday for 32 years and was employed by Home Health and Human Resources for nine years. Upon her retirement, she enjoyed her family and friends.

Survivors include brothers Jerry King and wife Sandy and Donnie King and wife Dena, both of Munday; four nephews Kerry King and wife Rhonda of Lubbock,



PATSY KING

Chad King and wife Amanda of Childress, Donald King Jr. and wife Jennifer and Justin King and wife Kelly of Lubbock; and one niece Heather Brownlee and husband Blake of Denton.

Also four great nephews and four great nieces. All of these she loved dearly as they were her pride and joy. She is also survived by eight cousins and many good friends.

The Paperboy

The MSM is hot garbage

Trust in the mainstream media is dismal. Less than 30 percent trust it. Before discussing this topic, perhaps it would be good to define what the MSM is.



CHRIS BLACKBURN

In a nutshell, I'd say it is mass media: CBS, NBC, ABC (as well as all affiliates on regular TV, cable TV, radio, websites, etc.), major U.S. newspapers and their websites, and major weekly and monthly news magazines and their websites.

The MSM controls the news narrative and it is nearly entirely comprised by left leaning morons incapable, or fearful, of the truth.

I guess it goes without saying that you can throw me in there with the 70 percent that think the MSM is full of it.

The MSM has probably always been somewhat liberal, but years ago, they at least tried to be objective. That's what true journalism is ... letting the facts tell a story with zero political slant.

While the MSM pretends to be objective, they clearly are not.

Example: Hillary Clinton's handling of sensitive information through an unsecured server while serving as Secretary of State and her subsequent lies to federal authorities is criminal. Have you heard anyone in the MSM say that?

The fact is that if you or I had been so sloppy, we'd be brought up on charges, the least of which would be perjury and the greatest of which would be treason.

Despite endangering the lives of Americans and even getting Americans killed, I highly doubt Clinton sees a second in handcuffs. And many brainwashed sheep are actually thankful she won't.

This woman makes President Richard Nixon's Watergate scandal look like a Boy Scout retreat.

When President Obama and John Kerry brokered arguably the worst deal in the history of the planet with Iran, how many MSM outlets raised tough questions?

The actual narrative of the deal was given by the White House and the MSM just climbed right onboard.

Beyond the ridiculous policies and executive

orders shoved down our throats by the president, the MSM is the real reason for the division in this country.

They are culpable for everything bad happening on the world stage.

Do you know why?
BECAUSE THEY HAVE FAILED TO TELL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THE TRUTH!

When we let terrorists into this country and don't even check their social media footprint, that should be the story of the day. It shows so much stupidity and ignorance that it's hard to believe. But have you heard that mentioned?

Slowly, Americans are waking up. You would not see a Donald Trump rise to the top of the GOP field if Americans were not angry and tired of the PC culture Liberals that the MSM have cultivated.

Had the MSM been honest with the American people on how weak Obama and his policies actually are, things like San Bernardino never happens. It's also likely that we would not have Obamacare and the PC BS would be nothing but a distant memory.

Instead, we do have this nonsense. We do have a divisive country. We do have people in charge of our security who do not have a clue about keeping us secure.

The sad thing is many more Americans will die on our own soil because of our idiotic PC policies.

My prayer for this country is that even more Americans continue to wake up to the fact that the MSM is corrupt. I hope they turn on them and force them to regain their credibility.

The mindset of Americans needs to be changed. We should be teaching our children that they are fortunate to be living in this country and why they are fortunate to be living here.

It is long past time for a leader to materialize who makes Americans proud of their country, our heritage and what we've overcome. It's an incredible story when the truth is told.

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Chris Blackburn serves as CEO at Blackburn Media Group, proud owner of The 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.

Peggy Hosea

Peggy Ann Hosea passed away Dec. 15, 2015 in Seymour at the age of 84. She was born April 1, 1931 to Elbridge and Linnie Coffman in Goree. She and E.B. Hosea were married Nov. 23, 1955 in Abilene.

Peggy was a great homemaker and she loved to cook. She also loved to be outdoors fishing and camping and doing yardwork.

Peggy is survived by her son Brad Hosea of Seymour

and sisters Trudy Trainham of Goree and Glenda Hertel of Seymour. Also, two granddaughters and three great grandchildren, all of Houston. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. today at the Goree Cemetery under the direction of McCauley-Smith Funeral Home of Munday.

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Knox County Aging Center Menus
Knox County Aging Center Menus
Menus for week of Dec. 21-25
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Friday: Merry Christmas

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Christmas Eve - December 24th
Santa Rosa/Knox City - Mass at 9:00 PM with Carols beginning at 8:30 PM
St. Joseph/Rhineland - Mass at 11:00 PM with Carols beginning at 10:45 PM
Christmas Day- December 25th
St. Joseph/Rhineland - Mass at 8:00 AM
New Year's Day
St. Joseph/Rhineland - Vigil Mass for New Year's Day Mass at 6:00 PM Dec. 31st
St. Joseph/Rhineland - Mass at 8:00 AM January 1st
Santa Rosa/Knox City- Mass at 10:00 AM January 1st

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Benjamin News

The sun has been shining brightly, and the weather is pretty nice—just a little cool but certainly not cold and blustery like on Sunday. I thought we might get snow from the way the skies looked, but so far, none. I know of several who have gone shopping. As for myself, I still have that “privilege” ahead of me!

The news from our ailing friends is that Pam Duke is doing well following her hip surgery last week. She came home the last of the week but is pretty well home bound until she goes back to see her doctor in two weeks. Of course, she's weak and can't be up too long at a time, but for what she's undergone, the report is very encouraging, and that's good to hear. Right now Dennis is the chief cook and caretaker in that household, and I'm sure doing a great job of it.

No other news of any illnesses other than the late fall colds and allergies that aggravate everyone. The flu season is getting close, and I hope we all can escape that. It's no fun at all!

Here 'n there

The annual community Christmas program was on Sunday night at the Methodist Church. Nancy McGreger and others read the beautiful Christmas Story, and the congregation sang carols. It was an enjoyable time. James Jackson opened the program with a prayer, and Jim Wright voiced the benediction. Tibb Burnett also recited a poem and played his harmonica. A special treat was Grant Jackson playing “Silent Night” on the piano. Refreshments of punch, cookies, chips, dip and candy were served afterward.

Debi Moorhouse and Kim Decker of Munday were in Fort Worth last Wednesday for Kim's children to see their doctor. Think they all got a good report. This was their eye checkups.

My sympathy to the family of Patsy King of Munday. Patsy died last Wednesday after failing health for quite a while. Her funeral was last Saturday in Munday.

Bob and Patti Tavernia and daughter

Andrea, have been here since last Wednesday visiting her mom Earlene Meinzer in the Munday Nursing Center and her brothers Wyman and Rick and their wives. They left on Tuesday for their home in Frederick, MD.

My great granddaughter Randi had her tonsils out yesterday at HMC in Abilene. Randi is 18 years old and has had lots of trouble with her throat and colds for a long time, and the doctors think this will take care of those problems. I can't say enough about Kim and Tina Sealy's outside Christmas lights. It looks like a fantasy land. There are lights everywhere, and I invite everyone to come over and just take a look. They live on Hwy 6 toward Crowell. You can't miss it. I think Tina did most of it. Every time I passed by, she was the one out working, and it is a piece of work.

And speaking of Crowell, I congratulate them on a good football season. Sorry that they lost on Saturday, but they certainly have nothing to be ashamed of.

Mustangs improve record to 4-7

Special to The News-Courier

BENJAMIN — The Benjamin Mustangs, relying on five players to play all 32 minutes, improved their record to 4-7 last week with a pair of wins, 34-29 over Jim Ned and 34-27 over Patton Springs.

The Mustangs dropped a 44-17 decision to Class 3A Graham.

“I think our defense has improved over the course of the season, but we have to be able to score,” said Coach Jacob Navarro. “We haven't been able to do that in the last few games. We really have to be smart and get the

little things right, but I'm confident we can get there.”

Rebounding was another area where Benjamin lost the battle in all three games.

Justin Rainwater did find the range for 22 points against Jim Ned as the Mustangs led 13-8 after one period, 24-15 at halftime and 26-19 after three periods.

Caleb Barrientez led scoring against Patton Springs with 12 points. The Mustangs grabbed an early 14-4 first quarter lead and led all the way.

The Mustangs were scheduled to have played Woodson Tuesday before taking time off for the Holidays.

TxDOT hands out safety awards

Special to The News-Courier

CHILDRESS — Safety: Mission Zero is just one of the mottos at the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), and certainly one of the most important.

At TxDOT, mission zero means; zero injuries, zero incidents and zero fatalities.

Approximately 200 employees in the 13-county Childress District were

recently honored for their outstanding driving record and no injury record at the annual TxDOT Safety Awards Banquet.

“Safety has always been our top priority,” said Marty Smith, Childress District Engineer. “Our goal every year is to work 365 days without a single injury or incident. When an employee does that, we think it deserves notice, so we have a safety awards event to say congratulations and thank you.”

TxDOT Knox County and Munday Area Office employees receiving an award in years combined for safe operator and no injury awards in 2015 include: Munday Maintenance: Joe Bejar, 25 years; Curt Coop, 35 years; Joe Cox, 17 years; Adam Garcia, 2 years; Bobby Harriman, 2 years; Leno Hernandez, 33 years; Dwayne Redder, 20 years; Munday Area Office: Mark Rocha, 26 years; Kevin Urbanczyk, 26 years; and Rickey Gonzalez, 44 years.

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Munday maintenance TxDOT workers honored for their safety records pictured in back row (l-r) are Bobby Harriman, Dwayne Redder, Leno Hernandez and Tony Blair and in front row Matthew Gerhardt, Curt Coop, Joe Bejar and Adam Garcia



Munday area office workers for TxDOT who received safety honors pictured (l-r) in back row are Chris Reed and Rickey Gonzalez and in front row Andrew Deupree, Kammi Bonham and Kevin Urbanczyk

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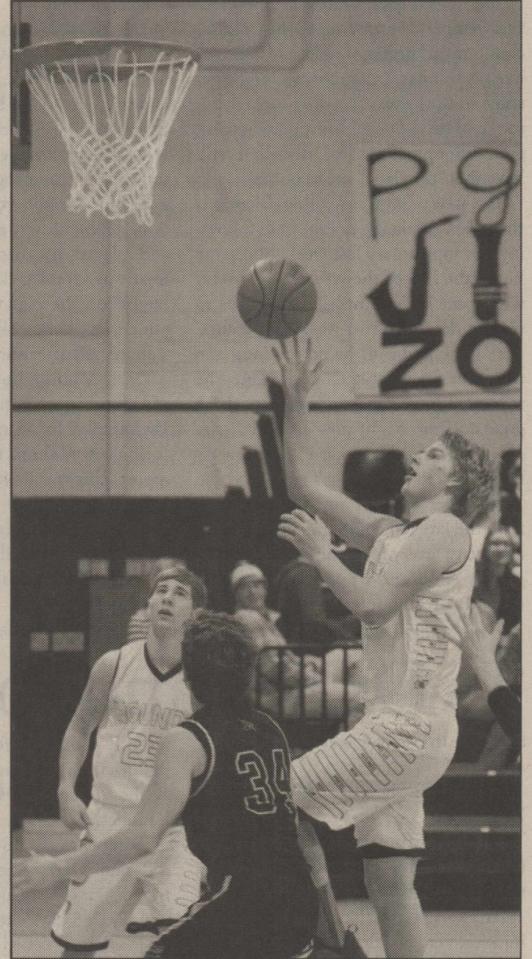
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Greyhound action



Sheri Baty/The Knox County News-Courier

Tyler Harvey, Ryan Heard and Brady Hawkins are shown scoring for Knox City during last week's tournament in Archer City.

Hounds take 2nd at Archer City Tournament

KNOX CITY — The Knox City Greyhounds finished second in the Archer City Tournament last week, losing only to Class 3A Henrietta, 70-42.

"We were a little overmatched against 3A Henrietta, but played a good second half," said Coach Josh Webb. "The boys were a

little intimidated by their guys, but finally snapped out of it after half."

That was the only loss in the tournament for Knox City as it downed Wichita Falls Notre Dame, 71-36, Archer City, 65-37, Jacksboro, 75-63 and Alvord, 78-55.

"We played really well at times followed by some lazy defense at times," Webb added. "I was proud of the way our guys ran the floor and were able to get easy layups."

Ryan Heard and Skylar Neill were named to the all-tournament team. Heard had 27 in the Alvord game, 17 against Notre Dame

and 18 against Archer City. Neill had 20 against Henrietta and 17 against Notre Dame.

Earlier last week, the Hounds downed Eula. "We came out slow and gave up some easy shots to a good Eula team and had some foul trouble that caused us to get out of our regular defense," Webb

said. "However, we had some adjustments at half time and had one of our best quarters all year in the third, taking the lead and holding on to win."

The Greyhounds play in the Jayton Tournament Friday and Saturday before taking off for the Christmas holidays.

Houndettes fall in consolation finals

Special to The News-Courier

KNOX CITY — The Knox City Houndettes suffered a 49-33 setback to Class 3A Henrietta in the consolation finals of the Archer City Tournament last week.

Kaylie Steele had 11 points and 10 rebounds while Brooke Jones had 10.

"We just came out flat and tired," said Coach Ballard. "I think having five games in one week and four in three days caught up to us. We could not make anything. We finally decided to wake up in the fourth quarter and made a huge comeback, being down by about 25 and getting it to 13, before we just ran out of gas."

Earlier in the tournament, Knox

City fell to Jacksboro, 61-34, and Alvord, 50-43, and downed Olney, 59-38. In the latter game, Kaylie Steele scored 32 points.

"Overall I thought our performance in the tournament was much better than last year," Ballard added. "We competed a whole better and we know that if we don't give up 11's in a game and show up to play another a couple of the games might have had different outcomes. It was a good tournament for us though, played bigger school with more size and speed, and held our own. This tournament will help us down the road."

Alvord edged the host team, 52-51, to take the title while Haskell defeated Jacksboro, 46-40, for third place.

"Alvord is a very good team and we hung with them, but when you give up

11 3s its hard to win any ball game," Ballard said. "We know that if we can get to shooters quicker and rotate faster on defense then the outcome of the game might have been different."

Steele had 25 points and 14 rebounds against Alvord.

Knox City started fast against Jacksboro, but the class 3A girls used their size and speed to pull away.

The Houndettes jumped off to a 22-2 lead over Olney, using its defense to produce points. "Everyone stepped up and played a huge role in the win," Ballard added.

Steele finished with 32 points and 12 rebounds.

The Houndettes host Seymour Friday before taking off for the holidays, returning to the court for the Jayton Tournament Dec 28-29.

Weather Whys

How do cold fronts differ from others on a weather map?

The quick way for a meteorologist to convey a lot of information in a hurry is by using weather symbols, says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University.

"The symbols on a weather map can tell people quickly what is happening all over the country," he explains. "They can show rain, snow, thunderstorms, wind direction, all sorts of things. One quick way to distinguish fronts was to make them different colors. So many decades ago, cold fronts were colored blue and warm fronts were colored red."

What other symbols are there?

There are lines indicating fog, plus those showing precipitation, types of clouds, air pressure, air temperature and others, he adds.

"On cold fronts, they are marked with triangles on top of the blue lines, while half circles are usually put on the red warm fronts," he notes. "White circles with lines coming out of them are wind markers, showing which way the wind is coming from. Large letters such as a capital L mean a low pressure center, while an H means a high pressure area. These symbols have become almost universal and now are used daily for those who forecast weather in the National Weather Service office."

Abbott prevents Crowell 3-peat

Special to The News-Courier

ABILENE — Crowell's 14-game playoff winning streak and a chance to win three straight state titles ended here last Saturday at Shotwell Stadium when the Wildcats were upended 40-30 by Abbott in the Class 1A DI title game.

It was Abbott's first state title. The Panthers had lost to Throckmorton in its previous state finals appearance three seasons

ago.

Abbott's defense rose to the occasion in the final quarter, stopping all four Crowell possessions to preserve the victory.

Zane Cooper threw for 218 yards and two touchdowns while Cade Ramsey scored three times and rushed for 137 yards.

Daniel Clark rushed for 110 yards for Crowell, most of it coming on TD runs of 47 and 39 yards.

Losing only seniors

Clark and center Steven Perez, the Wildcats are expected to be contenders again next season when they drop down to Division II in a new realignment.

In the other state title game also played at Shotwell, Richland Springs finished off a perfect 15-0 season with a "mercy rule" 72-26 romp past Follett, losers only to Knox City prior to the final game.

Walker Trippe and Bryan Salinas paced the Coyotes

to their seventh state title, scoring twice each from more than 50 yards in gaining 199 and 184 yards rushing, respectively.

It was the second time in three state finals appearances that Follett fell to Richland Springs.

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Cooler temps likely in Knox

Special to The News-Courier

Cooler weather was expected during the nights here in Knox County, but no rain was in the forecast.

The long range forecast didn't foresee a White Christ-

mas either.

While many parts of the county reported only .2 of an inch of rain last Saturday and Sunday, Brandon Carr of the James E. "Bud" Smith Plants Materials Center in Knox City reported .33.

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Sock drive a success



The Munday High School Student Council held a sock drive and donated them to the Knox County Child Welfare board for distribution to needy families. Pictured (l-r) are Diana Moore, Kolbey Brown, Cole Redwine, Grace Tidwell, Ayleen Arellano, Zoe Cedillo, Aiden Hunter, Tammy Pienaar and Kale Lewis

Moguls edge Graford in OT

Special to The News-Courier

GRAFORD — Not many teams come to Graford and return home with a victory.

However, the Munday Moguls turned the trick Tuesday night, scoring a 58-56 victory in overtime over the No. 10-ranked team.

"The boys played really hard and did what we needed done to get the victory" said Coach Greg Clark. "I'm pleased with their progress."

The Moguls controlled the ball for the last seconds of overtime to not allow Graford a chance to tie the game as it did in regulation on a shot that later turned out to be after the clock had

hit all zeros.

The Moguls got a balanced scoring attack with three players in double figures, Day'veon Dockins 16, Cole Parton 14 and Brady Weaver 12.

In the Stamford Tournament last week, the Moguls claimed wins over Trent and the Wall JV, but lost twice to the Abilene Hawks and Snyder. Munday takes a 4-9 record to the Jayton Tournament where it will play 20th-ranked Knox City and 7th-ranked Happy on Friday. Any Saturday games were cancelled to allow players and coaches to attend the services for the mother of Coach Patrick Corcoran.

Mogulettes claim consolation title

Special to The News-Courier

MUNDAY — The Munday Mogulettes scored a 49-7 victory over Throckmorton to claim the consolation title at the Stamford Tournament last Saturday.

In pool play, Munday lost to the Wylie JV, the eventual champions, as well as Ranger and the Abilene Hawks.

"We executed well even in the games we lost," said Coach Cory Stephenson, "but are in a scoring slump. We're getting good shots, but they're just not falling. Defensively, we're playing well."

With a 5-10 record, the Mogulettes were scheduled to play Graford on the road Tuesday before hosting Wichita Falls Notre Dame on Friday.

Purple Cloud Christmas concert



The Munday Purple Cloud band presented its Christmas concert last Sunday afternoon at Munday High School. Assistant director Ethan Yeats is shown directing the intermediate band.

'Twas the Night of the Concert

'Twas the night of the concert and up on the stage was the old band director now turning a page. The woodwinds quick fingers were handling the song while the brass and percussion were playing along. Our sisters and brothers were quiet and still the parents were sitting and listening until—when out in the audience there arose such a clatter the band stopped their music to see what was the matter. The woodwinds, they squeaked and the brass blew out spit, percussion dropped sticks, the old man had a fit. We knew in a moment a phone was to blame. The ringer was on and it caused them much shame. We practice and practice to get the notes right but all the distractions just make us uptight. For just a few moments your attention required the world will be waiting, the concert expired. Please turn off your phones, sit back in your seat the band has worked hard to offer this treat.

Trey Singleton

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Letters to the Editor

Congress must help fight back against cancer

Dear Editor,
Your mom, an uncle, a friend, a co-worker or even yourself – who is your “One Degree” from cancer? With nearly 15 million cancer survivors living in America today, we are all connected in some way to this disease.

My One Degree from cancer is my mother-in-law and the hundreds of cancer survivors that I have become acquainted with in my home county.

That’s why I’m calling on Sen. John Cornyn and Congress to make cancer a national priority by increasing the federal funding for cancer research in the 2016 budget vote this week.

The nearly 15 million cancer survivors living in this country today owe their lives to innovations and advances in the detection and treatment of the disease.

However, an estimated 1.7 million cases of cancer will be diagnosed in the United States this year, and the disease will kill nearly 590,000 people nationwide – or about one person every minute of every day.

Cancer hits hard. It changed my life forever and I need your help to fight back. Together, let’s ask Congress to boost cancer research and save lives.

Judy Allen
Fritch, Texas

Volunteer, American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)

I wanted to share a letter from my class at First Baptist Munday. The men of Polnac Sunday School Class have become burdened with the need of our country for spiritual renewal. We believe that our nation is at a crossroads, potically, religiously, and culturally. If we turn our backs on God and continue in ungodly, unwise, and self-centered ways we assure our destruction. God cannot

bless our country as it is now. Godly, thoughtful, decisive leaders are needed in government, education, business, and the church. We must turn to God, or face serious consequences.

In keeping with last Sunday’s sermon regarding Jesus’ injunction to ask, seek, and knock at heaven’s door, we are asking all who share these concerns to join us in praying often, seriously, and continu-

ally to our Lord for national revival. Our country’s future is at stake, and only our Lord can rescue us. Will you pray this morning in your class for national revival, and will you keep on praying in your personal prayer times, and in your home? What if it were all up to you?

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

2 Chronicles 7:14 KJV

Homer Lowrance

Vonda’s Recipe Corner

By Vonda Carter

Busy, busy, busy! Christmas is next week folks. If you haven’t finished your shopping, there isn’t much time left, better get moving. I think I have finished up mine, never mind I just thought of some things I forgot. No doubt you have some things you’ve forgotten too. Oh well, that’s the way it is at Christmastime. Try to take a breather now and then to remember just what is important at this time of the year, remembering why we are here to begin with and spending time with the people you love and care about.

The kitchen is always a good place to gather. So, while your gathering try out some of the recipes that I’ve been putting in lately, some of them are really easy and delicious, and not too time consuming. I won’t be writing my column next week so I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, be safe and be good to each other.

Classic Spritz Cookies

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 egg
- ½ cup sugar
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. almond or vanilla extract

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Beat butter and sugar in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed, or mix with spoon. Stir in flour, salt, egg, almond extract and a few drops of food color (if desired). Place dough in cookie press. Form desired shapes on ungreased cookie sheet. Decorate with sprinkles or nuts if desired. Bake five to eight minutes or until set but not brown. Immediately remove from cookie sheet to wire rack.

Powdered Sugar Icing

- 1 cup powdered sugar
 - ½ teaspoon vanilla
 - ½ tablespoon milk
- Mix powdered sugar, vanilla and milk, 1 tablespoon at a time, until spreadable (mixture will thicken slightly as it sets).

Slice of Heaven Spice Cake

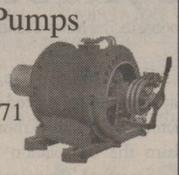
- Cake
- 1 box spice cake mix
- 1 can (21 oz.) apple pie filling
- 1/3 cup apple butter
- 3 large eggs
- Icing
- 1 package (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- 1 stick butter or margarine, softened
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 4 tbsp. apple butter

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease pan. Combine dry cake mix with the apple pie filling, apple butter and eggs (do not add oil or water). Stir well. Reference the cake mix box for appropriate pan size. Bake cake for the amount of time directed on the box. While cake is baking, prepare icing. Blend all ingredients until smooth. Spread icing on cooled cake.

If you’re enjoying my little recipe corner, let me know, and send some recipes of your own to kcnwscourier@gmail.com or mail them to P.O. Box 151, Munday, TX 76371.

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The 501 Christmas Rat Tales

Parodies of “The Night Before Christmas” are nothing new. I’ve not written one. I’ve read some, but I’ve never been inspired to improve on the classic poem. This may be the year.



HANABA
MUNN
WELCH

I’d start by changing it to read “... not a creature was stirring except for a mouse.” They are indeed stirring. So are rats.

What I like most about plagues is that everyone has a story. If you tell one, your neighbor one-ups you.

Rodent damage to my car cost me

\$248. A friend at church paid \$700 to get his pickup running again. And he didn’t even get the windshield washer repaired. Makes me feel better. It shouldn’t, but it does.

That high school rat that went viral – the one captured on video hopping off the urinal – also made me smile and recall the verse in the Bible about

lizards in palaces.

Stories about a guy shooting 50 to 100 rats nightly really piqued my interest. How do you shoot rats at night? Should someone report him for owning night-vision paraphernalia? Is it illegal to possess the weaponry required to massacre rats in the dark? Would he like to come to our place?

Another intriguing rat story is the one I heard from a Wal-Mart battery guy in Vernon. He said all the puffs of fur that show up at night on U. S. 287 between Vernon and Wichita Falls are road-kill rats. Makes me want to make that drive. What would be the best time to see the phenomenon? Midnight? Earlier? Rats are smart. After they see a friend or relative get zapped, they probably have second thoughts about crossing the four-lane.

Meanwhile, I’ve been setting ordinary traps. Sticky traps are supposedly more humane, but that’s only if you catch and release. How do you handle a living packrat or mouse with glue on its feet and tail and whiskers and wherever?

If sticky traps had been in vogue in

the heyday of cartoons, they’d have outdone flypaper scenarios.

As for my husband, Hugh, he’s been reorganizing the tool shed. He and the packrats don’t agree on where things go. If it’s shiny, they move it. Consider the missing kitchen knives, all cast-offs from the house. For both mechanics and carpentry, sometimes you just need a kitchen knife. Anyway, they disappeared.

Hugh discovered where the rats had stashed the knives, along with electrical stuff and many other shiny objects.

We are learning to accept such events. After all, it’s just a shed. Our friends with the \$700 pickup repair bill, by contrast, have a rat-proof building. Yet their packrats bring in bois d’arc apples, sometimes still on the limb. How do they do that?

But their most amazing rat story is what didn’t happen. Their Christmas tree was stored there, ornaments attached. The rats didn’t touch it!

Such a Christmas miracle makes me want to forget parody and write a fresh new story to cheer us all. I’ll call it “The Rats That Didn’t Steal Christmas.”

DPS provides vehicle theft tips

Special to The News-Courier

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Public Safety is reminding Texans about the potential for vehicle thefts during the holiday season and is advising individuals to take extra precautions to guard against possible auto thefts. Vehicle burglaries are also a concern during the holiday season.

“The holiday season is a

busy time for everyone – including criminals; and DPS is urging Texans to do what they can to keep vehicles and valuables safe from possible thieves,” said DPS Director Steven McCraw. “The months of December and January can be prime times for auto theft and burglaries. It is important to always lock car doors and store valuables out of sight.”

In December 2014, 5,717

automobiles, pickups and motorcycles were recorded stolen, making it one of the highest months for vehicle thefts that year, outside of the summer months. In addition, more than 13,190 vehicle burglaries were reported and \$13.3 million in property stolen last December, also making it one of the highest months that year.

DPS offers the following tips that Texans can follow to help protect against vehicle theft:

Never leave your car running unattended, even for a quick visit to a business or store.

Never leave keys in the car or ignition, inside a locked garage, or in hide-a-key boxes.

Always roll up your windows and lock the car, even if it is parked at your home.

When possible, always park in high-traffic, well-lit areas.

Install an anti-theft device that locks the steering wheel, column or brakes, especially if your vehicle is considered to be at increased risk for theft.

Never leave personal documents, vehicle ownership title or credit cards in your vehicle.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Knox County Commissioners are accepting applications for the appointment of Knox County Justice of Peace. The Justice of Peace position includes hearing traffic and other Class C misdemeanor cases, hearing civil cases with up to \$10,000 in controversy, hearing landlord and tenant disputes, hearing truancy cases, performing magistrate duties, and is required to comply with the continuing education requirements.

This is an appointed position. However, if appointee desires to continue said position, appointee will be required to follow the rules of the Secretary of State Elections Division to be placed on the ballot for the November 2016 general election.

Deadline for Applications: **December 28, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.** Applications available at Knox County Courthouse District Clerk's Office.

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THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF KNOX

By virtue of Orders of Sale issued out the Honorable 50th District Court of Knox County in the following cases on the 25th day of September, 2015, the 28th day of September, 2015 and the 13th day of November, 2015 and to me, as Sheriff, directed and delivered, I will proceed to sell at 10:00 AM on the 5th day of January, 2016, which is the first Tuesday of said month, at the South door of the Courthouse of said Knox County, in the City of Benjamin, Texas, the following described property, to wit:

Cause No.: 9503 KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS. AMELIA CASTORENA ET AL
Tract 1: GEO: R000009186
The North 1/2 of Lots 3 and 4, Block 5, Bullington Addition, City of Munday, Knox County, Texas as the same appears on a map or plat thereof filed in the office of the County Clerk of Knox County, Texas; 505 S Aspen per KCAD

Cause No.: 8988 KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS. PATSY JANELL FORD
Tract 1: GEO: R000003013
Lots 1, 2, & 3, Block 135, Reeves & Musser Addition to the City of Munday, Knox County, Texas as the same appears on a map or plat thereof filed in the office of the County Clerk of Knox County, Texas;

Cause No.: 9564 KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS. GRAND ENERGY INC
Item 1: GEO: N009702402
Working Interest, Denton Lease, RRC # 21209, Lease # 436, Operator- Grand Energy Inc, D & W Survey, Section 91, Block 2, located in Knox County, Texas as the same appears on a map or plat thereof filed in the office of the County Clerk of Knox County, Texas;

Cause No.: 9380 KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS. JOE GUTIERREZ
Tract 1: GEO: R000004414
Being all of Lot 9 and part of Lot 8, Block 30, Original Town of Knox City, Knox County, Texas as the same appears on a map or plat thereof filed in the office of the County Clerk of Knox County, Texas; 404 NE 2nd per KCAD

Tract 2: GEO: R000005523
Lots 10 and 11, Block 30, Original Town of Knox City, Knox County, Texas as the same appears on a map or plat thereof filed in the office of the County Clerk of Knox County, Texas; 408 NE 2nd per KCAD

Cause No.: 9385 KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS. JOHN J. MCKINNEY ET AL
Tract 1: GEO: R000000327
Lots 7, 8 & 9, Block 17, Original Town of Goree, Knox County, Texas as the same appears on a map or plat thereof filed in the office of the County Clerk of Knox County, Texas;

Cause No.: 9673 KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS. ARVEL R. PONTON III
Tract 1: GEO: N000805196
.004687 Royalty Interest, Cartwright -Q-, Chase Carlin, Section 71, Block 45, H& TC Survey, located in Knox County, Texas;

Tract 2: GEO: N000805191
.004687 Royalty Interest, Cartwright Perry V Cooper Glenn W, Abstack 139, Section 73, Block 45, H&TC Survey, Survey # 73 Knox County, Texas;

Cause No.: 9593 KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS. RALPH RIOS
Tract 1: GEO: R000007240
Lot 12 & E 10' of 11, Block 53, Original City of Knox City, Knox County, Texas as the same appears on a map or plat thereof filed in the office of the County Clerk of Knox County, Texas; 204 SW 3rd per KCAD

Cause No.: 9592 KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS. SPECK VERNON ROYCE ETUX
Tract 1: GEO: R000007967
The East 125 feet of Lot 6 and East 125 feet of the South one-half of Lot 5, Block 70, of the J.T. Lee Addition, to the town of Munday, Knox County, Texas as the same appears on a map or plat thereof filed in the office of the County Clerk of Knox County, Texas;

Cause No. 9649 KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS. UNKNOWN SUPPLEMENT/ GOREE
Tract 1: GEO: R010000340
Lots 11- 12, Block 45, Original Town Goree, to the City of Goree, Knox County, Texas as the same appears on a map or plat thereof filed in the office of the County Clerk of Knox County, Texas;

Levied on the 30 day of November, 2015, as the property of said Defendants to satisfy the judgments rendered in the above styled and numbered causes, plus all taxes, penalties, interest, and attorney fees accrued to the date of sale and all costs recoverable by law in favor of each jurisdiction.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND THIS 30 day of November, 2015.

Dea W. Horst
Sheriff, Knox County, Texas

By _____
Deputy

The minimum bid for a person owning an interest in the property of for a person who is a party to the suit (other than a taxing unit), is the aggregate amount of the judgment(s) against the property plus all costs of suit and sale. THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL TAXES DUE ON THE PROPERTY WHICH HAVE BEEN ASSESSED SINCE THE DATE OF JUDGMENT. For more information, contact your attorney or the tax collector.

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Mac's Views

Bowl system needs to be fixed
 With even more communities thinking about adding bowl games, it's definitely time for the colleges to take a serious look at the current system before next season. Earning a place in a bowl was supposed to be a reward for a successful season, not just another game to pick up more revenue for the school or conference or playing time for the players or revenue for the television networks.



JAMES MCAFEE

Although the games don't appear to take time away from their classes since many of the schools take that time off during the holidays, it does keep these kids from enjoying more time with family during Christmas. Too many teams, including three with losing records, were included in the record 40 bowl games that will be played this winter. One of the new bowls, the Arizona Bowl in Tucson, even picked two members of Mountain West Conference, Colorado State and Nevada, who did not play in the regular season.

This means that 80 of the 127 FBC teams (63%) will get the extra games. Ten years ago, this number was under 50%.

I think using academic progress rates was at least a good way to at least identify the 5-7 teams selected this season

The NCAA has largely removed itself from the bowl business, allowing conferences, communities and television networks to create the games.

I understand some conferences are on record as saying that only teams with at least 7-5 records (that would be my recommendation) should be eligible, but others like the idea of allowing 6-6 teams.

FBA executive director Wright Waters summed up the situation, "In our society, sometimes we don't put up a traffic light until there have been a couple of accidents at an intersection. This may be the opportunity to force that conversation."

Games start Saturday, but I will likely only try to watch the ones involving the five Texas teams, Houston, Baylor, Texas A&M, Texas Christian and Texas Tech, and, of course, the two playoff games between Clemson and Oklahoma and Alabama and Michigan State plus the one to decide the national champion.

Knox clerks get award



The Knox County Clerk's office received the 2015 Five Star award from Vital Statistics in Austin last week. The criteria for the award was scoring 98% accuracy on all death, birth and marriage licenses reported in a timely manner; filing better than the state average on all deaths electronically; attending the annual Vital Statistics conference; and completing the on-line state Electronic Registrar (TER) training. Pictured (l-r) are clerk Lisa Cypert and deputies Jeannie Clark and Danielle Rodriguez.

Santa in Knox City



As part of the "Hometown Christmas" celebration in Knox City last Saturday, Mr. and Mrs. Claus were on hand for photos with the kids at the Knox City Chamber of Commerce office.

Munday approves gun club lease

Special to The News-Courier

MUNDAY — The Munday City Council OKed a lease with the new shooting club for property east of the city, but no terms were finalized during a regular meeting here earlier in the month.

The council decided to reduce the salary of the municipal judge from \$10,000 to \$9,250.

Jim Cowser was given all of the city's votes for the Knox County Appraisal District board.

The holiday schedule for 2016 was approved. The city office will be closed Jan. 1, Feb. 15, March 25, May 30, July 4, Sept. 5, Nov. 11, Nov. 24-25, Dec. 23 and Dec. 26.

No action was taken after a discussion of a mapping system for the city.

'Frosty' float wins in Munday

Special to The News-Courier

MUNDAY — "Frosty the Snowman" by the Hernandez family claimed first place for floats in the Christmas celebration parade held earlier in the month, winning a \$100 prize.

Second place and a \$50 prize went to "Twas the Night Before Christmas" by the Knox County Cleaners.

Judges for the parade which included 11 other floats, were Dean Homstad, Knox County sheriff; Bob Bowen, Munday mayor; and Winston Stephens, Munday city manager.

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DEALS
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ever, it is not as inviting if the person cannot see anything before trying to get in. It is the same for your house, lock the doors. Make it as inconvenient for the thief to get your hard earned items and run away with them.

If your vehicle is parked outside, keep the doors locked all the time. It is amazing that a thief will just walk up and get in your vehicle while you are home, just as brazen as can be. Some say that they would just as soon leave their keys in the vehicle so the thief will not break into the house looking for the keys. Really? I cannot recall ever working a case with a stolen vehicle where the thief broke into the house to obtain the keys for the vehicle so they could drive it away.

Now there have been several cases where the keys were left in the vehicle and the said vehicle disappeared. That's just a lazy person's excuse for not wanting to take the few seconds to lock the doors and take the keys with you. If you want to leave the keys in the vehicle so the thief will quietly take your car and stuff and leave, that's up to you. Don't complain about it after everything is gone and don't bother law enforcement about trying to relocate your stuff. Now don't get me wrong, some citizens do forget to maybe lock the house and vehicle every time they leave or get out of the vehicle. It seems that the one time they forget or fail to lock it up, some fool gets in and causes a problem. You should be able to leave your vehicle and house unlocked, leave your STUFF laying out in the open. That's just not the way the environment is anymore. There are just too many sticky fingers around and such a ready market for items with a discounted price with them.

Anyway, have a great Christmas.

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this Christmas season!