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THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

HOME OF NANCY BIRKENFELD

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2016

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Election

Voters approve \$8 million bond

By James McAfee
 The Knox County News-Courier

Voters in the Munday Independent School District voted in approval of an \$8 million bond proposal last Saturday by a comfortable 265-117 margin.

Supt. Troy Parton thanked everyone who came out to vote.

"I told the school district finance person that I figured if the bond passed, it would be by quite a bit, and if it failed the numbers would be close," he said. "I know there will be some folks not real happy that it passed, so as we move forward let's focus on the good things for our students we will be able to provide."

The tax rate for the district will now in-

crease from \$1.17 per \$100 value to \$1.67.

Plans will now go ahead on the construction of a new gym that can seat 550 to 600 fans on two sides with handicap access. Included will be new dressing rooms and a larger concession area with seating in the foyer with views of the games.

A new junior high with four classrooms will be added in front of the current high school along with an addition to the elementary school and improvements of the current facility that will include a single point of entry.

The monolithic domes for the additions can also provide storm shelters.

A single point of entry will also be added at the high school along with security cameras and fencing. In addition, the ex-

isting science lab will be renovated.

Parton indicated that the MCISD trustees will authorize the sale of the bonds and then meet with the architect to finalize. He expect the projects can be started in August and take 12 to 18 months to complete.

Elsewhere, voters approved bond proposals in Clyde, Seymour and Highland, but denied ones in Cross Plains, Dublin, Roscoe and Sweetwater.

Jason Bowman and incumbent Nancy Birkenfeld won spots on the MCISD board of trustees, receiving 203 and 200 votes, respectively. Chris Mendoza and Ida Jo Watson received 191 and 122, respectively.

Incumbents Ryan Cottingham, Karen

Longan and Trey Singleton were returned to positions on the Munday City Council, getting 130, 120 and 110 votes, respectively, Don Thompson and Angela Herricks received 78 and 77, respectively.

In Goree, Randy Hibdon was named as the new mayor by a 25-16 margin over current mayor Glenna Decker. Jonathan Ramirez got the nod over incumbent Pat Wilde for the place 5 seat on the city council by a 27-13 margin.

The decision on street maintenance in Goree won a favorable vote by a 37-2 margin. Incumbents Gary Schnable and J.R. Hodges were reelected to the city council in Knox City, receiving 49 and 35 votes, respectively. Fred Ledesma edged Anthony Adkins, 39-29, for the third position.



Courtesy photo

Graduates from the Knox-Haskell Texas Rural Leadership Program are shown with Lorrie Coop and Jimi Coop, who started the program. Shown in the top row: Jamie Ferguson, Sheri Warren, Nicole Buchanan, Christina Isbell, Nicki Ivie, Jamie Jordan, Coop and Coplen. In the bottom row: Bea Hernandez, Bianca Harrimon and Susan Jarred. Not pictured are Veronica Anderson, Jessica Boggs and Lisa Tidwell.

12 graduate from leadership program

ROCHESTER—A second year of the Knox-Haskell Counties Texas Rural Leadership Program (TRLP) is in the books as 12 participants from the two counties graduated from the eight-month program on Monday here at the Webfoot Lodge.

They were joined by their employers, family, city and county government officials and board members.

The graduation celebration was a fun-filled evening. Live music was provided by Parris Pittman, who was a graduate of last year's

program. Roger Rowe and his staff at Webfoot Connections Lodge prepared and served a steak and chicken dinner to the group.

Nicki Harle of Baird, the former executive director and founder of Texas Midwest Community Network who currently runs a leadership program for Bastrop County, was the speaker. Participants answered her questions about impactful and memorable moments throughout the past eight months. She left the group with some final notes on not letting

See LEADERSHIP, Page 8

State OAP preview



Courtesy photo

Locals will get another chance to see the Munday High School presentation of "The White Snake" at 7 p.m. next Tuesday in the MHS auditorium. Admission will be \$3 for adults and \$1 for students. Then the MHS students will compete in the state one act play competition the following week. Pictured above are Brendan Kuehler, Master Wu; Aiden Hunter, Master Liang; and Kale Lewis, Master Lin.

Up, Up & Away recital a success

By James McAfee
 The Knox County News-Courier

MUNDAY — The 11th annual Movement Space dance recital, featuring the Mary Poppins theme of Up, Up & Away, was performed twice over the weekend at the Munday High School Auditorium, receiving rave reviews from large audiences of families and friends of the more than 100 performers from Knox County and neighboring towns.

Brenley Waters was the fea-



tured performer, joining other members of the senior dancers—Madison Edgar, Kayla Jo Hunter, Kristen Kuehler, Kendall Thompson and Ber-gen Waters—in solo perfor-

mances and group dances. The junior dance group, including Zoe Cedillo, Tess Decker, Zoe Harris, Evan Hunter, Destyn Mauldin, Karstyn Sanders, Sydney Thompson and Carlie

Willison, was joined by classes of dancers, twirlers, tumblers, theatre and cheerleaders in showing what they had learned. Joining director Cori Corcoran as members of the Move-

ment Space faculty were Kacy Latham (theatre), Haley Morrow (cheer), Kelly Thompson (dance, pilates), Misti Zeissel (twirling) and Rebecca Serrato (hip hop).

Knox athletes eye state medals

Special to The News-Courier

AUSTIN—Knox County will be represented by five relay teams and four individuals when the state Class 1A track meet is held here at the Mike Myers Track Complex on the University of Texas campus Thursday through Saturday.

The Munday Moguls will have all three of its relay units plus long jumper Day'veon Dockins and pole vaulter Holt Bivens while the Mogulettes will bring two relay four-somes plus Karla and Kayla Taylor in the 200 and 400. Knox City will have high jumper Myca Flowers and hurdler Debra Alvarado and Benjamin will have Emily Brown in the shot put.

The Moguls have high hopes of medals in all three relays as their previous times in the sprint and mile relays rank third and their 4x200 fifth among the qualifying teams.

Temerick Reagins anchored all those units and will do so again after recovering from an ALS injury during the football season. Dockins and Alex Thorn join him on all three relays. Joining the trio for the 4x100 will be Trever Swearingen while Dee Hemphill and Holt Bivens handle those duties in the 4x200 and 4x400. In addition, Heath Bivens and Brady Weaver will be available for the mile relay.

"The thing we have been trying to do is get faster each week and we hope to continue to do that," said Coach Jeffery Toliver. "If we are able to do that, it could get us on the medal stand on all three relays."

The Moguls accomplished that feat here last year, getting silvers in the 4x100 and bronzes in the other two en route to compiling 45 points to finish second to Water Valley with 61.

Toliver also noted that Dockins probably needs to jump at least 21 feet to contend for a medal and valuable points. Biven also likely needs to improve to 12-0

With two relay units and more individuals than any other

See STATE, Page 8

Knox Notes

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

Blood drives Tuesday

Blood drives will take place Tuesday from noon until 6 p.m. at the Knox County Hospital in Knox City and at the Munday Clinic in Munday. Each donor will receive a T-shirt as well as a complimentary total cholesterol test. Those who have eligibility questions may call 325-670-2880.

Pond management

MUNDAY—The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Center will host a pond management workshop at 6 p.m. here Thursday at the Munday Events Center. The registration fee is \$10 and RSVP is appreciated. Two continuing education units will be available to those who need them.

Remodeling planned

MUNDAY—The Dollar General store here in Munday will close Sunday and re-open Thursday after a remodeling.

Shooting Stars

MUNDAY—Munday Elementary will showcase the talents of its students at 6 p.m. next Thursday with a show titled Shooting Stars.

Free meals offered

MUNDAY—The Munday CISD will participate in the Summer Food Service Program Monday through Friday from May 31 until June 24. Breakfast will be served from 8 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. and lunch from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the Munday Elementary cafeteria. The meals will be served without charge on a first come, first served basis to all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

Town Watch meeting

KNOX CITY—A Neighborhood Town Watch meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday here at the Four Square Church.

News on the go



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

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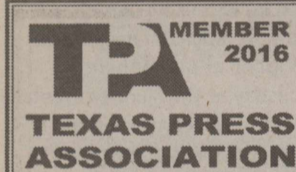
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It is the mission of this newspaper to promote the rights of individualism in the American Declaration of Independence. The right of life, liberty and the ownership of property are the cornerstone of freedom. Government's sole purpose is to enhance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

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

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



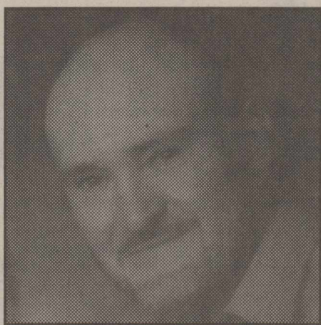
Obituaries

Bill Burtram

Bill (William) Burtram, our wonderful husband, brother, dad, granddad and friend, went home to the Lord on Sunday, May 8, 2016 in Dallas at the age of 71.

Burtram was born the third of four children to Howard and Evelyn Burtram in Oneonta, AL.

He is survived by his wife Loretta of Munday; sons Keith Burtram and wife Mary of Portland, OR, James Burtram and wife Nina of Ellenton, FL, Rex Burtram and wife Rebilla of Kerai, AL, and Paul Burtram and



BILL BURTRAM

wife Stacey of Morriston, FL; two sisters Barbara and Glenda; one brother Noah; and eight grandchildren. Son Tommy Burtram preceded him in death.

Bill entered the Army in

1962. He worked on the oil platforms as a mechanic and supervisor. He had a muffler business and worked as an electrician's helper. He also served on the City Council in Munday. He loved fishing, golf and doing things with his family. A visitation was held Wednesday at the funeral home in Munday. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Munday Church of Christ. Burial will follow in Johnson Memorial Cemetery under the direction of McCauley-Smith Funeral Home in Munday.

The Paperboy

Oh, you read it on the Internet?

I know many of you probably don't view the word through cynical eyes, but perhaps you should.

News broke last week that Facebook controls what you see and provides a liberal slant on news.

If you're shocked by this news, you shouldn't be. Why wouldn't an entity, controlled by a billionaire liberal, make sure his own views were what you were forced to absorb.

There are so many little minions being formed by Facebook for the liberal-progressive elite in this country it's sickening. A handful of billionaires controlling the minds of America—who would have thought?

It's bad enough that the Mainstream Media and 90 percent of our college campuses are crawling with their ridiculous PC controlled mindset. Throw in Social Media and 50 percent or more of the newspapers and you've gone a long way in fundamentally transforming this country.

And to what end? What gain is there? Since so few control so much, who really knows what's in it for them?

It sure as hell isn't a better United States of America. If it were, there would be evidence of it somehow. All of the evidence (wages, education, roads, bridges, health care, race relations, etc...) points to the contrary.

Are these people trying to end this country?

Some of you may sit there thinking I'm wearing a tinfoil hat. Am I? Where's your proof?

I challenge any liberal to explain to me why it's okay for a grown man to go into a women's

restroom and expose himself. Write me a letter explaining this.

While you're at it, explain to me just how in the world you think taxing businesses more is going to create jobs? There is zero evidence of this happening in the history of this planet, so I would really like a sound explanation because I'm very skeptical on this matter.

Furthermore, how are "we all supposed to get along" when there has been nothing but divisiveness spewed by these outlets to their sheep? Let me know how love is supposed to shine through the hate being preached on Social Media and across college campuses in this country.

We are a country where our own government refuses to follow the law.

We are a country where our own government lies to the American people.

We are a country where our own government takes sides on political issues.

We are a country where the residents act like petulant children waiting on Uncle Sam to toss them a crumb

We can and should demand better. We should demand the truth and we should hold those in charge accountable for their lies and corruption.

Wake up my fellow Americans and take a look around. The few that are in charge have you under control. It's past time to ask some serious questions.

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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.



CHRIS BLACKBURN

Knox County Aging Center Menu

Menus for week of May 16-20
Monday: Chef's salad, corn, crackers, fruit
Tuesday: King ranch casserole, Spanish rice, pinto beans, pudding
Wednesday: Cabbage and sausage, cornbread, salad, pears
Thursday: Oven fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, rolls, cake
Friday: Hot dogs, potato salad, pork & beans, jello

Ake attends annual seminar

Special to The News-Courier

AUSTIN—Rosie Ake, the Knox County treasurer, joined hundreds of colleagues from around the state at the 44th annual County Treasurers' Continuing Education Seminar here last month.

The seminar offers treasurers the opportunity to learn

new and vital information to better serve Texans.

It allows them to gain the necessary continuing education requirements, offering 20 hours of credit for attending all the sessions plus five hours of Public Funds Investment Act credit and five hours of credit toward the County Investment Academy.

Letter to the editor

Letter to editor
Saturday afternoon I attended my first Movement Space dance recital. I really had no idea what to expect. Renae and I have lived in small towns most of our lives, and having three boys dance studios were replaced by fields, tracks and gyms.

I was totally blown away by the production put in by the ladies and students at the Movement Space.

Renae said "that's like the most amazing thing ever" when asked how she liked it.

I pray that we understand the impact the arts play on our students. The confidence built by performing in front of a packed auditorium is only secondary to the hours of training, practicing and turning I can't into "I did it!"

Congratulations to all those involved. The production was truly amazing.

Troy Parton

501 Workplace Bore-Out

It's breaking news.. Television reports a guy, maybe in France, is suing his employer because he was bored at work.

I may have some facts wrong, but I can't go online to check. I'm at the farm. Our monthly data allowance is almost depleted. **THINK PAUSE.**

We live but once. Why let data costs hinder a quest for knowledge? At the worst we'll owe \$15 for the extra unit of bytes tacked to our bill to convince us we should up our data allowance. We remain unmoved by such tactics. Next month we'll be more careful. There's always next month.

Meanwhile, what about that bored Frenchman? The story intrigues me, partly because I love the French word for boredom.

You probably know it too: "ennui." It's one of those foreign words so often used that spell check doesn't blink. Sounds better than boredom. Anybody can be bored. Adolescents are universally bored. Only the sophisticated suffer from ennui.

Moving right along. If I didn't misunderstand the news blurb, the bored guy was working at a fragrance factory. What a stereotypically French place to work!

Was he a fragrance sniffer? It might be fun for about 30 minutes, but I think they said he worked there four years. Whose olfactory receptors wouldn't be bored?

FACT CHECK.
I Googled "bored Frenchman sues employer." Interestingly enough, the bored guy's name is Frédéric Desnard. Amazing. Ignore the "des" prefix, which just means "from," and you're left with "nard." Remember the woman who used a jar of costly ointment to anoint the feet of Jesus? It was nard, wasn't it? **NARD RESEARCH.**

Sure enough, nard is aromatic oil derived from spikenard. It's one of those essential oils I've so far managed to live without. It's available from various sources on the Internet for about \$60 an ounce if you don't pay extra for a fancy bottle. What a name for a guy with a job at a fragrance factory!

Maybe "fragrance factory" is not the right term for Interparfums, described by the "Daily Telegraph" as a "prestigious perfumes company" based, of course, in Paris.

MORE SNIFFING OUT THE STORY.
Just for fun, I put my college French to use and read Léonor Lumineau's story written for "Le Monde." The word "ennui" was right there in the text, but you won't find it in the term the French have coined for the work malady they are introducing to the world. Nope. It's "bore-out" that has made Frédéric Desnard the poster boy for the work-related (or no-work-related) disorder, the opposite of job burnout ("burn-out" in French).

Desnard's hearing is set for July 27. While you await the verdict, ponder why the French have borrowed an English word for a malady now making its debut on their soil. Or do something else. I plan to do something else.

Whatever you do, bore-out is not an option. There are always rabbits to chase. Oddly enough, the French don't seem to have an expression for chasing rabbits. No wonder Desnard got bored.

Obituary policy
The Knox County News-Courier will post an obituary in the next possible issue for \$65. If a photo is wanted, add \$10.

Death notices are free, containing name, date of death, date of service and survivors.

People are DYING to hear from you. Really. ☹️

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From the Preacher's Desk
Being mother important, but...
We often commend mothers by saying they have, "the most important job in the world." While I will be the first to say mothers have an incredibly important — and difficult — job, I believe we need to rethink calling it, "the most important job in the world." While this phrase is meant to be complimentary, I believe it has several unintended consequences.
Let me say again, being a mother is an incredibly important job. Particularly when done according to the will of God. Being a Christian mother means not only bringing a child into the world, but helping bring a child into the faith.
I think often about how the apostle Paul commended the grandmother and mother of his young protégé, Timothy. Paul wrote: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well" (2 Timothy 1:5). A Christian mother helps to instill a "sincere faith" in her children and that job is so very important. So please do not take what I'm about to say as an attempt to diminish the importance of mothers.
The problem with saying, "Being a mother is the most important job in the world," is that it is a comparative statement and we almost always get ourselves in trouble when we compare ourselves to others.
Comparison changes "our relationship with the people we are comparing ourselves to." When a mother compares herself to all the people who are not mothers, it automatically changes her relationship with all of those people. In this case, she is saying she happens to do a more important job. Within the church, we all have different jobs, but we do not have more important — or less important — jobs. Scripture says the church is a body and each member is a different part. Each part has its own important job to fulfill. How would we feel if other people said their job was the most important job in the world? "There are many parts, yet one body." (1 Corinthians 12:20b).
To be continued next week.
—Wayne Speer, Munday Church of Christ

Letter to the editor policy
The Knox County News-Courier welcomes letters to the editor from readers on topics of local, state and national importance. All letters must include a first and last name, street address (no post office boxes) and a daytime phone. Please limit to 250 words or less.
Letters sent by mail should be addressed to Box 151, Munday, TX 76371, but the preferred way is by email to kcnewscourier@gmail.com.
Letters may be edited as to content and will be printed or not printed at the discretion of the editor.

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Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday
Kidz Impact, Pre-K to 6th grade:
5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Youth: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Rains to help cotton planting USDA reaches out to more producers

Special to The News-Courier

COLLEGE STATION — Most cotton fields in southern and eastern portions of the state are faring well and recent rains have improved soil moisture indexes in portions of West Texas and the Panhandle in time for planting, said Dr. Gaylon Morgan, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service cotton specialist, College Station.

Morgan said he expects cotton acreage to be slightly lower than 2014, but nearly double 2015 acres planted in South and East Texas. Spring 2015 was extremely wet and prevented much of the Rio Grande Valley and Coastal Bend from being planted that year.

"The 2016 crop has had its challenges

with excessive rain, but nothing compared to the prolonged wet weather observed in 2015," he said.

The bulk of Texas' cotton planting in West Texas and the Rolling Plains will get underway shortly with adequate soil moisture across most regions.

Rain events in West Texas and the Rolling Plains over the previous weeks improved the moisture index in time for planting, but Morgan said another timely rain in mid-to-late May would help establish good cotton stands.

On the other hand, recent rains in the northern and southern blacklands have been detrimental to emerging cotton crops. Morgan said some crop land there would need replanting while others have not been planted due to inac-

cessible fields.

The planting window in those areas is around May 31, he said. "We are hoping to dry out enough to bring the cotton acres up to about 140,000 for Blacklands region," he said.

Based on the Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation's program estimates, cotton producers in the South and East Texas zones will plant around 800,000 acres this year.

By comparison, producers in West Texas planted 4.6 million acres of cotton in 2015 and are expected to be comparable for 2016, with some regions increasing slightly and other regions dropping slightly depending on concerns for input costs, sugarcane aphid and irrigation capacity.

Special to The News-Courier

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced last week cooperative agreements with 55 partners to educate farmers and other producers that have been underserved by USDA programs historically about Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs that provide financial, disaster or technical support.

Nearly \$2.5 million will go to nonprofits, associations, universities, and foundations that will provide training and information on agricultural best practices, local networking opportunities, and more.

"We're always working to find new ways for our programs to reach more producers and create more jobs in agriculture," said FSA Administrator Val Dolcini. "The organizations selected as part of this effort share USDA's priority of helping more Americans build successful farms and ranches."

FSA, which solicited applications last fall, received nearly 100 proposals that requested over \$9 million in funding. Cooperative agreements, encompassing more than 28 states, will be between \$20,000 and \$75,000 each and several involve multi-state or national efforts.

FSA also announced that it is accepting proposals for consideration in the second evaluation period. Applications are due no later than July 11. Projects not selected during the first evaluation period will be reconsidered during the second period.

Farmers receive financing option

Special to The News-Courier

COLUMBUS, Ohio — U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will provide a new financing option to help farmers purchase portable storage and handling equipment.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Val Dolcini and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Administrator Eleanor Starmer announced changes to the Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program last week during a local and regional food roundtable.

The loans, which now include a smaller microloan option with lower down

payments, are designed to help producers, including new, small and mid-sized producers, grow their businesses and markets.

"As more communities reconnect with agriculture, consumer demand is increasing for food produced locally or regionally," said Dolcini. "Portable handling and storage equipment is vital to helping farmers get their products to market more quickly and better maintain product quality, bringing them greater returns. That's why we've added this type of equipment as a new category for our Farm Storage Facility Loan program."

The program also offers a new "microloan" option, which allows applicants seeking less than \$50,000 to qualify for a reduced down payment of five percent and no requirement to provide three years of production history.

Farms and ranches of all sizes are eligible. The microloan option is expected to be of particular benefit to smaller farms and ranches, and specialty crop producers who may not have access to commercial storage or on-farm storage after harvest. These producers can invest in equipment like conveyors, scales or refrigeration units and trucks that can

store commodities before delivering them to markets. Producers do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply.

"Growing high-value crops for local and regional markets is a common entry point for new farmers," said Starmer. "Since they often rent land and have to transport perishable commodities, a loan that can cover mobile coolers or even refrigerated trucks fills an important gap. These producers in turn supply the growing number of food hubs, farmers markets or stores and restaurants interested in sourcing local food."

DPS plans to assist challenged drivers

Special to The News-Courier

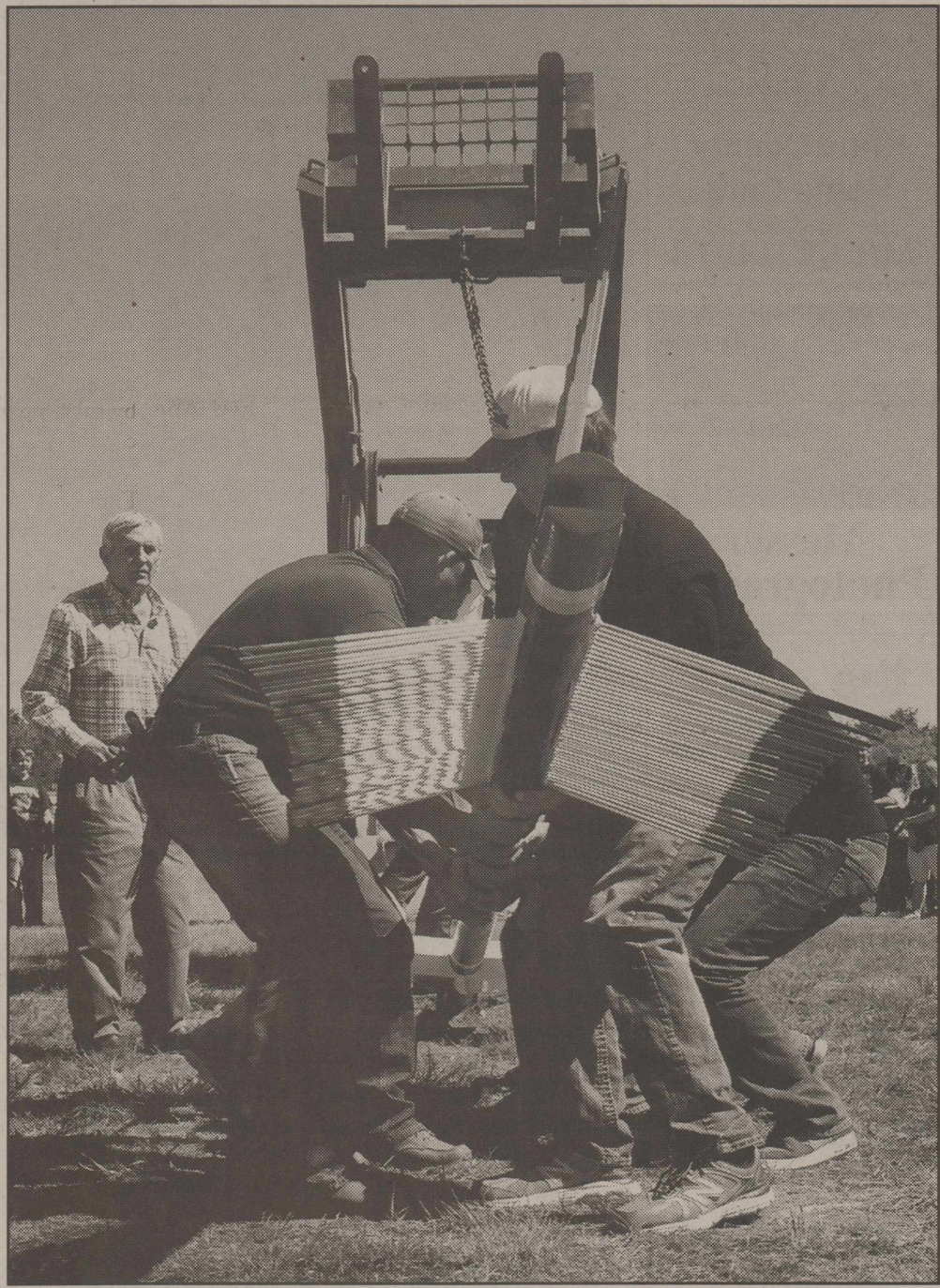
AUSTIN—The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), along with the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities and Aspergers101, announced initiatives designed to assist Texans who have communication impairments.

"At DPS, our mission is to serve and protect the people of Texas," said DPS Assistant Director for the Driver License Division Joe Peters. "This optional notice on the driver license and ID card puts important information in the hands of our law enforcement officers, which will help them better serve and protect individuals with a communication impediment."

"Protecting and enhancing public safety for all Texans — on and off the road — is paramount for DPS," said Major Jason Hester, DPS Education, Training and Research Division. "We are pleased to offer these new training initiatives, which will be powerful tools in enhancing understanding of law enforcement as well as help prepare and build confidence in potential drivers."

Individuals diagnosed with certain medical conditions—such as autism spectrum disorders, Down syndrome, stuttering or hearing impairment—who experience challenges when communicating with others, may (but are *not* required to) request a communication impediment notice be placed on their driver license/ID card. Printed on the back of a driver license/ID card, the voluntary designation informs officers of a communication challenge — this awareness can help facilitate better communication during any encounter with the individual.

Another Arrow added



Hanaba Munn Welch/Knox County News-Courier

Volunteers with strong backs lift a Quanah Parker Trail Arrow into place last Wednesday in Guthrie. Looking on is Glenn Blodgett, DVM, of the 6666 Ranch. The Guthrie arrow stands in a clear area across the highway from the old King County Courthouse, now a museum. Arrows mark sites in nearly all 52 counties in the Texas Plains Trail Region, including one in front of the Wichita Brazos Museum in Benjamin.

4-H summer program announced

Special to The News-Courier

BROWNWOOD — The Texas 4-H Conference Center nedar here will hold numerous camps this summer for youngsters.

"We have programs rang-

ing from our Horizons camp, a Mission Possible camp for disabled youth to county camps, Prime Time Camps and camps for sports like shooting and fishing," said Jenny Wilder, program coordinator for the center.

"We try and design our camps to address a variety of youth interests and to be inclusive so as many young people as possible can share in the 4-H experience."

Munday will create new website

By James McAfee
The Knox County News-Courier

MUNDAY— The Munday City Council plans to create a new website to keep citizens updated on activities.

New administrator Jimmy Don Moore told the council at its regular monthly meeting Tuesday night that he planned on working with

the Owen Group of Lubbock on a marketing program, spending up to \$5,000, including \$2,500 that had been spent on membership in Knox County Visioning in the past.

The council also announced that the city swimming pool would open June 6 and close Aug. 6 and that a city-wide cleanup would be held June 4.

During a discussion about nui-

sance properties, Moore indicated he could develop a better system of keeping up with them so action could be taken.

In other business, the council approved the hiring of summer help, added Moore's name to the signature cards, indicated an effort would be done to simplify the parking ordinances and canvassed the election vote.



940-658-3513

Turner Home Improvements

Heath Turner

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Thank You

I want to express my thanks to all who supported me for City Council. I am excited about the opportunities we have to make Munday a safer, more beautiful, and more fiscally viable community. Please contact me or the other council members with your ideas and concerns.

—Karen Longan

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Coins for a Cure



Courtesy photo

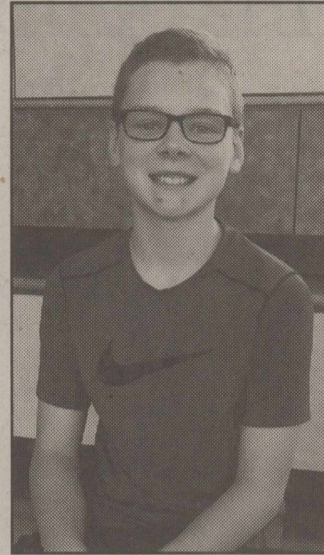
The Munday Elementary Coins for a Cure fundraiser for Relay for Life raised \$1,003.76. The second grade raised the most money and was treated to a Coke float party. All of the other students were treated to popsicles.

Jump Rope for Heart



Courtesy photo

Munday Elementary students raised \$3,127.37, beating its goal of \$3,000 which has been accomplished in nine of the past 11 years. Jaxon Bowman was the leading fundraiser for six years



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Students help cleanup



James McAfee/The Knox County News-Courier

Students from Munday High School helped cleanup after Charles Willison cut down some dead trees at Munday City Hall last week. The city was also trimming other trees at the city park.

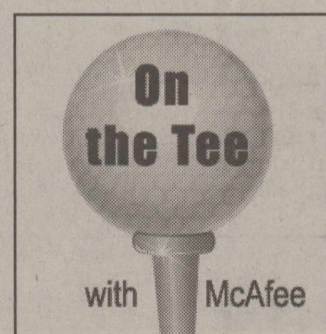
On the Tee

Identifying your ball important

Before teeing off, it's a wise idea to ensure that you put an ID mark of some kind on your golf ball and to check to see what other players are using. It's a rare occasion in a professional tournament for two of the game's best players to play a wrong ball, but it did happen in 2014 U.S. Open at the Pinehurst Country Club when Hunter Mahan and Jamie Donaldson did it. "It was just one of those fluke things," said Mahan, noting that the marks on the ball were similar. Hunter's caddy John Wood shared the blame. "It was 100 per cent me," he said. "I got to the ball first."

Players should remember that they can actually check, mark and pick up a ball anywhere, even bunkers or hazards, on the course to make sure they are playing the correct ball.

When playing a provisional ball, remember to also announce your intentions. Just grabbing



another ball and hitting again does not meet the rules requirement.

It's a good idea to play a different-numbered ball or one with a different ID mark to avoid the mistake I made many years ago in one of the golf writers events. While I had marked my balls, I played a provisional from the tee as my tee shot hit some trees close to out of bounds. It went on the same line. So I hit another provisional. Yes, it went in the same direction. I found two balls, both with the same numbers and ID. While one of my playing partners felt one of them had to be the original tee shot, I wasn't sure and accepted the fact I actually lay 5.

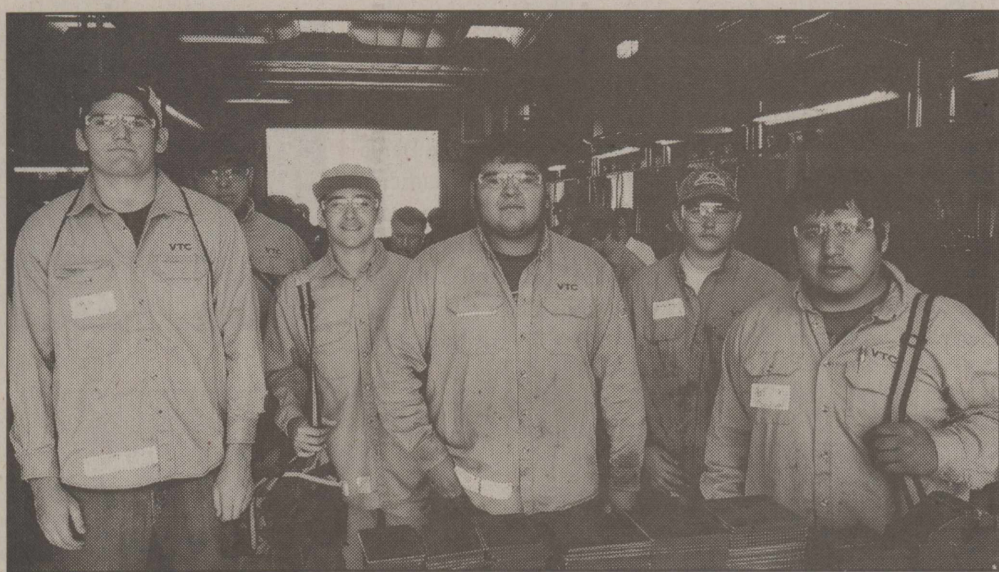
I've learned my lesson and haven't made the

same mistake again except one time in a bunker where I played the ball of Dave Pelz by mistake. There was no penalty then and I just had to re-play the shot, actually getting close enough to save a par.

When playing a provisional ball, remember it doesn't become the ball in play if you find the first ball and then declare it unplayable. You have to go back to the tee or use one of the other two options, dropping a ball within two-club lengths or going back and keeping the ball's position on the same line of play.

There may be times where you don't really want to find your ball as was the case on a par 3 at Myrtle Beach after my first ball sliced into the trees and my provisional ended up within three feet of the hole. However, my alert opponent saw my first ball as we drove on the cart path to the green. I hit trees two times before getting back to green grass and made a triple bogey six.

Welders do well



Courtesy photo

Rochester VoTech students attending a recent welding competition at the Brownwood TSTC were Kyle Glass, Toby Salazar, Jeremy Castillo, Alfredo Martinez, Jonathan Primm and Abel Sandoval. While none managed to finish in the top five, they finished in the upper half of the competition involving 61 young welders.

KC Fun Run



Knox City held a Fun Run for elementary age students and a color run for 7th grade and higher last Saturday. The Fun Run had 11 participants running a one mile course around the high school/gym and streets closest to them. The Color Run had about 45 participants doing a 5k (3.2 miles) around the high school and gym up to the football field.

Knox City CC Schedule

May 30: Memorial Day play day	Aug. 13: Ag-Oil
June 4: 22nd annual Ladies Wild Hog Classic	Aug. 27: Glow ball
June 18: Par 3 Classic I	Sept. 5: Labor Day play day
July 2: Bill Baker Memorial	Sept. 10-11: Guys & Dolls
July 4: July 4th play day	Sept. 24: Par 3 Classic II
July 30: Knox City Festival	Oct. 8: Guys & Dolls

Lake Creek Golf Schedule

May 28-29: Daniel Ramirez Memorial Scramble	Aug. 7: Guys & Dolls
June 25: 3 Lady Scramble	Aug. 21: 1 Person Scramble
July 9-10: 3 Person Scramble	Sept. 10-11: 3 Person Scramble

Weather Whys

Tornadoes can hit same place

Is it true that a tornado will never hit the same place twice?

It's not true at all, says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "The belief that a tornado will never hit the same place twice is totally wrong," he says. "There are numerous cases of a city or town being hit several times. Proof of this is the small town of Codell, Kansas. It was hit by a tornado on the same day for 3 straight years - On May 20 of 1916, 1917 and 1918. The 1916 tornado is believed to have been a fairly strong one, but the worst was the 1918 storm that we now think was probably an F-4 with winds of at least 150 miles per hour and it destroyed most of the town. Although some of the buildings were eventually rebuilt, the town never fully recovered from the 1918 tornado."

What other towns have been hit more than once?

Oklahoma City has probably had more tornadoes than any place on Earth, he adds. "According to the local National Weather Service office, the capital of Oklahoma has been hit more than 140 times since records began in the early 1890s. There seems to be no explanation other than Oklahoma City is smack in the middle of Tornado Alley, and conditions in and around the town are perfect for tornado formation during the spring months.

Dallas-Fort Worth, Wichita Falls, Kansas City, Tulsa, Lincoln and Omaha are just some of the cities that have been multiple times through the years by torna-

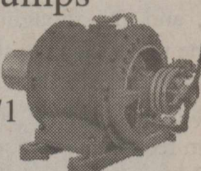
does."

Weather Whys is a service of The Department of Atmospheric Sciences at Texas A&M University.

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Congratulations,
good luck to
Debra Alvarado and Myca Flowers
at the state track meet



Myca Flowers
Debra Alvarado

Knox City Athletic Booster Club

Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

This wind was blowing like crazy on Monday. No matter how hard you try, it's about impossible to stand up in it! Makes one wonder if it might blow up another cloud. So far, we have been very fortunate as we have not had any bad storms at all. Just hope that remains true through the rest of the stormy season.

Regarding our ill

Good news from the Dicksons. Dick was dismissed from the hospital late last week after over two weeks stay in Covenant in Lubbock. He's feeling much better and very glad to be home. And we are glad he's home also.

I saw Susan White on Monday. She was getting ready to take Ronnie to the doctor. She said he hasn't felt well for three weeks or so, and she thought it was time to get him checked out. Maybe they can get him on some medication to make him feel better very soon.

Matt Tyson of Houston is recovering from his recent back surgery. He has begun walking therapy and can do some legal work from his home. Healing is slow, but he is keeping a positive attitude, and that's good. Matt's dad is Chad Tolson and grandparents are Linda and Charles Griffith and Janice and Buddy Tolson, all of Benjamin.

New arrival

It's a baby boy for Devon

and Brandon Bradley. Wyatt Max was born last Monday afternoon at 3:39 p.m. in a Lubbock hospital. He tipped the scales at eight pounds, eight ounces and is 20 inches long. According to all the family, he's the prettiest little boy ever. Very proud grandparents are Kemp and Becky Jones and Dusty and Julie Bradley of Knox City. Maternal great grands are Charles and Linda Griffith and Ned and Susan Jones of Benjamin. Paternal great grandparents are Max and Sandra Bradley of Knox City and Montie and Fay Barmore of Hemphill. Reports are that everyone is doing fine.

Here 'n there

I hope every Mom had a good Mother's Day on Sunday. I know I did. My girls always make sure my holidays are special. Diane Evans and Ashlee of Childress were here and attended church with me, then we had a leisurely meal. Debi and Mike Moorhouse were also around, although they had to be in Munday for granddaughter Taylor Herring's recital Sunday afternoon. I attended the Saturday showing of the recital. It was so good. I'm always amazed at how well these kids all do, especially the smaller ones. Their instructors deserve a big round of applause for their work. It's just unbelievable how they can get as many routines down to a fine line. It's just an enjoyable afternoon for everyone.

Mark Brown began dialysis last week in Abilene. He will have a treatment three days a week. He's feeling better. He's still in the hospital but may come home Wednesday or Thursday.

Susan Cartwright spent a few days last week with her daughter Ashley Burson and family at Dennison.

The new store over here is coming along nicely. We're all excited about it. It's going to really be an asset to our small "hamlet." Still not sure when it will be open but should be some time in the summer.

Shane and Patsy Milson of Duncan, OK were here for the weekend to visit his mom Bo. They went over to Spur on Saturday to visit Kathy and Kermit Woolley.

Saturday May 14 is cleanup day over this way. There are lots of places that need some attention. With the way the wind has been, everything you can think of has blown all over town, so there should be plenty to do. Just be careful and watch out for rattlesnakes as you are reaching down and picking up "stuff." They seem to be rather plentiful. Janice Tolson said they killed one at their back door last night. Of course that's a little ways out in the country, but who knows, if left alone they may come on to town. It just pays to be careful.

The Tiptons of Forestburg were back this past weekend and did more cleaning around the Driver place. They have gotten rid of all the remains from the recent burning of the house. It is very clean around there and looks good. It's so nice to have those vacant places cleaned up.

I saw David Jones on Sunday. He was here to spend Mother's Day with his mom Joy, and his dad Charles. He lives at Runaway Bay.

Cassie Wainwright returned to her home in North Carolina last Wednesday. Her mom took her to Dallas, where she flew from DFW. She was here to be with her family during the passing of her grandfather Fred Carver.

Benjamin has a new mayor. Joy Lynn Lyles Pool will succeed Ronnie White, who has held the position for quite some time. I encourage everyone to support Joy Lynn as she begins this new phase of her life.

And finally it's best wishes to Emily Brown as she heads to Austin for the state track meet. She's entering the shot put competition, and we do wish her well. We are all very proud of her accomplishments. So good luck to her and all our county entries.

Navarro resigns at Benjamin

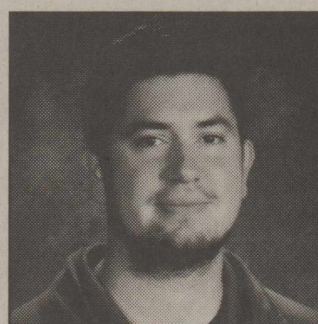
Special to The News-Courier

BENJAMIN— Jacob Navarro, a history teacher and coach at Benjamin High School for the past three years, resigned recently. The Benjamin ISD is currently searching for a replacement.

The District 8-1A Executive Committee held a

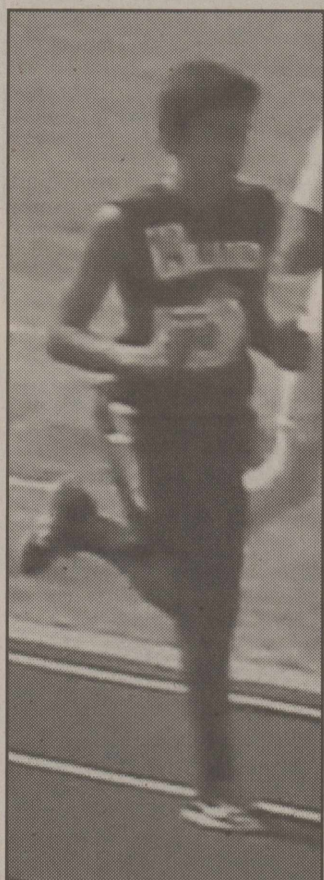
hearing in early May to hear about possible violations of Section 51 of the UIL rules against Navarro, but took no action, saying that the Benjamin ISD had taken sufficient action disciplining the coach.

After hearing that Benjamin had attempted to prevent the violation, no action was taken against the school.



JACOB NAVARRO

Espinal 16th



Courtesy photo
Benjamin High's J.C. Espinal finished in 16th place in the Class A regional track meet at South Plains College in Levelland, posting a 5:29.83.

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Vonda's Recipe Corner

By Vonda Carter

I made some new friends last week I'm very excited about. Out of the blue I was contacted by some folks in Knox City, Mike and Donna Nichols. They moved here from Hobbs, NM last Fall and tell me they love it here. I moved to Munday four years ago, and I love it here. They are enjoying my column and needed a recipe from a while back that had gotten misplaced. I was happy to get it to them. I had a very nice conversation with them. They are very nice people and I'm happy to be able to know them and look forward to this new friendship and the recipes they promised to send to me. You know I'll be sharing them with you all.

Now, here's the deal this week. Again, it's busy around here and time is in short supply for us, so I'm taking the path of least resistance. The recipes this week are short and sweet, easy squeeze, but well worth trying. I hate to shortchange you guys, but with the end of school and graduation right around the corner, we are scrambling to make deadlines and get out an incredible graduation issue. It's going to be fabulous. Love you guys, you know I do.

Coke Cupcakes (2 Ingredients!)

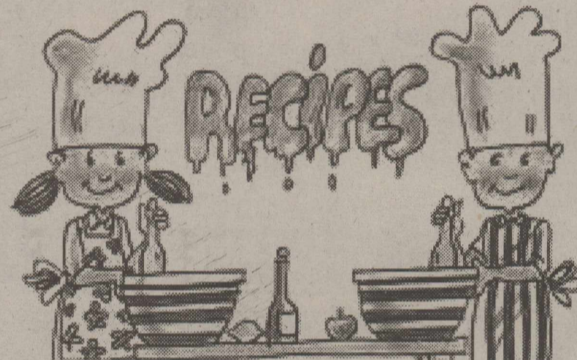
1 box devil's food cake mix
1 12-ounce can Coke, room temperature
Preheat oven to 350 degrees; line cupcake pans with liners. Combine cake mix and Coke in your mixer and beat on low speed for one minute. Increase speed to medium and beat for two minutes. Transfer to your prepared pans and bake according to package directions. Cool cupcakes, in pans, on a wire rack. Serve plain, dusted with powdered sugar or piped with frosting. YUM! Makes 24 cupcakes.

Quick and Easy Cobbler

1 cup flour
1 cup milk
1 tsp. baking powder
1 cup sugar
1 egg
1 can of apples, peaches or desired fruit
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix all ingredients except fruit. Put in a greased 8x8 or 9x9 pan and top with fruit of your choice. Bake until well done, for an hour or longer if needed. This recipe is easily doubled, just make sure your baking dish is large enough and deep enough to accommodate ingredients.

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

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- 1407 N Ave E - Historic 4/2 with shop (\$175,000) REDUCED
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- 219.5+-Ac - West of O'Brien - (\$1050/Ac) NEW
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More acres added for conservation

Special to The News-Courier

WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced last week the enrollment of

more than 800,000 acres in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Through CRP, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) helps farmers off-

set the costs of restoring, enhancing and protecting certain grasses, shrubs and trees that improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and strengthen wildlife habitat.

Farmers' and ranchers' participation in CRP continues to provide numerous benefits to our nation, including helping reduce emissions of harmful greenhouse gases and providing resiliency to future weather changes.

"The Conservation Reserve Program provides nearly \$2 billion annually to land owners — dollars that make their way into local economies, supporting small businesses and

creating jobs," said Vilsack. "When these direct benefits are taken together with the resulting economic activity, the benefits related to CRP are estimated at \$3.1 billion annually. Over the past 30 years, CRP has created major environmental improvements throughout the countryside. The program has removed carbon dioxide from the atmosphere equal to removing nine million cars from the road annually, and prevented 600 million dump trucks of soil from erosion. With today's announcement, USDA is continuing these achievements by maximizing conservation benefits within the limitations provided by law."

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Best wishes to Emily Brown at state track meet!

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The Munday Housing Authority (MHA) and the Knox City Housing Authority (KCHA) have apartments available to eligible applicants for immediate occupancy. Renters may choose flat rent or income based rent, and rent includes some utilities. Come by 131 West Cisco Street in Munday or 203 SW 4th Street in Knox City, or call 940-422-4941 for more information. It is the intent of MHA & KCHA to rent vacant apartments to high income applicants when there are no eligible low or very low income applicants on the waiting list. Both are equal opportunity providers and employers.



It is the intent of the Munday Housing Authority to temporarily rent USDA-RD apartments to all persons without regard to income restrictions when there are no eligible applicants on the waiting list. Call 940-422-4941 for more information. The MHA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



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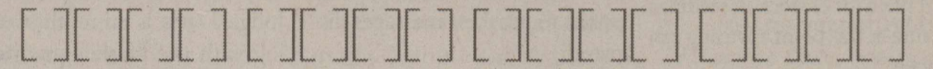
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STATE
From Page 1

team, Water Valley again is the team to beat. Other contenders along with Munday are Garden City and Calvert.

With the Taylors running in the 200 and 400 plus anchoring the sprint and mile relay units, the Mogulettes also have high hopes of bringing medals home. Charity Hunter joined the Taylors for both relays while Skylar Gomez and Emily Scott will do so in the other two relays.

The Mogulettes came close to winning the title last season before a dropped baton in the closing race left them in fifth place.

"There's really no one dominant team, so we've got just as much of a chance to win as anyone else," said Coach Cory Stephenson. "We need to improve our times. Beating Anton in the relays would improve the chances."

Karla Taylor brings in the best time in the 400 and has an excellent chance to medal while Kayla Taylor must improve her time to earn a medal.

"Both of my participants' qualifying marks are not their best," said Coach Mindy Flowers. "In order to medal, they will have to compete at their best. However, they are one of nine kids left in each event competing in the state and I am super proud of them. I don't put a lot of stock in seedings because at this point anything can happen."

Brown will be making a return trip with hopes of improving on her fourth place finish in 2015 and earning a medal. Based on best throws this season, she entered with the third best effort.

LEADERSHIP
From Page 1

fear, fault or feelings get in the way of accomplishing big things in the community.

Nancy Birkenfeld, the county executive director of the USDA Farm Service Agency in Knox County who also serves as the

KCVG board member, sent one of her employees Bea Hernandez through the program. "It is encouraging to see how these ladies have developed into confident leaders for our respective towns and counties through this program," she said.

Each county will put their new-found skills and experience into practice through the fulfillment of a community project. These projects are collaborations among the participants. The Knox County participants are planning to host a Youth Engagement Symposium in the fall of 2016. The goal of the symposium is to bring communities and volunteers together at a day-long event and provide them with information and resources they need to focus on and address youth issues identified in the county.

Hopefully, each community will leave empowered to develop youth centers that provide kids a safe place to come to study, learn and socialize after school. The Haskell County group is working on a digital sign that will be placed on the courthouse square. The sign will be used to display messages that pertain to the citizens of Haskell, events and emergency messages. The group is gathering quotes from several different companies and working on the details for the public to get their messages displayed.

"In the past two years, we have seen the incredible impact this program has had on the young people in our communities," said city council woman Jill Druessedow. The TRLP participants have already been stepping up and organizing amazing projects like the park clean ups, fundraisers and a mural.

The TRLP program began last year as a joint effort between the Knox County Visioning Group (KCVG) and the Development Corporation of Haskell (DCOH). These two groups saw the need for leadership in their communities and decided

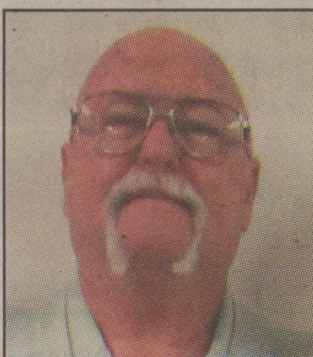
to do something about it.

Once a month for eight months, the group met and worked through a leadership curriculum provided by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Powerful speakers from around the region are brought in to teach the curriculum, lending their experience to the group and helping the participants to establish valuable networks. The afternoons are filled with tours and speakers from around Knox and Haskell Counties. Participants explore city and county government, healthcare, education, economic development, quality of life and more. The tours help participants explore their local resources and learn more about their communities as a whole. A highlight of the program is a trip to Austin where they have the opportunity to tour the capitol and visit with key leaders, organizations and state agencies about the wide variety of state-wide resources available to rural communities.

Haskell County Judge David Davis said he believes in the leadership program. "I went through a similar program in the mid 90s, and I believe they are very worthwhile," he said. "It's important for people to understand their commitment when they enter into such a program." Judge Davis is currently working with the Haskell graduates on their digital sign project. This year's TRLP graduates include Christina Isbell, Jamie Ferguson, Nichole Buchanan, Jamie Jordan, Veronica Anderson, Jessica Boggs and Susan Jarred from Haskell County and Nicki Ivie, Sheri Warren, Lisa Tidwell, Bianca Harrimon and Beatrice Hernandez from Knox County.

The program was directed by Jimi Copen and Lorrie Coop.

Pastor retires



John Westman has announced his retirement as the pastor at the Munday First United Methodist Church. He and wife Kaye will be moving to Abilene.

Mac's Views
Guitarist late for funeral



JAMES MCAFEE

Just ask my wife, I can easily get lost traveling since I do not have a GPS system on any of our vehicles and just don't stop to ask for help when maybe I should.

I recall getting lost when we moved from Oklahoma to Connecticut 43 years ago and ran into some highway construction in Pennsylvania. Not sure which way to go since it was dark, I just threw up a rock with a point on it that I had found on the ground. Luckily, it pointed the right way and didn't hit any of us.

One of my facebook friends, told me a story about a guitarist who played at many gigs. He was asked to play at a graveside service for a homeless man, who had no family or friends. So the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the back country of East Texas.

Not familiar with that part of the coun-

try, he got lost, arriving an hour late. He saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch.

He felt badly and apologized to the men for being late. He went over to the hole in the ground and saw the lid was already on what he thought was the coffin. So he started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. The guitarist played like he'd never played before for this homeless man. When he played "Amazing Grace," the workers began to weep. He wept, too.

Opening the door to his car as he prepared to leave, he heard one of the workers say, "I've never seen nothin' like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for 20 years."

I'm sure many of you have found yourself lost, too, and maybe can feel bad for the guitarist after getting a little laugh from his misfortune.

60th reunion



Members of the Munday High School class of 1956 held a 60th reunion in Abilene last week. Pictured (l-r) in the front row are Juanita Welch Killian, Pat Putnam Lemley, Carlene Morgan Gribble, Diane Hobert Robnett, Sue Voss Munson, Collis Michels, Peggy Thigpen Strickland and Shirley Eubank Amerson. In the back are Glenda Guffey Moore, Jerry Lemley, Don Wallace, Noble Flenniken, Donna Jetton Bowden, Robert Bowden, Nolan Morgan, Ann Hammett and David Alexander. Not pictured is Annette Brewer Stubblefield.

Runoff elections set May 24

State-wide runoff elections for both the Democrat and Republican parties are scheduled May 24.

Early voting will be May 16 - 20. The last day to apply for ballot by mail is May 13 and is due by May 24. Voting in person will be May 24, 7:00 am - 7:00 pm.

You must vote in the same primary that you did back in March. If you didn't vote then, you can vote in either election.

The ones in the running as Republicans: judge, court of criminal Appeals, place 5: Scott Walker and Brent Webster; judge, court of criminal appeals, place 2: Mary Lou Keel

and Ray Wheelless; railroad commissioner: Wayne Christian and Gary Grimes.

Democrats have only one race to settle: railroad commissioner between Cody Garrett and Grady Yarbrough.

Elsewhere, Haskell County voters will select from Jodey Arrington and Glen Robertson for District 19 representative.

Due to the usual light turnout for runoffs, the poll sites will be consolidated as follows: Court House in Benjamin: Precincts 201 and 302; Aging Center in Knox City: Precincts 101 and 202; Community Center in Munday: Precincts 301 and 401.

El Nino on its way out

Special to The News-Courier

COLLEGE STATION

The current El Niño that has lasted since summer of 2015 is on its way out and after one of the warmest winters on record in Texas, that could change weather patterns in the next few months, says Texas A&M University professor and State Climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon. It's believed the El Niño - warm waters in the central Pacific Ocean -- has been responsible for above-average rainfall over much of Texas and the Southwest the past year, and it's almost certain it will be replaced by a La Niña - cooler waters in the central Pacific that also influence weather, but in different ways.

"The tropical Pacific temperatures are almost certain to continue to decline," Nielsen-Gammon says.

"A tongue of cooler-than-

normal temperatures has been working its way eastward across the Tropics just below the surface of the ocean, and it has now reached South America. Those cooler waters will continue to spread across the surface of the ocean as the warmer water moves westward, back toward New Guinea and Indonesia.

"What that means is that it still seems likely that temperatures will cool enough to reach La Niña territory by late summer or fall. The Climate Prediction Center rates the chances of a La Niña at about 75 percent. By next winter, if La Niña is in place, Texas is likely to experience a warm and dry winter."

Nielsen-Gammon notes that the past six months were typical for an El Niño in some ways and atypical in others.

Although there was a dry stretch in January and February, the six-month period

November through April was the seventh wettest November-April on record statewide, with records going back to 1895. The extremely wet October of 2015 in Texas actually makes the October-April period the wettest October-April period on record. But the rainfall was not evenly distributed across Texas. Many parts of west-central, north-central, and northeast Texas received more than double their normal precipitation for November through April, while parts of the Coastal Bend and much of the Texas Panhandle and High Plains received less than normal precipitation.

Above-normal temperatures are not common but cold weather was mostly a no show. Many cities across the state, from Amarillo to Brownsville and El Paso to Beaumont, experienced one of their 10 warmest cool seasons on record.

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