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THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

HOME OF MICHAEL BARTLEY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2016

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\$1.00

Did our bid win?



James McAfee/The Knox County News-Courier
Two young girls eagerly wait to see if their bids won during a silent auction last Sunday at the First United Methodist Church's fundraiser for Relay for Life. More than 200 showed up for the hamburger lunch.

Knox grid teams start practice

The three Knox City high schools started conditioning drills Monday morning in shorts, t-shirts and helmets with temperatures in the 80s, but with winds keeping conditions a little more bearable.

They were scheduled to continue conditioning drills and other drills until they can don their pads on Friday for more practice before testing themselves in scrimmages next week.

Under new coach John Jackson, the Benjamin Mustangs had 12 players report. The Mustangs have scrimmages Aug. 12 against Paint Creek at Benny Grill Field and Aug. 19 against Paducah and Chillicothe.

The Knox City Greyhounds, who also have a new coach in Caleb Callaway, had 26 report the first day, but more were expected. The Hounds have scrimmages Aug. 12 in Greyhound Stadium against Throckmorton and Aug. 18 against Valley and Guthrie at Valley.

Coach Patrick Corcoran's Munday Moguls had 39 of a possible 43 out the first day. The Moguls have scrimmages Aug. 12 against Roscoe at Skruggs Stadium and Aug. 18 against former district opponent Hamlin in Hamlin. Meet the Moguls is scheduled for 6 p.m. Aug. 19.
(See photos pages, 4, 5 and 6)

Thornberry critical of Trump

Special to The News-Courier

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump drew new criticism from his party earlier in the week for criticizing the Muslim American parents of an U.S. Army soldier who was killed in Iraq, but the Republican presidential nominee refused to back down from his attacks.

U.S. Congressman Mac Thornberry (R-Clarendon), Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, made the following statement:

"I am dismayed at the attacks Khizr and Ghazala Khan have endured after they spoke about their son's service and sacrifice. There is never enough honor we can show to the families of those whose loved ones have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Ser-

vice to our country is above politics. I believe that each of us are called every day to show our deepest respect and gratitude to all of those who protect our freedom and their families."

Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), a respected figure on national security issues in the GOP, also issued a written statement strongly rebuking Trump:

"In recent days, Donald Trump disparaged a fallen soldier's parents. He has suggested that the likes of their son should not be allowed in the United States — to say nothing of entering its service. I cannot emphasize enough how deeply I disagree with Mr. Trump's statement. I hope Americans understand that the remarks do not represent the views of our Republican Party, its officers, or candidates."

Knox lowers tax rate

By James McAfee
The Knox County News-Courier

BENJAMIN—The Knox County Commissioners Court decided to recommend lowering the county's tax rate from .76099 per \$100 to the effective rate of .74031 per \$100 during a budget workshop here Monday morning.

The effective tax rate is the total tax rate needed to raise the same amount of property tax revenue from the previous year.

Judge Stan Wojcik indicated this rate would result in raising an additional \$25,964 more in property taxes, including \$13,106 from new property

added to the tax roll.

After making a few minor adjustments related to salaries and employee reimbursements, the Commissioners Court also approved a new budget for 2016-2017.

The proposed salaries for the County Judge and Justice of Peace will remain at \$33,571 and \$30,362, respectively.

Other elected officials will get raises ranging from \$1,200 to \$2,000, resulting in the following salaries: County/District Clerk, \$31,962; County Attorney, \$29,433; Tax Assessor/Collector, \$18,618; County Treasurer, \$31,962; County Sheriff, \$37,329; Commissioner Pct. 1, \$33,605; Commissioner

Pct. 2, \$32,805; Commissioner Pct. 3, \$44,814; Commissioner Pct. 4, \$32,805.

The commissioners did go into executive session to discuss employee matters and OKed a motion to allow county attorney Lina Trevino to hire a part time employee for two days a week.

Public hearings on the proposed budget will be held at 10 a.m. next Tuesday and on Aug. 16 in the Assembly Room here at the Knox County Courthouse. In addition, the proposed budget is on file at the County Clerk's office and may be viewed from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Enjoying watermelon



James McAfee/The Knox County News-Courier
Two young girls joined others last Saturday at the Knox City Park for a slice of watermelon during the 28th Donald Johnson Memorial Watermelon Festival.

Volleyball season opens next week

The three Knox County high school volleyball teams started practice earlier this week and had scrimmages scheduled Friday and Saturday before kicking off pre-season next week.

Coach Jessica Tolliver greeted 21 for the first practice last Monday morning and had scrimmages scheduled against Chillicothe and Christ Academy at home Friday and against Breckenridge on the road Saturday. The Mogulettes then travel to Wichita Falls for a dual match with City View and Childress Tuesday and will play in the Bryson Tournament starting Thursday.

With new coach T-keyeah Hall at the helm, 21 Houndettes reported for practice. Hall was trying to schedule a scrimmage for

Saturday. The Houndettes are on the road at Rotan for their first game Tuesday before traveling to Burkburnett for a tournament starting Thursday.

Twelve girls showed up for practice for Coach Cody Propps at Benjamin. The Lady Stangs will scrimmage Wichita Christian at Wichita Falls Friday at then host Rotan for another scrimmage on Saturday. They kick off the season at home Tuesday against Paducah and travel to Harrold for a tournament Aug. 13.

District 6-2A play starts in September and all three teams have good chances to make the Class 1A playoffs as they did last season.

(See volleyball schedules page 4, 5 and 6)

Sales tax holiday starts Friday

Special to The News-Courier

AUSTIN— Shoppers can take advantage of Texas' annual tax free weekend, an annual event in Texas since 1999, to save money on certain back-to-school purchases Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

During the sales tax holiday, state law exempts most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks priced less than \$100 from sales and use taxes. The exemption includes items sold

online, telephone or mail as well as layaway plans.

That could save shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend, estimated Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar. In all, Texans will save nearly \$92 million.

A survey by the National Retail Federation found that most families with children in grades kindergarten through 12 plan to spend an average of \$673.57. A breakdown showed parents spend an average of \$235.39 on clothing, \$204.06 on elec-

tronics, \$126.35 on shoes and \$107.76 on school supplies.

School supplies that are tax free if priced less than \$100 include binders, book bags, calculators, compasses, composition books, crayons, folders, glue, index cards and boxes, legal pads, lunch boxes, notebooks, paper, pencil sharpeners, pencils and pens, scissors and rulers.

Scores of clothing, footwear and other items are

See **TAX**, Page 8

Death to STAAR?

AUSTIN The Texas Commission on Next Generation Assessments and Accountability approved its final report last week, recommending lawmakers overhaul how Texas tests public school students.

The report will go to Gov. Greg Abbott and the Legislature on Sept. 1.

The nine major proposed changes include moving the state's assessment system toward a series of computer-based tests that students would take throughout the year, but the commission scrapped a draft recommendation to replace the unpopular State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness with the computerized testing system.

Andrew Kim, chairman of the commission and superintendent of the Comal school district, said the STAAR will likely stick around until the state finds the money to roll out the proposed testing.
See **STAAR**, Page 8

Knox Notes

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

Prayer breakfast

KNOX CITY— The monthly men's prayer breakfast is scheduled here Saturday at the Wooden Nickel. Since starting in February, the breakfast has attracted more than 100 men.

Pool closes Saturday

MUNDAY— The Munday swimming pool is scheduled to close on Saturday.

Register for school

KNOX CITY— Students at all Knox City/O'Brien CISD schools should report to register for the upcoming year between 1-3 p.m. Aug. 10.

125th anniversary

KNOX CITY— The Gillespie Baptist Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary Oct. 2. Invitations are going out to all past and present members. Call Matt or Debbie Harrington at 940 657-3285 to RSVP.

News on the go



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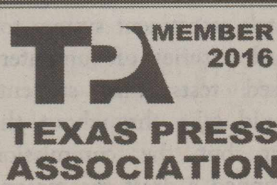
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It is the mission of this newspaper to promote the rights of individualism in the American Declaration of Independence. The right of life, liberty and the ownership of property are the cornerstone of freedom. Government's sole purpose is to enhance 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



Cancer survivors asked to register

Special to The News-Courier

MUNDAY—The survivor meal during the Knox/Haskell Relay of Life is scheduled at noon on Sept. 17 here at the Munday Church of Christ.

Invitations have been mailed out to survivors and organizers are asking that anyone

planning to be there on that day to return a registration card to allow them to confirm a head count and to ensure that the survivors and their caregivers can receive the correct sizes of t-shirts.

"We want all survivors to feel welcome," said Becky Offutt. "If you know of survivors, please let us know by calling 940 864-3050."

Certified food handlers training scheduled

MUNDAY—A major change in the The "Texas Food Establishment Rules (TFER)" revision now requires all food employees to complete an accredited food handlers training program within 60 days of employment, effective Sept. 16.

A food handler's course accredited by the Texas Department of State Health Services is being offered by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Knox County.

"Food Safety: It's In Your Hands" is scheduled Wednesday, Aug. 17 at the Munday High School Cafeteria, starting at 11 a.m.

This two-hour course will now be required for all food service employees to help promote the service of safe food. The certificate is good for two years and is valid anywhere in the State of Texas. The course is a basic overview of food safety practices that are necessary to ensure that

safe food is served at your establishment. Practices discussed include good personal hygiene, cross contamination, and time and temperature abuse.

The class is taught in English, but Spanish handouts are available if requested in advance. To register for the course, call the Extension office at 940459-2651. The cost is \$20 per person and must be paid in full before the course begins.

Vonda's Recipe Corner

By Vonda Carter

My dad's birthday was Monday. Happy Birthday Dad! Hugs and kisses from me and Julie, and a great big smooch from Abi. We love you.

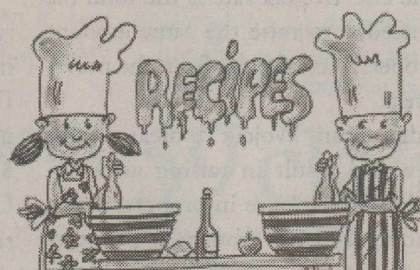
It was great to see so many of you at the Relay for Life benefit lunch this past Sunday. Julie and I really enjoyed it. I got the chance to meet and visit with Benji, the new Methodist church pastor. He is a lovely person and I welcome him and his family to our little community and I look forward to getting to know them better.

I also want to take a quick moment to say "thank you" to Doris. A few weeks back she made me some of her secret recipe cornbread that I love so much and some of what I lovingly refer to as orange fluffy stuff. And don't ask me for her cornbread recipe, I don't care how much you tickle me, I won't give it up. I love you Doris and you can count on me. Thanks again. The way to my heart is with orange fluffy stuff. And cornbread.

This week is a busy one, so I have only one recipe for you all and guess what? It's for the crock pot, because, say it with me "you know how much I love my crock pot!" Admit it, you do to. So here you go. Until next time, love to you all.

Slow-Cooker Chicken Parmesan with Penne Pasta

- 1 egg
- 1/3 cup Progresso™ plain bread crumbs



- 1/3 cup shredded Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 tsp. Italian seasoning
- 1/4 tsp. each, salt and pepper
- 4 boneless skinless chicken breasts
- 1 jar (26 oz.) tomato pasta sauce
- 1/2 cup shredded Italian cheese blend
- 2 2/3 cups uncooked penne pasta (8 oz.)

Spray crock pot with cooking spray. In small bowl, beat egg until foamy. In separate shallow bowl, mix bread crumbs, Parmesan cheese, Italian seasoning, salt and pepper. Dip chicken into egg, then coat evenly with bread crumb mixture; place in cooker. Spread pasta sauce evenly over chicken. Cover; cook on low setting five to six hours. Sprinkle Italian cheese blend over top. Cover; cook on low setting 10 minutes longer. Meanwhile, cook and drain pasta as directed on package. Serve chicken with pasta.

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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Knox County Aging Center Menu

Menus for week of Aug. 8-12

Monday: Hamburger steak, corn, mixed vegetables, rolls, banana pudding

Tuesday: King ranch casserole, Spanish rice, pinto beans, fruit

Wednesday: Cabbage and sausage, cornbread, salad, cake

Thursday: Chicken tenders, gravy, green beans, wheat rolls, pears

Friday: Hamburgers and all the trimmings, tater tots, peach crisp

Sheriff's Report

July 16-Aug. 1

1. Lindsay, David Douglas, 7/16/16, Dob 3/21/77, Forgery (SJJ), Knox County, (arrested in Eastland County)

2. Walton, Omard, 7/16/16, Dob 6/25/82, Burglary of a building (SJJ), Knox County

3. Pierce, Jimmy William III, 7/18/16, Dob 8/17/73, Criminal non-support (AG warrant), Knox County.

4. Perry, Heston O'neal, 7/18/16, Dob 5/5/83, Criminal mischief (M-A), Resisting arrest/surety off bond (M-A), Knox County

5. Brunkow, Jason, 7/20/16, Dob 10/14/75, Agg assault w/ deadly weapon (F-2), Burglary of building (SJJ), Knox County

Dean W. Homstad, Sheriff Knox County

DPS urges Texans to stay prepared

Special to The News-Courier

AUSTIN—With about four months remaining in the 2016 hurricane season, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is reminding residents to evaluate their emergency plans and monitor weather forecasts for potential hurricanes and tropical storms.

Hurricane season began June 1 and continues through Nov. 30. Historically, August and September are the more active months during a hurricane season.

Texas coasts app wins award

Special to The News-Courier

AUSTIN—Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush announced last week Texas Coasts, a Web-based app to help vacationers find the perfect beach, won third place in the Use of an API in a Map category at the 2016 Esri International User Conference (Esti UC).

The Environmental Systems Research Institute, or Esri, hosts the world's largest annual conference dedicated to geographic information system (GIS) technology. This category evaluates maps that make specific use of an Esri mapping API as a core component in the design and publication of a standalone online map product. The judges accessed applicant designs via mobile devices and reserved desktops.

"I am proud of the innovative ideas created at the General Land Office that have real-world applications that benefit Texans," Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush said. "I am proud of the work my team has done to make the Texas Coasts app a reality and I thanks the UC leaders who recognized this innovation at this conference. It is truly an honor."

How to contact government officials

Federal
 Sen. Ted Cruz
 Suite B40B
 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510
 (202) 224-5922

Sen. John Cornyn
 517 Hart Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510-4304
 (202) 224-2934

Rep. Mac Thornberry
 2329 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515-4313
 (202) 225-3706

State
 Gov. Greg Abbott
 P.O. Box 12428
 Austin, TX 78711-2428
 512 463-2000

Sen. Charles Perry
 P.O. Box 12068
 Capitol Station
 Austin, Texas 78711
 (512) 463-0128

Rep. James Frank
 P.O. Box 2910
 Austin, TX 78768
 (512) 463-0534

Free school supplies available

Special to The News-Courier

ASPERMONT—The Double Mountain Outreach Services branch of the Aspermont Small Business Development Center is once again providing school supplies for low-income students who are enrolled in public schools.

The supplies have been shipped to schools in Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Stonewall and Throckmorton counties. The supplies are for low-income students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

Parents will need to contact their local school regarding the application process for free/reduced-price meals.

The supplies purchased this year by DMOS/ASBDC consist of pre-packed kits for elementary and secondary students. The elementary kit consists of the following items: one pencil pouch, six pencils, one glue stick, one pencil sharpener, one box of 8-count crayons, two pens, one highlighter, and one eraser. The secondary kit consists of the following item: six #2 pencils, six pens (2 red,

2 blue, 2 black), twelve colored pencils, one eraser, one pencil sharpener, one ruler and one pencil pouch.

This is the fifth year that that DMOS/ASBDC has used their Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funds for supporting the education opportunities for low-income children in the six-county area. CSBG funds are also used for assisting low-income households with basic needs such as eyeglasses and dental assistance (not dentures), eviction no-

tices, water disconnect notices, food pantry support and help with overcoming poverty. In addition, funds from a second grant (CEAP/Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program) are used to assist low-income households in paying home energy bills.

Low-income citizens of Knox or one of the other counties should contact DMOS staff regarding the application process for these services at (940) 989-3538 or toll-free at (800) 722-0137.

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 9:40 PRAISE 10:00 BIBLE STUDY 10:55 WORSHIP

"First United Methodist Church Munday would like to thank our community and Knox County for the generous donations received at our annual Relay For Life Benefit Lunch, held on July 31st, 2016. Together, our lunch and silent auction collected \$3171.00! All funds go directly to the American Cancer Society at this year's Relay for Life, in September. We thank God for you, and your generosity!

Special Thanks go to the FUMC Kitchen Crew, Young Adults Bible Class, and all the volunteers who made our event such a great success!"

FBC
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 Munday, Texas

220 South 5th Ave.
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 P: 940-422-4559

Service Times:
Sunday
 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.

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Crowd enjoys gospel singing



Photo by David Caldwell

A packed auditorium at the Munday Baptist Church enjoyed gospel singing by "The Chosen" last Sunday night. The fundraiser for the Ministerial Alliance's Back Pack food program for school children raised \$1,311.73.

Busy feeding VBS participants



James McAfee/The Knox County News-Courier

Ladies from the Munday Church of Christ were busy last week serving children who attended the church's VBS and to a group from San Antonio and Arizona who were assisting at the VBS.

Pet Talk

Fitness and activity monitors have become a useful way for humans to meet their daily health goals. At the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM), veterinarians are using activity trackers in the form of a collar, to help keep dogs healthy.

The activity monitors the CVM uses contain technology that can accurately monitor canine patients' key vital signs and health indicators, such as resting heart rate, resting respiratory rate, quality of rest, amount and level of activity, and expended calories.

The trackers can also help identify early indicators of some diseases, such as heart failure and osteoarthritis by alerting the dog's owner and veterinarian when vital signs and health indicators are abnormal. They can also be used to help monitor disease progression and evaluate the efficacy of therapy in a variety of conditions, such as pain management and weight loss management in obese patients.

"The monitors can provide objective data while the dog is at home, meaning the veterinarian can review data from the dog's status in its nor-

mal habitat, where they are less stressed than when they visit the veterinarian's office," said Caitlin Conner, DVM student who is involved in a work-study project with activity monitors.

"The monitors are incorporated into a comfortable collar that collect data and display it online via a Wi-Fi connection. Based on the dog's previous monitor data and the disease status the dog is being monitored for, parameters, such as respiration rate, can be customized by the attending veterinarian for each individual dog. Anytime the monitor recorded data goes outside the customized parameters, the veterinarian caring for the dog and the owner are alerted so that it can be determined if a follow-up appointment is needed."

Data collected from the monitors can help determine if a treatment plan for a disease is working. For example, the CVM may use the activity monitors to evaluate a dog with heart disease. This evaluation can help better detect early signs of heart disease and prompt timely veterinarian visits to help minimize client and patient stress. These evaluations can also help op-

imize long-term therapy and the dog's quality of life.

"In dogs with cardiac disease or heart failure, the monitors are used to collect data, such as resting heart rate and resting respiratory rate," Conner explained. "In primary care, the monitors have many potential uses. They can monitor the effectiveness of a pain management plan for the treatment of osteoarthritis by showing if the dog has been more active, is getting adequate uninterrupted rest, or has a lower resting respiratory rate. Each of these findings would typically indicate that a dog is more comfortable. In the case of obesity manage-

The 501

How to move up to first-chair sax

Join a band when you're past 65, and you might end up playing first chair.

It happened to me, but I exaggerate – and I don't mean the age part. I'm first chair because I'm the only saxophonist (I use the term loosely) playing a C-melody sax. If you're old enough to know what one is, you can probably join a senior band too – except it's not a senior band. It's mostly middle school and high school band members plus some aspiring vocalists. I'm one of those too.

Music is like that. Age doesn't matter.

Unless your saxophone is 98 years old.

My obsolete sax is the reason I'm in the band. The director likes it. He liked it even before I spent a shameful chunk of change for a new used mouthpiece.

Here's a tip just for the musical instrument repair guys at music stores:

Raise your eyebrows when someone presents you an instrument for inspection.

Show appreciation for whatever it is. Smile. If they offer to let you play it, act like it's the best thing that's happened to you all day. Use your mouthpiece. Make it sound fabulous. Then figure out a way to mention the improvement in sound they might experience if they invested in a new mouthpiece.

Yes, that was the scenario. I have no regrets. Now my sax plays better, despite my lack of skill. I even think it's louder. It was loud already.

My fellow-saxophonists – one playing alto and the

other tenor – are both accomplished. We present a contrast.

The whole experience reminds me of when I played a borrowed alto sax in the band my senior year in college – pretty nifty of me since I'd never been in a band. During marching season, the goal was to put as many marchers on the football field as possible.

That's how I got in. That was before it became apparent I had a hard time staying in step.

The director and his assistant used to amuse themselves from the grandstand watching me. Probably some other people did too.

Anyway, I kept playing even through concert season, always last chair, automatically moving down the row when anyone new

joined the alto sax section. If I could play the music, I played it. Otherwise, I faked it. It was easy to get lost in the crowd. At least I didn't have to stay in step.

Now I can't fake it. I don't blend in. My tarnished silvery instrument matches my hair.

The other two players are girls who sparkle. So do their shiny golden saxes. When our section hits a wrong note, the audience will assume it's me. They'll be right.

Maybe I'll redeem myself when I sing "Fly Me to the Moon." Maybe not.

LIGHT BULB HERE. Idea! I'll change the words:

"Send her to the moon and let her play among the stars,

"She can leave her saxophone on Jupiter or Mars."

Audiences always applaud excellence. I'll settle for laughter.

Or maybe just some big smiles.



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2-4 P.M.

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Moguls backs run drills



Backs for the Munday Moguls run drills during the first day of conditioning last Monday.

James McAfee/The Knox County News-Courier

MOGUL, MOGULETTE SUPPORTERS

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Girls start conditioning drills



Coach Cory Stephenson supervises first morning conditioning drills for Munday girls.

James McAfee/The Knox County News-Courier

Munday volleyball schedule

Date	Opponent	Teams	Location	Time
Aug. 9	City View/Childress	V	City View	tba
Aug. 11/13	Bryson tournament	V	Bryson	tba
Aug. 12	Bryson JV tournament	JV	Bryson	tba
Aug. 16	Wichita Christian	JV/V	Wichita Falls	5 p.m.
Aug. 18/20	Chico tournament	V	Chico	tba
Aug. 23	Electra	F/JV/V	Munday	4 p.m.
Aug. 27	Chico	F/JV/V	Munday	Noon
Aug. 29	Aspermont	JV	Munday	6 p.m.
Aug. 30	Hirschi/Paducah	V	Munday	5 p.m.
Sept. 1/3	Buckle Up tournament	V	Nocona	tba
Sept. 6	Childress	F/JV/V	Munday	4 p.m.
Sept. 10	Hawley	JV/V	Munday	10 a.m.
Sept. 13	Benjamin	V	Benjamin	6 p.m.
Sept. 17	Open			
Sept. 20	Moran	V	Munday	6 p.m.
Sept. 22/24	Aspermont tourney	JV	Aspermont	tba
Sept. 24	Woodson	JV/V	Woodson	10 a.m.
Sept. 27	Knox City	JV/V	Munday	5 p.m.
Sept. 30	Albany	JV/V	Albany	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 4	Hawley	JV/V	Hawley	5 p.m.
Oct. 11	Open			
Oct. 15	Moran	V	Munday	10 a.m.
Oct. 18	Woodson	JV/V	Munday	5 p.m.
Oct. 21	Knox City	V	Knox City	4 p.m.
Oct. 25	Albany	JV/V	Munday	5 p.m.

Munday Junior High volleyball schedule

Date	Opponent	Teams	Site	Time
Aug. 29	Wichita Christian	Purple/Gold	Munday	4 p.m.
Sept. 6	Open			
Sept. 13	Benjamin	Purple	Benjamin	5 p.m.
Sept. 17	Hawley tournament	Purple/Gold	Hawley	tba
Sept. 20	Moran	Purple	Munday	5 p.m.
Sept. 26	Knox City	Purple	Munday	5 p.m.
Sept. 27	MHS varsity	Purple/Gold	Munday	6 p.m.
Oct. 3	Hawley	Purple/Gold	Hawley	5 p.m.
Oct. 15	Hawley tournament	Purple/Gold	Hawley	tba
Oct. 18	Woodson	Purple	Munday	4 p.m.
Oct. 22	Benjamin tournament	7 th	Benjamin	tba
Oct. 24	Albany	Purple/Gold	Munday	5 p.m.

Hall named Houndettes' coach

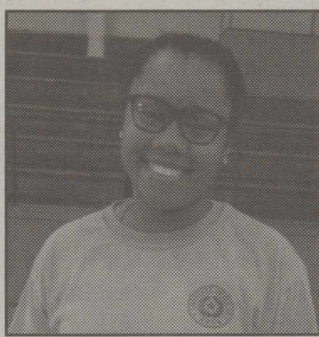
Special to The News-Courier

KNOX CITY—T-keeyah Hall assumed duties as the new volleyball coach here at Knox City High School earlier this week as the Houndettes started preparing for the new season.

"I'm looking forward to my first official coaching as-

signment," she said Tuesday. Hall graduated from Wayland Baptist College in Plainview in the spring, helping coach the junior high at Plainview Christian. She played volleyball there and also at Clarendon College.

She'll teach world history at Knox City High School.



T-KEYYAH HALL

Greyhounds focus on conditioning



James McAfee/The Knox County News-Courier

Coach Caleb Callaway chats with Knox City Greyhounds about the importance of conditioning before they head off for five laps around the track to finish a Tuesday conditioning drill.

Houndettes start volleyball



James McAfee/The Knox County News-Courier

New coach T-Keeyah Hall welcomed 21 girls for the start of volleyball practice for the Knox City Houndettes.

Knox City volleyball schedule

Date	Opponent	Team	Location	Time
Aug. 9	Rotan	JV/V	Rotan	
Aug. 11-13	Burkburnett tournament	V	Burkburnett	tba
Aug. 16	Aspermont	JVR/JVB/V	Aspermont	4 p.m.
Aug. 20	Knox City tournament	V	Knox City	tba
Aug. 22	Quannah	JVR/JVB	Quannah	4 p.m.
Aug. 23	Paducah	JVB/V	Knox City	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 26-27	Bronte tournament	V	Bronte	tba
Aug. 30	Archer City	JVR/JVB/V	Archer City	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 6	Newcastle	JVR/JVB/V	Newcastle	4 p.m.
Sept. 10	Woodson	JVB/V	Woodson	10 a.m.
Sept. 13	Northside	JVB/V	Northside	5 p.m.
Sept. 17	Albany	JVR/JVB/V	Knox City	10 a.m.
Sept. 20	Hawley	JVR/JVB/V	Knox City	3 p.m.
Sept. 22, 24	Aspermont JV tournament	JVR/JVB	Aspermont	tba
Sept. 24	Benjamin	V	Knox City	10 a.m.
Sept. 27	Munday	JVR/JVB/V	Munday	5 p.m.
Oct. 1	Moran	V	Knox City	10 a.m.
Oct. 8	Open			
Oct. 11	Albany	JVR/JVB/V	Albany	4 p.m.
Oct. 15	Hawley	JVR/JVB/V	Hawley	4 p.m.
Oct. 18	Benjamin	V	Benjamin	6 p.m.
Oct. 21	Munday	V	Knox City	4 p.m.
Oct. 24	Hawley	JVR/JVB/V	Knox City	4 p.m.
Oct. 25	Moran	V	Moran	6 p.m.

A Sporting View

by Mark Vasto

Jordan Has Spoken

It was less than a year ago that Kareem Abdul Jabbar mentioned that Michael Jordan chose "commerce over conscience," failing to comment on the social issues we face in America.

Welcome to this week's sports column. It's time to let the man have his say, which he did on ESPN's newly dropped website called "The Undefeated" — the famous sport channel's attempt to address racial matters, presumably in sports.

Wedged between a listicle about Prince and the death of Ms. Cleo (which she surely predicted), we have a statement from his Airmess himself.

When you think about sports drinks or really cool sneakers or a guy who can fly and dunk on Bugs Bunny, only one name bubbles to the surface: Michael Jordan ... the second greatest player to ever play who did not fight Bruce Lee, through no fault of his own.

When you think about social causes, the second most exposed athlete of all-time — Jordan — remained silent on the issues that mattered.

No longer. Jordan has spoken. Here are his words:

"As a proud American, a father who lost his own dad in a senseless act of violence, and a black man, I have been deeply troubled by the deaths of African-Americans at the hands of law enforcement and angered by the cowardly and hateful targeting and killing of police officers. I grieve with the families who have lost loved ones, as I know their pain all too well.

"I was raised by parents who taught me to love and respect people regardless of their race or background, so I am saddened and frustrated by the divisive rhetoric and racial tensions that seem to be getting worse as of

late. I know this country is better than that, and I can no longer stay silent. We need to find solutions that ensure people of color receive fair and equal treatment AND that police officers — who put their lives on the line every day to protect us all — are respected and supported.

"Over the past three decades, I have seen up close the dedication of the law enforcement officers who protect me and my family. I have the greatest respect for their sacrifice and service. I also recognize that for many people of color their experiences with law enforcement have been different than mine. I have decided to speak out in the hope that we can come together as Americans, and through peaceful dialogue and education, achieve constructive change.

"To support that effort, I am making contributions of \$1 million each to two organizations, the International Association of Chiefs of Police's newly established Institute for Community-Police Relations, and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. The Institute for Community-Police Relations' policy and oversight work is focused on building trust and promoting best practices in community policing. My donation to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund will support its ongoing work in support of reforms that will build trust and respect between communities and law enforcement. Although I know these contributions alone are not enough to solve the problem, I hope the resources will help both organizations make a positive difference.

"We are privileged to live in the world's greatest country — a country that has provided my family and me the greatest of opportunities. The problems we face didn't happen overnight and they won't be solved tomorrow, but if we all work together, we can foster greater understanding, positive change and create a more peaceful world for ourselves, our children, our families and our communities."

Now, can we get back to the game?

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in New Jersey.

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Weather Whys

What are sea breezes?

Sea breezes occur most commonly during the summer afternoons when the air over land is hottest, says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "Because land heats quicker than the ocean, air over the continent becomes unstable and rises to create low pressure at the surface," he explains. "The air at the surface over the ocean is then drawn in toward the lower pressure over land, creating an onshore wind. This sea breeze brings in much-welcomed cooler air to the cities near the coast during the hottest times of the year."

Can sea breezes cause rain and thunderstorms?

In many cases, yes, but the effects vary with locations, adds McRoberts. Sea breeze storms are common in Florida and in places like Houston and New Orleans, but not on the West coast.

Weather whys is a service of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at Texas A&M University.



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Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

It's Aug. 1 and still hot as I write this. Those poor athletes that started football and volleyball practice may have some pretty rough times ahead until they get used to the heat, especially if they have been spending time in a cool setting (or swimming pool). Think I saw somewhere that volleyball scrimmages will start Friday. School and all the activities that go with it is now right "upon us."

Not much change in Linda Parker's condition. She's been making weekly trips to Dallas. She goes on Monday, has her chemo on Tuesday, returns Wednesday and is totally worn out by the time she gets back home. Think maybe she will be able to discontinue her treatments soon for a while, and that should help to strengthen her.

Jan Carver was in Abilene last Friday for an angiogram. She has to have a stent in one of her arteries. There's not a large percent of blockage, but enough that doctors thought it needed attention. She hopes to get it done this week, but she's not sure if that will happen or

not. Just keep all these friends and their families in your prayers.

Here'n there

This past weekend the Frank Yeager family met at Mineral Wells State Park for our annual family reunion. The crowd was down some, but we still had about 40 in attendance. I had the distinction of being the oldest one there! (Some honors are so meaningful!) The youngest one there was great nephew Charlie Davis, who is almost six months old. He and his twin sister Ruby were born Feb. 9. They are the grandchildren of Shirley Yeager Seal. We had lots of food and did lots of visiting and had a very enjoyable weekend. Those attending came from Amarillo, Allen, Mineola, Pittsburg, Arlington, Kerrville, Childress, Baylor/Waco, Ponder, Aubrey, Munday and Benjamin.

I saw Kate Grill Roesler last Thursday. Ben Jacob and Summer were here visiting grandparents Benny and Belle. They are such good looking youngsters. I was glad to see them. They will visit here a few days before returning to their home in Albuquerque, NM.

Janet Reed told me her mom got to come to Knox City Hospital last Tuesday after a two-week stay in UMC in Lubbock. She's doing really well and hopes to be able to go to her home there in Knox City very soon.

Aaron and Sydney Kuehler were here the first of last week taking care of business and making plans to move back to Texas after living in St. Louis for several years. They will be living in Aubrey, where they have accepted positions with the Aubrey School system. They liked St. Louis, but I think they are looking forward to being back closer to home, and I'm sure their families are glad.

Have you noticed the fencing project continuing at Kim and Tina Sealy's house? They have extended their yard fence on around the little house where Jake lives. It looks good, and I'm sure they will enjoy it.

Kim Moore has moved into her dad's house. Not sure if she has completed the "relocating process," but it is a work in progress. For the time being, Samijo and DJ will continue to live in Hazel Stockton's

house. Chad and Kathy Rainwater and Justin visited Chad's mom Mary in Nocona during the weekend.

Have you noticed the lamp posts at the Methodist Church, Museum, Veteran's Memorial, and other places around town? They have been painted and look really good. Bren Fuentes did the work and did a wonderful job. If you see him, tell him so.



Rakes in or out?

So what's the rule on where rakes should be placed? Well, there is not one. Of course, this is what leads to the confusion. Although in Decision Misc./2, the USGA does state, "Ultimately, it is a matter for the committee to decide where it wishes rakes to be placed."

It's likely that a golf club or course has such a decision in place, so the first thing to do is to ask for its policy on rake placement. If they have one, then simply follow that policy. And if the course does not have a policy, or you are unable to find anyone who knows what it is?

While there aren't any official rules about rake placement, there are rules of thumb and guidelines provided by the USGA in Decision Misc./2.

The USGA states in that decision:

"It may be argued that there is more likelihood of a ball being deflected into or kept out of a bunker if the rake is placed outside the bunker. It could also be argued that if the rake is in the bunker it is most unlikely that the ball will be deflected out of the bunker.

"However, in practice, players who leave rakes in bunkers frequently leave them at the side which tends to stop a ball rolling into the flat part of the bunker, resulting in a much more difficult shot than would otherwise have been the case. This is most prevalent at a course where the bunkers are small. When the ball comes to rest on or against a rake in the bunker and the player must proceed under Rule 24-1, it may not be possible to replace the ball on the same spot or find a spot in the bunker which is not nearer the hole - see Decision 20-3d/2."

But what about placing the rakes in the middle of the bunker, where they won't be able to stop a ball on the bunker's sloping sides?

Decision Misc./2: "If rakes are left in the middle of the bunker, the only way to position them is to throw them into the bunker and this causes damage to the surface. Also, if a rake is in the middle of a large bunker, it is either not used or the player is obliged to rake a large area of the bunker resulting in unnecessary delay.

"Therefore, after considering all these aspects, it is recommended that rakes should be left outside bunkers in areas where they are least likely to affect the movement of the ball."

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America further recommends that rakes outside the bunker be placed lying flat on the ground (tines up) and parallel to the hole's direction of play. My advice is to follow the course's guidelines or if there is no policy, place rakes outside bunkers, parallel to the direction of play on that hole.

I've seen several golf courses addressing the question of rake placement in creative ways, that make the question moot. At one course, tubes were sunk into the ground outside its bunkers, and the rake was dropped down into the tube with the rake head lying flat against the turf. At another course, rakes were attached to golf carts rather than left next to every bunker. Such a course would have to prevent walking or put up with walkers being unable to rake bunkers.

Benjamin volleyball schedule

Date	Opponent	Teams	Location	Time
Aug. 9	Paducah	V	Benjamin	5 p.m.
Aug. 13	Harrold tournament	V	Harrold	tba
Aug. 16	ACHS/Chillicothe	V	Benjamin	5 p.m.
Aug. 23	Northside	V	Benjamin	5 p.m.
Aug. 26	Gold-Burg	V	Gold-Burg	5 p.m.
Aug. 27	Vernon JV tournament	JV	Vernon	tba
Aug. 30	Quanah	JH/V	Quanah	5 p.m.
Sept. 3	WHS/Newcastle	V	Wichita Falls	1 p.m.
Sept. 6	Wichita Christian	JH/V	Benjamin	5 p.m.
Sept. 13	Munday	JH/V	Benjamin	5 p.m.
Sept. 17	Moran	V	Moran	1 p.m.
Sept. 20	Woodson	JH/V	Benjamin	5 p.m.
Sept. 24	Knox City	V	Knox City	10 a.m.
Sept. 27	Albany	JH/V	Albany	5 p.m.
Oct. 1	Hawley	V	Hawley	10 a.m.
Oct. 3	Paducah	JH	Paducah	5 p.m.
Oct. 8	Munday	V	Munday	10 a.m.
Oct. 11	Moran	JH/V	Benjamin	5 p.m.
Oct. 15	Woodson	V	Woodson	10 a.m.
Oct. 18	Knox City	JH/V	Benjamin	5 p.m.
Oct. 22	Albany	V	Benjamin	10 a.m.
Oct. 25	Hawley	JH/V	Benjamin	5 p.m.

Mustangs start practice



James McAfee/The Knox County News-Courier
 Coach James Jackson tosses footballs to members of the Benjamin Mustangs during the first day of practice.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF 2016 TAX YEAR PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR KNOX COUNTY GENERAL & SPECIAL

A tax rate of \$ 0.74031 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of
KNOX COUNTY GENERAL & SPECIAL

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$ 0.74031	per \$100
PRECEDING YEARS TAX RATE	\$ 0.76099	per \$100
EFFECTIVE TAX RATE	\$ 0.74031	per \$100

The effective tax rate is the total tax rate needed to raise the same amount of property tax revenue for
KNOX COUNTY GENERAL & SPECIAL from the same properties in both the 2015
tax year and the 2016 tax year.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE ABOVE RATES CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:
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For assistance or detailed information about tax calculations, please contact:

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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.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Commissioners Court of Knox County, Texas will hold two public hearings to receive comments or questions from the public regarding its pending budget for the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 on Tuesday August 9th and Tuesday August 16th at 10:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room at the Courthouse in Benjamin.

The proposed budget is on file in the County Clerk's office and may be viewed Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Commissioners Court recommends adopting a tax rate of \$0.74031 per \$100 taxable value. This budget will raise \$25,964 (1.62%) more total property taxes than last year's budget, and of that amount \$13,106 is tax revenue raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

Handicapped persons needing assistance should contact the county office before the meeting.

Stan Wojcik
County Judge

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 152.013, Local Government Code, notice is hereby given of salaries, expenses or allowances of elected officials proposed to be increased for FYE 09/30/2016.

Elected Official	Present		Total
	Salary	Increase	
County Judge	\$ 33,571	\$ -	\$ 33,571
County/District Clerk	\$ 30,362	\$ 1,600	\$ 31,962
County Attorney	\$ 27,833	\$ 1,600	\$ 29,433
Tax Assessor/Collector	\$ 17,018	\$ 1,600	\$ 18,618
County Treasurer	\$ 30,362	\$ 1,600	\$ 31,962
County Sheriff	\$ 35,329	\$ 2,000	\$ 37,329
Commissioner Prct 1	\$ 31,605	\$ 2,000	\$ 33,605
Commissioner Prct 2	\$ 31,605	\$ 1,200	\$ 32,805
Commissioner Prct 3	\$ 42,814	\$ 2,000	\$ 44,814
Commissioner Prct 4	\$ 31,605	\$ 1,200	\$ 32,805
Justice of Peace	\$ 30,362	\$ -	\$ 30,362

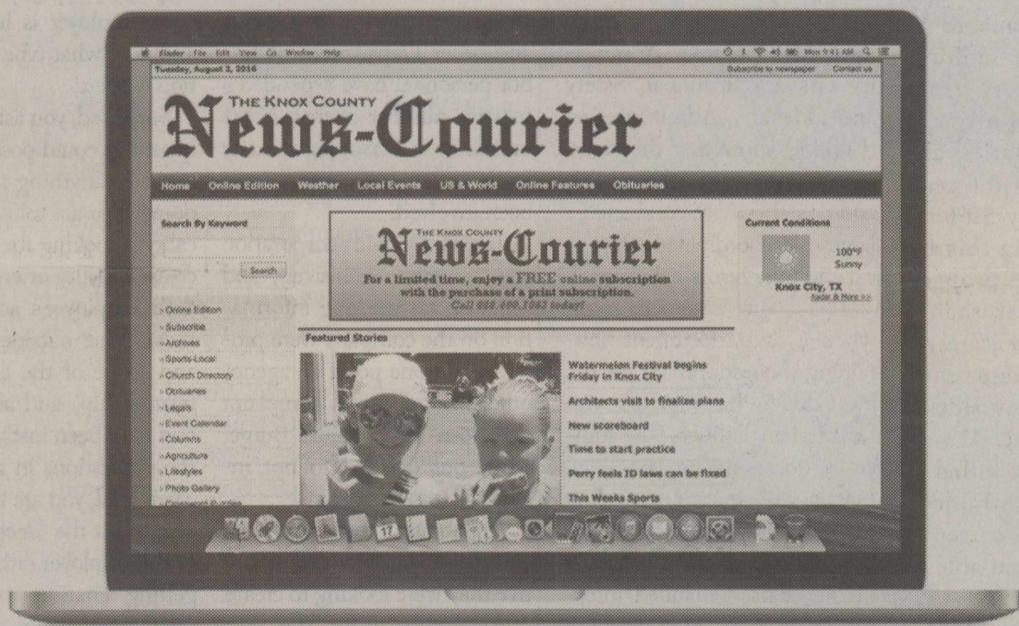
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS POLICY CHANGE

Aspermont Small Business Development Center, Inc./Double Mountain Coach will hold 2 public meetings. The first will be at 9:00 am, August 9, 2016 in The Haskell County Courthouse; Haskell, Texas. The second will be at 9:00 am, August 12 in the Stonewall County Courthouse in Aspermont, Texas. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the agency's plan to expand operating hours for Double Mountain Coach Rural Transportation.

For more information contact:

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TAX

From Page 1

also tax free if priced less than \$100. They include baseball caps and jerseys, general purpose boots, children's novelty costumes, coats and wraps, leather gloves, hosiery, jackets, leg warmers, leotards and tights, neckwear and ties, pajamas, raincoats and ponchos, scout uniforms, shawls and wraps, hooded shirts, shoes, sandals and slippers, socks, suits, suspenders, sweaters, underclothes, vests and work-out clothes.

STAAR

From Page 1

system and equip all school districts with broadband Internet access. Other commission members agreed.

"Replacing the entire STAAR system with a computer-adaptive (test), that's really more of a long-term vision," said commission member Kim Alexander, superintendent

of the Roscoe Collegiate school district. "While that is our eventual goal, if we move that to a long-term recommendation, it might be easier for the legislators to gain consensus on it."

Rep. Jimmie Don Aycock, R-Killeen, worried that the new system would mean more testing. "We need to be careful that we don't send a message that says we want to expand testing," Aycock said. "The general emphasis has been that we want to refine and decrease the overall days of testing. While I support (the recommendation), I think there is an unintended consequence."

High school students must pass all five STAAR end-of-course exams to graduate and fifth- and eighth-graders must pass STAAR tests to move on to the next grade.

The Legislature last year created the commission, which will dissolve in January, to devise a set of changes to the current assessment and accountability systems. Lawmakers can choose to ignore

or accept any of the recommendations.

Other recommendations of the commission include:

Reducing the material that students are tested over.

Reducing the number of state tests as required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

Allowing school districts to develop their own writing assessments instead of the STAAR writing assessments in fourth, seventh and high school grades.

Using performance on national tests such as the SAT, ACT, AP and IB tests to measure how well high schools are preparing students for college and careers and having the state pay for those tests. Giving more emphasis to how well students progress when the state grades campuses and school districts.

Continue to let schools use committees of parents and educators to determine whether high school students should graduate even if they fail one or two of the STAAR end-of-course tests.

Mac's Views

What has America become?

What has happened to the land of the free and home of the brave? It has become the land of handouts. We take money from those who work hard and give it to those who do not



JAMES MCAFEE

a felony and if Congress lies to us it's just politics.

We still have freedom of speech, but only if it is politically correct.

We all say we support the Constitution, but only if it supports our political ideology.

If we dislike blacks, it's racist, but if blacks dislike whites, it's their first amendment right.

In public schools, you can teach that homosexuality is OK, but you cannot use the word

God. If you protest against the government, you can be branded a terrorist, but if you burn an American flag, it's your first amendment right.

You can have pornography on the TV or internet, but you cannot put up a nativity scene at Christmas.

We are told to say "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas."

As we prepare to elect a new president in the fall, the nation is more politically divided than any time in its past history except for before the War Between the States.

If you need any more proof that elected officials look after the best interests of each other, you need to see what Obama did recently when he vetoed a measure passed by Congress to reduce the allowances for expenses incurred by former presidents.

Obama, of course, becomes a past president this fall.

Hopefully, Congress can make a few adjustments and get another bill approved that would reduce what the taxpayers are paying to make past presidents even richer after leaving office.

But do you think this is likely if Hillary Clinton is elected?

Is your child ready for the seat belt?

By Lorri Coop

Many parents are under the impression that a child can be moved to the vehicle seat belt system when they have outgrown the weight limits of their child safety seat. However, most children exceed the weight limits of the seat before they are tall enough to fit in the vehicle lap/shoulder belt. So, how do you know?

Ask these five questions for your answer.

1. Is the child at least 8 years old and taller than 4 feet 9 inches?
2. Do the child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the vehicle?
3. Does the belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?
4. Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?
5. Can the child stay seated like this for the whole trip?

If you answered 'no' to any of these questions, your child needs a booster seat to make both the shoulder belt and the lap belt fit right for the best crash protection. Your child will be more comfortable, too.

Safety belts are part of the safety equipment in the vehicle - and they are designed for adults who are at least 4'9" tall - not children.

Instead of fitting properly over the lower hips, the lap belt rides over the soft

tissues of the abdomen and can cause severe injury or death. The shoulder portion of the belt hits the child's neck or face instead of lying flat across the chest. This causes many children to place the shoulder belt behind their back, leaving them with no upper body protection. A booster seat 'boosts' the child up so the lap/shoulder belt will fit correctly and provide protection in a crash.

Correctly using a booster seat can protect a child from being thrown around the vehicle or being totally ejected in a crash. In a crash, children who are incorrectly restrained by a lap/shoulder belt are likely to sustain serious injuries to internal organs as well as the head and spinal cord. In fact, these abdominal and spinal injuries are medically referred to as "Seat Belt Syndrome."

Motor vehicle crashes continue to be the leading cause of death for children ages three and up. Child safety seats, including boosters, have been proven to be effective in preventing injuries and deaths. Studies show that booster seats can reduce the risk of injury by 59% for children ages 4-7, but children in this age group are the least likely to be properly restrained. All children younger than 8 years old, unless taller than 4'9", are required to be in the appropriate child safety seat system wherever they ride in a passenger vehicle, yet in 2011, 41% of Texas booster-seat age children killed in motor vehicle crashes were unrestrained.

The Knox Extension Office currently has a supply of booster seats available to families in need. Contact us at 940-459-2651 to see about getting your child a booster seat today.

59 claims Festival event

Special to The News-Courier

KNOX CITY—Bruce Skiles, Scooter Thompson and Matthew Acree teamed for an 11-under-par 59 at

the Knox City Country Club last Saturday to win the Festival Scramble.

Domingo Garcia, Chris Garcia and Jeffrey Hernan-

dez won a scorecard play-off from Todd Austin, Gary Crawford and Ryan Offutt to take second place after the teams tied with 62s.

One Man's Opinion

OSHA's war on franchise business model

By Nathan Mehrens

OSHA, and several federal agencies with jurisdiction over employment law have spent years pushing a greatly expanded theory of employer liability known as a joint employer standard.

Newly released records from the Obama Administration's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) show that they have been right in the middle of this and that they have conducted a largescale, coordinated effort to expand franchisors' liabilities.

This issue came to light when a draft document containing a questionnaire for use by OSHA investigators was reported in Politico. The ludicrous questionnaire contained exactly zero questions dealing with matters involving health or safety. Instead, the scores of questions demanded information such as "how does the franchisee obtain the franchise," and "does corporate require franchise to use any specific computer system."

The goal was to be able to establish that both the franchisor and franchisees are the employer of the covered employees and thus are jointly liable when employment law violations occur.

To gain a better understanding of what OSHA is doing, Americans for Limited Gov-

ernment Foundation filed a Freedom of Information Act request (FOIA) with OSHA seeking background information. In response, OSHA released 749 pages of responsive records to us.

From the records released to us we know that OSHA and other Department of Labor personnel have expended a massive number of man hours on this issue. Personnel at many levels across the country have been involved.

The McDonald's corporation was targeted extensively, and spreadsheets tracking information on the company were produced. At one point an agency official noted that a complaint had been filed against Burger King, but decided to not include that information.

Apparently that particular complaint didn't fit the narrative they were looking to create.

Also clear from the correspondence is that Labor Department personnel have a friendly working relationship with union-related entities, such as Fast Food Workers Campaign and the large union federation, Change to Win.

The theory of liability that OSHA is attempting to spread is much like the following scenario.

Suppose on your day off you are driving and get pulled over

by a deputy sheriff. Instead of the typical "do you know why I pulled you over?" you are asked a series of questions regarding who you work for, how much money you make, the method of payment that is used by your employer to pay you, whether your employer is incorporated and if so, what type of corporation it is, etc.

Surprised, you ask how these questions could possibly be relevant to anything that you are doing. You are told that the locality is looking for ways to increase liability of employers for their employee's actions (even those done outside the course and scope of the employment relationship) and as such officers have been instructed to ask these questions in traffic stops. Their goal, you are told, is to be able to hit the "deeper pockets" of the employer rather than just getting citation money from the individual who speeds.

There is also a second motivation. The attempt to make the employer vicariously liable isn't because the employer has done anything wrong or are in any way culpable. It is instead based on a theory that the "economic realities" of the situation mean that bringing in the employer gives leverage to the agency to obtain a desired outcome, regardless of whether your driving habits are a matter of concern to the employer. In other words, your employer with the power to hire and fire, who really doesn't want to be involved in this situation to begin with, is likely to lean on you to resolve the situation quickly.

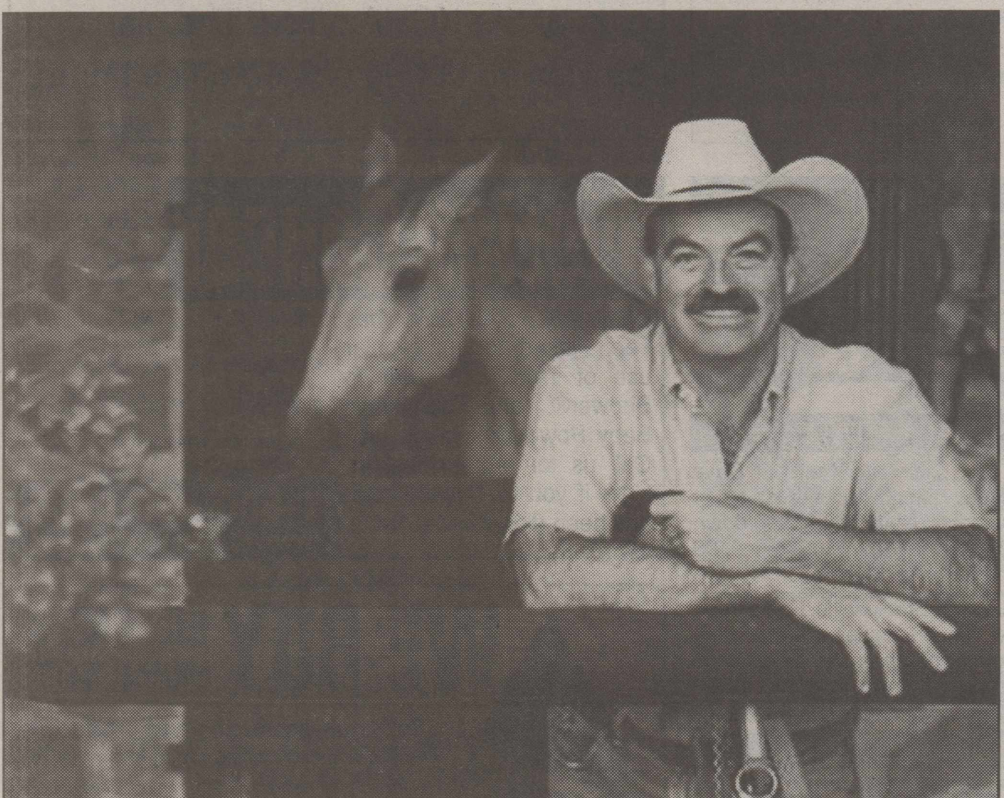
Going back to OSHA, what they are doing is similar. Rather than focusing on individual wrongdoers they are looking at alternative ways to obtain what they want. Believing that franchisors have the economic power to bend franchisees to OSHA's will, the agency is pressing hard to get what it wants.

They are attempting to make virtually limitless the types of situations in which a corporate entity could be held liable, as an employer, and in so doing are threatening a business model that has enabled many individuals to start from scratch and become business owners.

If OSHA is even the least bit concerned with the consequences of expanding liability in the way it wants, this is not evident from records they disclosed to us.

It's all about finding the deepest pockets. If that breaks a few things along the way, so be it.

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From the Preacher's Desk

What a week!

It all started with the arrival of Kody Speer and the teens from San Antonio. Then it continued with the arrival of the group from Camp Verde, AZ. It was so great to see all these individuals arrive who had given up part of their vacation time to assist the church here in Munday!

They began by handing out brochures advertising the movie night, the carnival and the vacation bible school. They covered the towns of Munday, Goree, and Weinert in the hot sun for hours. They went from house-to-house, door-to-door, inviting everyone they could to attend these great events.

Then on Sunday afternoon, they began to set up all the props for the VBS and what amazing props they were! If you didn't see these, you really missed something spectacular. They had spent days and hours preparing all these props back in San Antonio, as they have done every year, and they were incredible.

On Monday they began to set up for the movie for that night. The movie was Woodlawn, and played previously in the movie theaters around the country. The outdoor screen was set up as well as the projector and all the chairs. They also set up the popcorn machine as well as preparing for the nacho's and drinks, which were served FREE!

Tuesday morning began the VBS and 58 children registered! It was wonderful to see so many children on the first. Wednesday, eight more children registered and on Thursday, six more children registered for a three-day total of 72 registered! On Tuesday night, many children and parents came and enjoyed the carnival. There were bouncy machines and lots of games for everyone with prizes given just for trying them.

Wednesday night was a night of VBS celebration and many parents and children came as the theme for the VBS, Joseph: Zero to Hero, was shared with the children singing songs they had learned in VBS. After the presentation, everyone was treated to ice cream and homemade cookies. It was a really great time for all!

All week the teens kept saying they only wanted to bring glory to God and not themselves. They said they wanted the name of Jesus to be lifted up in Munday and did not want any credit for themselves. What a testimony to these young Christians when compared to so many youth in our country today! The whole church is so thankful for this great week and we all look forward to them returning next year.

Each of us need to remember the words of the Bible: "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father." (Colossians 3:17).

—Wayne Speer, Munday Church of Christ