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THE KNOX COUNTY
News-Courier

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2013 KCNEWSCOURIER.COM 75 CENTS

Work begins to improve SH6 in Knox County

By Barbara Seal
For the News-Courier

CHILDRESS — The Texas Department of Transportation recently hosted a pre-construction meeting to discuss a project to widen and overlay SH 6 in Knox County. This project will begin 0.3 miles south of the Foard County Line and continue south for 8.4 miles.

The $3.6 million contract was awarded to Zack Burkett Co. of Graham, said Glenn Allbritton, Munday area engineer.

"This is a project to widen the current four-foot shoulder to 10 feet and overlay the roadway with new asphaltic concrete," he said.

The contractor began this project May 13, and, weather permitting, completion should be the first week of December 2013.

The traveling public can expect lane closures and a pilot car during the widening phase of this project.

Baker Park to be dedicated Saturday

By Wayne Hodgin
The Knox County News-Courier

MUNDAY — Members of Keep Munday Beautiful will host a communitywide dedication ceremony Saturday at the new park east of downtown.

To be named after Charles and Betty Baker, the park dedication also will feature the unveiling of and bronze eagle statue and commemoration plaque in honor of the philanthropic couple, said Perry Kuehler, spokesman for Keep Munday Beautiful.

"Charles was an avid collector of eagles, so the bronzed replica at the park we felt was a great tribute to a man who has done so much for our city," Kuehler said.

Also during Saturday's event, Life Scout Shannon Reeves will be recognized for his efforts to install the statue and landscape at the small park as part of his Eagle Scout project.

The event will begin at 7 p.m. and includes hamburger and hot dog plates and music. Those attending are asked to bring lawn chairs.



News-Courier file photo
The sculpture of an eagle in flight and Life Scout Shannon Reeves both await ceremonies — Reeves to attain his Eagle Scout rank and the bronze eagle to shed its wrapping at the dedication of Charles Baker Park at the east entrance to Munday.

Service



Photos by Michele Fetsch/The News-Courier
Representative of Most Worshipful Grand Master of Texas Terry Stogner speaks during a laying of the cornerstone ceremony Saturday at the Munday Health Clinic.



Master Masons Greg Oliver and Charlie Pack watch as Representative of Most Worshipful Grand Master of Texas Terry Stogner ceremonially checks the craftsman's work of the cornerstone that will be placed near the entrance of the Munday Clinic.

Masons help dedicate new health clinics

By Michele Fetsch
The Knox County News-Courier

Saturday marked a special day in the history of the Knox County Hospital District. The clinic buildings in both Knox City and Munday were dedicated by a time-honored ceremony of "leveling the cornerstone."

Special dedication ceremonies were conducted by the Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas. The public was invited to attend to learn about the historic significance of cornerstones.

Representatives of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas from around the state attended and conducted the formal ceremonies. The dedications preceded a formal ceremonial opening of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas, and the proceedings of the two ceremonies will be included in the annual historical publication of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

This Masonic ceremony is similar to the one conducted by President George Washington during the construction of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

The cornerstone was placed on a tripod awaiting its permanent home on each building. Throughout the ceremony, representative of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas Terry Stogner called on fellow officers to check the stone using a plumb, square and level — all tools used by craftsmen to ensure the building has a strong foundation, well-formed and true.

See **MASONS**, Page 10

Comanche Symposium draws crowd in the Hill Country

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The Knox County News-Courier

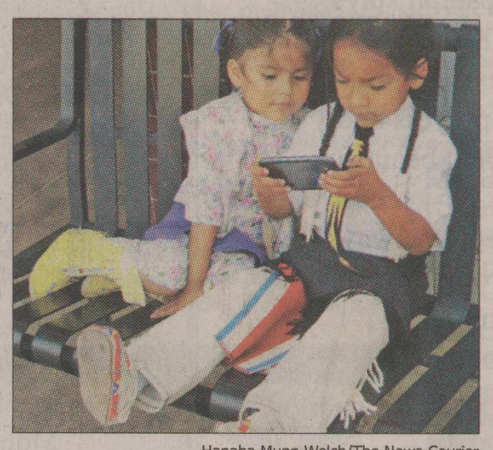
MASON — The recorded steady sound of Comanche drums and historic photographs on the screen at the Odeon Theater set the tone Sunday afternoon for an overflow audience to squeeze into the old theater to fill every seat and to stand in the balcony for a Comanche Symposium featuring four distinguished speakers.

The agenda started with Esther Lehmann, an 89-year-old whose father was captured by Apaches and whose uncle, also a captive, ended up living with Comanches. Final speaker was Glenn Frankel, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist whose latest book, released in February, combines the drawing power of John Wayne and Cynthia Ann Parker.

Frankel's book is "The Searchers: The Making of an American Legend." Published by Bloomsbury USA and released in February, it's a smoothly written 421-page volume that's drawing five-star reviews for the author's well-researched version of the saga of Cynthia Ann Parker, a white child captured in 1836 by Comanches and captured again in 1860 by U.S. Cavalry troops and Texas Rangers.

In the final chapters of the book, Frankel writes about the making of the movie loosely based on the Parker story, the John Ford-directed John Wayne classic "The Searchers," and he tells how the classic film fits

See **COMANCHE**, Page 8



Hanaba Munn Welch/The News-Courier
Dressed Comanche-style, Modesto Schonchin plays an electronic game Sunday afternoon after a Comanche Symposium at the historic Odeon Theater in Mason. By his side is his sister, Arlene Schonchin.

Knox Notes

Events are listed free of charge for nonprofit civic organizations, schools and community events. Submit listings at least two weeks ahead of the date. Listings will run through the date of the event. Emailed submissions are preferred to kcnewscourier@gmail.com.

Disaster relief

Members of the Knox County faith community are collecting donations to help with disaster recovery efforts in Moore, Okla., in the wake of this week's devastating tornadoes in central Oklahoma. Donations of water, toiletries, hand sanitizer, diapers, baby wipes, etc., may be dropped off at McCauley-Smith Funeral Home in Munday or First Baptist Church of Munday. For information, call 940-203-0933.

Class reunion

The Munday High School Class of 1963 will have a 50th reunion May 25 at the New Grand Hotel in Wichita Falls. For information, contact Rick Couch at warlord161@verizon.net (972-571-5899) or James Earp at jamesjamesearp@cs.com (940-368-2475).

Blood drive

Knox County Hospital will host a blood drive from 1 to 6 p.m. Tuesday. Changes have been made to streamline the screening process and some previous restrictions regarding medical conditions and medications have been lifted. Those who have eligibility questions can speak with a Meek Blood Center technician at 325-670-2798.

Vacation Bible School

St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Rhineland will host Vacation Bible School for ages 3 through grade 6 June 17-19. This year's theme is SonWest Roundup, the Wildest Vacation Bible School in the West. For information, contact Janet Dillard at 940-422-4484 for information.

Class reunion

The Knox City High School Class of 1978 invites all alumni and the community to a class reunion from 5 to 11 p.m. July 6 at the Community Center. A golf tournament is planned, as well as a barbecue and dance with live music. Enter the golf tournament by May 1 by RSVP'ing to Jimmy Don Moore at 813-269-1331. Cost is $100 for the two-person scramble. Tickets to the barbecue and dance cost $10; contact Michelle Stanfield at 940-256-0318 or Patti Lain Currie at 325-721-3001 for information.

Corrections

In last week's issue of the News-Courier, captions under two photographs misidentified top vote-getters in local municipal elections, including Greg Oliver of Knox City and Brenda Burns of Goree. Apologies also to Danny Lewis of Knox City.
If you spot an error of fact, contact Editor Wayne Hodgin at kcnewscourier@gmail.com.

News on the go

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It is the mission of this newspaper to promote the rights of individualism in the American Declaration of Independence. The right of life, liberty and 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.

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

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West Texas Press Association WTPA.org
Panhandle Press Association

Local hospital recognizes employees



Michele Fetsch/The Knox County News-Courier

Employees at Knox County Hospital were recently treated to a hamburger luncheon in honor of their service during National Hospital Week.

By Michele Fetsch
The Knox County News-Courier

Employees and friends of Knox County Hospital District gathered Friday to celebrate National Hospital Week.

Hospital accountant Dan Offutt kicked off the event by offering a prayer of thanks for the hospital and a blessing for the staff and the meal. EMS technicians Kyle Bibb and Ronnie Brown delivered grilled hamburgers cooked by fellow EMS tech Bill Myers.

The hamburger luncheon was topped off with homemade ice cream provided by Kelly Myers and Stephen and Sheila Kuehler.

National Hospital Week dates back to 1921 and is currently sponsored by the American Hospital Association. Each year in May, hospitals across the nation recognize the dedicated people who help to promote the universal mission of health and wellness for all.

The Knox County Hospital serves the community and surrounding areas with inpatient care, outpatient care including an on-site full-service pharmacy, physical therapy, speech therapy, home care, the Munday Nursing Center, Seymour Medical Supply, emergency services, and two clinics in Munday and Knox City, respectively.

Extension to offer diabetes seminar

By Lorrie Coop
Special to the News-Courier

Do you feel like you need to know more about how to take care of your type 2 diabetes? If you were recently diagnosed or you have had diabetes a long time, you can benefit from learning the latest things about taking care of yourself so you can reduce your risks for complications, such as reduced vision or nerve pain.

An important tool for managing your diabetes is your glucose meter. Some people avoid checking their blood glucose because pricking their fingers for a sample hurts too much.

Some people were taught the best place to get a blood sample is the central part of their fingertip, which is actually the most sensitive part of the finger tip. Pricking your finger there is going to hurt more than the side of your fingertip. Learning how to test on the side of the fingertip instead significantly reduces pain.

Furthermore, today, most meters and strips allow you to check your blood glucose in other sites, such as on your arm between your elbow and wrist.

New lancet sets allow you to reduce the depth of the needle prick and to use a thinner needle because smaller drops of blood are required to get a good reading. Many people report their pain and discomfort are reduced to almost nothing once they get new equipment and learn how to use it properly.

Have you heard about insulin pens that control your blood glucose with no peaks over a 24 hour period? Just what is rapid acting insulin, and why do so many people like to use it? There are many new oral medicines, too. Do you really have to use alcohol when you prick your finger or give your insulin injection?

Do you understand what your doctor is telling you when he says your hemoglobin A1C is too high? Is 8 percent too high when less than 7 percent is the recommendation by the American Diabetes Association?

While taking care of your diabetes is not easy, you might be surprised to learn that there are many new tools and methods to help you keep your blood glucose in the recommended ranges.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Knox County and Knox County Hospital are offering a five class series with nine topics called "Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes."

These classes will be taught from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays beginning June 4 by a team of volunteer nurses, dietitians, pharmacists, doctors and other health professionals to provide you with the latest information on how to better manage your type 2 diabetes. Self-management of type 2 diabetes has changed a lot.

Come to these classes and learn how to not only make your life with diabetes easier, but how to reduce your chances for complications. The series is offered at no cost. Call the Knox County Hospital at 657-3535 or Gayle Hudson at 940-203-0035 to enroll now.

Lorrie Coop is the family and consumer science agent for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Knox County.

Letter to the Editor

May 24th is Heat Awareness Day

Another sweltering Texas summer is right around the corner with temperatures soaring into the triple digits.

We pass road crews or construction workers doing their jobs in the blistering heat and wonder how they can stand it. We try to finish outdoor chores before the heat rises to unbearable heights and are grateful to be inside with air-conditioning. But, nowhere is the heat more intense than inside a parked automobile.

If the outside temperature reads 101 degrees, the heat inside that car is 128. Yet, each year, children die from being left unattended inside a parked car.

Heatstroke is the leading cause of non-crash vehicle related deaths for children. Since 1988, 559 children have died from the heat as a result of being left in a car — 84 of those children have been in Texas. As strange as it may seem, 52 percent of those children died when a caregiver forgot they were in the car. The other 48 percent of the deaths occurred when children were playing near a parked car or were intentionally left while an adult "ran into the store for just a minute."

It may be tempting for a harried parent to leave a baby or young child, who is sleeping peacefully in the back seat, long enough to grab a loaf of bread or a gallon of milk, but within 10 minutes, the temperature inside a vehicle can rise 19 degrees. Within an hour, it is 40 to 50 degrees hotter, and a child's body heats up three to five times faster than an adult. In spite of popular opinion, "cracking" a window has little effect.

The Knox County Hospital District, a member of the Texas Task Force to Prevent Childhood Heatstroke, is taking steps to alert caregivers of small children to the danger of heat related accidents.

We can reduce this number by remembering to ACT: Avoid heatstroke related injury or death by never leaving a child alone in a car, even for a moment, and be sure to keep car doors locked when children are playing near them. Create reminders by putting a briefcase, purse or cell phone near the child to remember that it is in the back seat. Take action. If you see a child alone in a car, call 9-1-1 to report it. It is against the law to leave a child under the age of seven unattended in a parked car for longer than five minutes, in any kind of situation.

Teach your child that a car is meant for transportation and the trunk is for transporting cargo. Educate them on the dangers of getting into a car or a trunk to hide during games, and if the child goes missing, always check the car first.

It is heartbreaking for everyone when a child dies, no matter what the cause, but the heartbreak is compounded when the death is due to something that could so easily have been prevented.

Gayle Hudson
Registered nurse, Knox County Hospital District

The first FUNdays in Munday Trade Days will be on Saturday, May 25th and will continue each month (except June and July) on the last Saturday of each month thru November at the Munday Event Center. Doors open at 8:00am and will close at 5:00 pm.

A breakfast of pancakes, bacon or sausage, milk or juice or coffee will begin at 8:30 for $5.00.

Some of the items offered for sale will be collectables, knives, wild flower seeds, Mary Kay, quilting items, pot holders, baby stuff, household items, jewelry, tamales, and much, much more. The new business in town Rockin' Rhinestone will be doing manicures for $15.00 and shellac manicures for $25.00.

Vendor space is still available. Electric space is $17.00 and non-electric $12.00. For more information contact the Chamber of Commerce at 422-4545.

The Myers family, especially Dotmama, wishes to thank our community for the outpouring of support during her hospital stays and rehabilitation of her hip. We are so appreciative of all the kindnesses shown—prayers and thoughts, visits, food and beautiful bouquets.
Friends and caring people always make our journey through life an easier road to travel.
Many blessings to you all.
--The Myers Family

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Knox County Aging Services

Menus for May 27-31

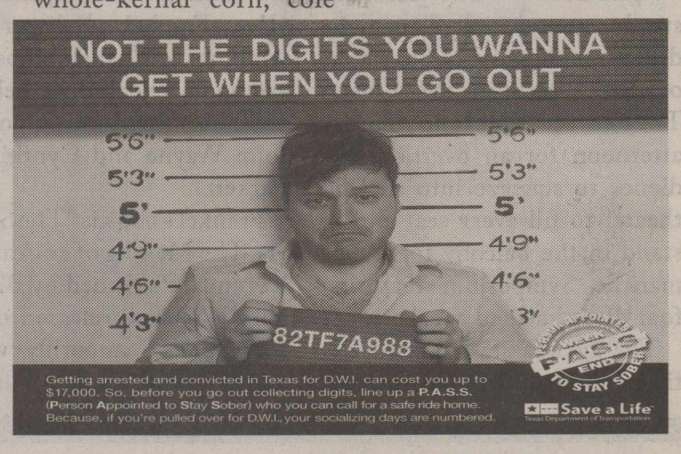
Monday: Closed in observance of Memorial Day.

Tuesday: Swedish meatballs, parsley noodles, mixed vegetables, whole-wheat roll, angel food cake and strawberries.

Wednesday: Talapia, whole-kernal corn, cole slaw, hushpuppies, apple crisp.

Thursday: Sweet and sour chicken, rice, stir-fry vegetables, whole-wheat roll, lazy cake.

Friday: Sloppy Joes, country potato salad, carrots and zuchinni, cookies.



THANK YOU FOR READING!

KC Greyhounds & Houndettes

State Qualifiers



Chasity Tolson, Jordyn Eaton, Caitlyn Baxter, Essence Ward

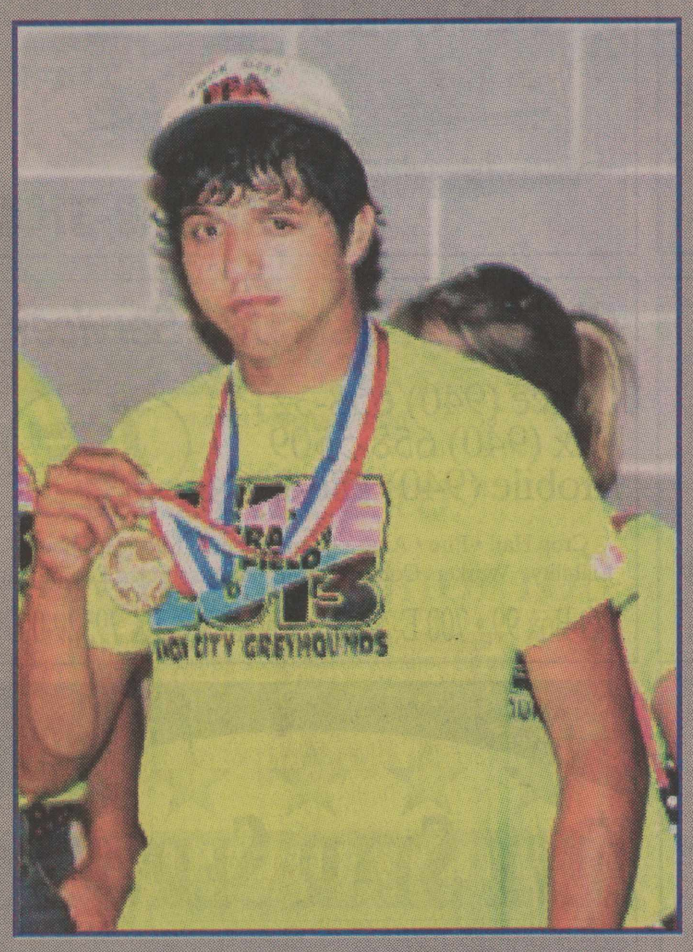
3rd place

800 relay
3rd at state with
Coach Josselet





Caitlyn Baxter
Chasity Tolson
Tylynne Eaton
Essence Ward
Jordyn Eaton





Tylynne Eaton

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The 501

Talking Points: Less is sometimes more

So much talk about talking points. Why has it taken an event like Benghazi to bring talking points to my attention? What are they? Where have they been all my life? Seriously.

Wikipedia to the rescue.

"A talking point in debate or discourse is a succinct statement designed to support persuasively one side taken on an issue."



HANABA MUNN WELCH

OK. I get it. It's what you say to your parents if you want a horse for Christmas.

I shared that thought with my husband, whereupon he reminded me that Ralphie in the movie "The Christmas Story" used talking points to convince his parents to give him a BB gun for Christmas.

I don't remember Ralphie's points. I remember his parents': "You'll shoot your eye out."

Santa Claus backed them up. Seems like he said, "You'll shoot your eye out, kid."

Come to think of it, I think other people in the movie said the same

thing, one after another. You began to anticipate the phrase "You'll shoot

your eye out."

Nothing has a way with words like repetition.

When I was in high school, I was a debater. It wasn't my idea. The English teacher thought I'd be good at it. I wasn't. I hated it.

My partner, Butch, was good. He seemed to enjoy it.

"Resolved: There should be an international agency for the control of nuclear weapons." That was our topic.

For lack of competition from other small schools, we went straight to the regional meet with no experience. We won, thanks mainly to Butch. My only shining moment happened when I ripped apart an eloquent argument made by one of our opponents. She addressed the topic by reciting the poem about the guy who came to a chasm and built a bridge so others could cross. She was an attractive sensitive girl from an orphanage, who also competed in interpretive reading. She probably still remembers how I destroyed that bridge concept. Sorry.

On to state, where we lost on a split decision. End of debating career.

But I do remember that trip to Austin. Butch and I sat in the backseat; seems like our superintendent was driving. Butch had his notes and thoughts all organized. He was ready for anything. I wasn't.

In my lap was a portable 1940s Underwood typewriter. The whole long way I typed more and more notes on index cards. When we had a flat, I sat on the guardrail and kept typing. I stacked up a plethora of talking points. I remember none of them.

In our final debate, we faced two boys. One kicked things off with a description of the horrors of a nuclear attack. No argument there. I should have stood up, thanked him for wasting our opening session and turned the podium back to his partner so the real debate could begin. What a bold stroke that would have been!

Instead I spouted some of my talking points. When all was said and done, we lost.

Silence might have won.

Hanaba Munn Welch is a columnist and contributor for the Knox County News-Courier.

The Paperboy

Enduring nature's fury

I'm nearly speechless about the tornadoes and storms in Moore, Okla., Shawnee, Okla., Granbury, Texas, Cleburne, Texas, Bowie, Texas, etc.

Many of us have family and/or friends in those areas, and the heartache is palpable.

I want those affected to know we grieve for your loss and hope the Lord comforts you with beautiful memories and a quick return to some kind of normalcy.



CHRIS BLACKBURN

When we see these storms, which we can watch live on television, those of us on the outside feel sick. We feel helpless.

When you're in the storm, and many of us have been in them, you know how surreal it is. You know in your soul you are truly helpless against the incredible might this planet can concoct. And, my oh my, that has to be one of the most humbling experiences a man can have.

I've been asked why I would live in Tornado Alley. What do you say? Seems to me regardless of where you live you are in harms way from some occurrence. Tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, droughts, earthquakes, tsunamis, blizzards, volcanoes. It's a rough planet.

But we stay.

We rebuild.

We learn.

We adapt.

In the coming weeks and months as we see these towns begin to rebuild, we will see the resiliency of those affected. That resiliency, like the storms that hit, is also a powerful force. Your faith is a powerful force. These forces are what enables us to rebuild our lives. They enable us to stay sane and slowly absorb the grief into memory.

I encourage you to hug your kids and grandkids right now. Just put the paper down for a minute and give them a hug and a kiss and tell them you love them. Tell them how much they mean to you and tell them how thankful you are to have them in your life.

We are constantly reminded how precious life is and how quickly it can change. Don't waste the opportunities to enjoy it with those close to you.

Christopher Blackburn is publisher of The Stonewall Courier and CEO of Blackburn Media Group.

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Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

Time is racing by, and the end of school is right "at hand," and so far, I have not seen anyone who isn't ready for a few weeks' break from the daily routine of classes and other school activities.

High School Commencement in Benjamin is Friday night, May 31, at 7 p.m. at the Memorial Building. Baccalaureate is Sunday, May 26, at 7 p.m. at the Church of Christ. The eighth grade and kindergarten graduate on Thursday, May 30, also at the building. Then the seniors will be off on their senior trip. Last I heard, they were planning to go to the coast for about a week of fun in the sun. They will enjoy that. Our seniors this year are Matthew Acree, Jonathan Rainwater and Jasmine Padgett.

Regarding Our Ill

Jan Carver is home. She was released from Knox County Hospital late in the week and hanging in there, although she still has a way to go before she's back to normal everyday "doings." I'm sure she would appreciate a card or note of encouragement as she continues her recovery.

Meanwhile, her mother-in-law, Dorothy Carver of Knox City, remains in the Knox County Hospital. According to family members, she is about the same as she has been. The strokes affected one side, and she can't talk but they hope in time that problem will improve.

I talked to Don Roberts Friday night. He said his mom and dad, Kenneth and Jessie, are still doing pretty well in the Munday Nursing Center. As is his aunt, Bea Parks, who is also there. If you have a chance when you are in Munday, drop by and see them (and all the residents there). They all enjoy company.

Hazel Stockton is pretty well "chair bound" for a while. She hurt her leg two or three weeks ago, and it is having a hard time healing. She has a medicated bandage on it, which is changed often, and her leg is wrapped from just below her knee to her toes. She's not to be on it any more than is absolutely necessary, so she sits with it elevated most of the day. She loves people, too, so if you have a chance, drop in on her, send a card, or give her a call. It will help pass the time.

And it was good to see Corrine Parrish in church on Sunday. She has had such a time with her hip (and back) for some time now, but she is so much better now, and it's so good to see her out when she feels like it. She goes back to see her doctor tomorrow (Tuesday).

Please keep these friends in your prayers.

Here 'n' There

There's really not much happening (that I'm aware of) right now. Guess folks are waiting for their last of school trips, to attend graduation, etc., and vacations. There is little to report.

Gloria West, her daughters, Cathy Tomlinson of Denton and Betty Parker of Aspermont, and several of her grandchildren were here during the weekend doing more toward getting her place ready for sale. Cathy said if all goes well, they should be ready for a sale on June 8 of the household furnishings, etc. They plan to combine their sale with Debbie Clower's sale, as she is leaving Benjamin also. Said she will be leaving the last of June. She's going to Kansas. Watch for more information on the sale — exact date, time, and location. There's lots of good "stuff" that I bet will be available at a bargain. As bad as we hate to see them leave, I know they are anxious to get this chore behind them.

Debbie Niel of Boca Raton, Fla., is here for a few days' visit with her mom, Mary Young and other relatives and friends.

Linda and Charles Griffith were in Clovis, N.M., for the high school commencement exercises for their twin granddaughters, Kate and Abby Tyson, daughters of Vince and Amy Tyson. The girls will be off to college in the fall. Abby will be attending Case Western University in Cleveland, Ohio, and Kate will be going to the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. That's quite a ways from home, but Linda said they are anxious to start this new phase of their lives.

Also attending the graduation program were their aunt and uncle, Lori and Rickey LaShomb of Lubbock.

Cindy and Roger Potts and Alan and Sharon Lemons of Seagraves were here Saturday to attend to some things regarding Cindy's mom's (Mary Stone) house. They also visited with Debi and Mike Moorhouse.

I saw Janet Reed on Thursday, and she said she's enjoying her work as secretary and bookkeeper for her son-in-law, Gary Neal, in Seymour. She worked for the Knox County judge for a good while, but decided to make a change about a month ago and seems it's working out real well. That's good to hear.

Laura McCanlies was in Austin recently for a few days' schooling regarding her work in the tax and appraisal offices. Her husband, Dicky, went with her, and I'm sure she was glad she didn't have to make the trip by herself.

Judy and Randolph Barnett went over to Copper Breaks on Saturday morning to see their grandson, Cayden Conner, who was there with his Boy Scout group. Cayden lives in Lubbock and has been active in scouts for quite some time.

James Jackson of Munday, who is interim pastor at Benjamin FBC and also dispatcher at the county jail is having some health issues and is undergoing tests to determine just what is going on.

He's had several "episodes" where he says he just sort of loses track of what's going on. He finally went to the doctor last week. His blood pressure was a little high (not alarmingly so), and doctors ordered an MRI, which he had on Monday. No real problem showed up, but he will go to a neurologist on June 3 for further examination.

He's hoping his problem is caused by numerous concussions he had while playing football in junior high, high school, and college. Regardless of what caused it, it will be good to know the cause and get on with handling it. James asks that we be in prayer for him and his family during this time.

Thursday night the gymnastic and dance "kids" presented a program for the community at the Memorial Building. Named the "Dance Showcase and Gymnastics," it gave the participants a chance to exhibit their talents and skills they have worked so hard on all year. The gymnastic girls are ages pre-k- through fourth grade, and the dancers are all ages through junior high. Ashley Brandt is their instructor. The awards banquet is this week. That's when recognition is given to all who had participated in school activities all year. And I just learned who the honor graduates are. The eighth grade Vvaledictorian is Benjamin Vanderpol and salutatorian is Justin Rainwater. In high school, Matthew Acree is valedictorian and Jonathan Rainwater is salutatorian. Congratulations to these students and all who are graduating or "moving up."

Gladene Green is the longtime Benjamin correspondent for the Knox County News-Courier.

ERCOT expects tight summer conditions

Special to the Dispatch

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas, grid operator for most of the state, is preparing for a hot summer as it continues to evaluate future resource adequacy.

ERCOT recently released its final summer Seasonal Assessment of Resource Adequacy, which anticipates tight conditions this summer, along with the semiannual update to its long-term Capacity, Demand and Reserves report, which shows some improvement since the previous report was issued in December.

With tight operating reserves expected this summer, especially during the late afternoon hours on the hottest days, it is likely that ERCOT will initiate conservation alerts or power watches on some days. These alerts ask the public to reduce electric use to help ERCOT maintain reliability of the grid.

"We are expecting above-normal temperatures throughout summer in most areas of the ERCOT region," said Kent Saathoff, an ERCOT executive adviser who has overseen various aspects of grid operations and system planning for several decades. "To help ensure there is enough generation to serve consumer needs, we likely will ask people to conserve power during the hottest hours of the hottest days."

High temperatures typically drive electric demand in the ERCOT region, especially among residential consumers, who use more than half the electricity being consumed during the peak hours of the hottest days when air conditioner use is at its maximum.

ERCOT expects power demands this summer to peak at 68,383 megawatts, slightly above the 68,305 MW all-time record set Aug. 3, 2011. One MW is enough electricity to power about 200 homes in the ERCOT region when electric use is highest, typically between 3 and 7 p.m. during the hottest days of the year.

The amount of generation available to serve peak electric needs is forecast at 74,438 MW, including 925 MW of new coal-fired generation from the Sandy Creek Energy Station in McLennan County and about 700 MW of new wind power resources.

More extreme scenarios could result in more generation outages than the forecast includes or an increase in demand of as much as 2,529 MW, if weather patterns similar to summer 2011 return.

"If generation outages exceed expected conditions during peak demand periods, or if we see a return of record-breaking conditions like those in 2011, ERCOT also may need to implement Energy Emergency Alert actions, with the possibility of rotating outages if needed to protect the grid," Saathoff added.

Drought conditions are not expected to create problems for power plant operations over the summer months. However, if dry conditions persist, some plants may experience operational challenges later in the year.

FSA urges producers to enroll in DCP/ACRE

Special to the Courier

USDA Farm Service Agency Administrator Juan Garcia encourages farmers and ranchers to enroll for the 2013 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program or the Average Crop Revenue Election Program before the deadline.

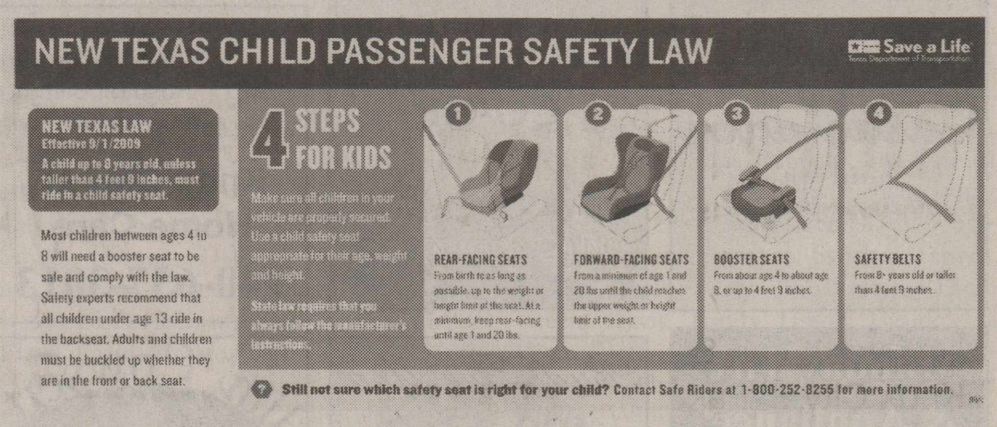
Producers who wait until the last minute to sign up could face increased waiting time in FSA county offices.

"We understand that producers have gotten busy, but they can't forget to visit their county office and sign up for DCP or ACRE," Garcia said. "Just as farmers and ranchers plan their spring plantings, producers should plan to schedule an appointment to visit their USDA Service Center at the earliest possible time. It's best to complete the paperwork now rather than to stand in line the day before the deadline."

The deadline to sign up for ACRE is June 3. The DCP sign up period ends Aug. 2.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013 (and vice versa).

For more information about the programs and loans administered by FSA, visit any FSA county office or fsa.usda.gov.



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Dixie Divas

Being Danny McGuire



RONDA RICH

Littlle Danny McGuire was the scrawniest kid in class. He was so frail, so downright skinny that his dungarees clung to his bony hips only thanks to a well worn brown belt that was pulled tight to the last notch, causing the fabric to gather in folds. What a sight he made with blue jeans cinched to the waist and little ol' legs hidden somewhere in the yards of material.

Whenever we chose teams for Red Rover, he was always, without fail, the last one chosen. He took it good-naturedly, shaking that shock of hay-like blonde hair and displaying his buck teeth in a wide grin as he shuffled over to the unfortunate team that was stuck with his services.

The team captain would appoint Danny to stand at the end of the line, figuring his weak-wristed grasp could only be broken from one side instead of two. Then, too, without fail, the first one from the opposing team would head straight to Danny's microscopically small hands and break through without trouble.

More often than not, Danny would fall to the ground, holding his wrist as through it was broken and writhe in agony for a few moments. Athletic prowess was not his strong suit. But still he laughed. He always laughed. I admired him so much, enamored by someone who could take a licking and keep on laughing.

Danny, though, had his mighty attributes. The good Lord always sees the score is evened somehow. Some are pretty, some are smart, some are witty, some are talented, some can throw a football.

Danny could wrestle a math problem and pin it in a second with both hands tied behind him and his eyes shut tight. He never lost a spelling bee that I know of. He was always the last kid standing. And in victory, just like Red Rover defeat, he was good-natured, shrugging his shoulders as though his brilliance was just a fluke.

Me? I was always in the middle of the pack. Never picked first for Red Rover but somewhere halfway down the line in selection. I guess the best I ever did in the spelling bees was maybe fifth and that only happened one time.

I was champion reader, though. One year — it was the fourth grade — I read more books than the entire class combined. Like I said: The good Lord makes us all good at something. When graduation from high school and college came, I was somewhere in the middle. Again. I never thought of being the best at anything, just doing decent at everything I tried. In that, I mostly succeeded.

Lately, I've been thinking that there's too much pressure on kids to be the best at everything. The parents of my generation in my little country school didn't push us to over excel. They preached values, discipline, kindness and courtesy. They encouraged us to play and enjoy childhood. My parents cared only that my homework was done and they never became overwrought if I didn't make a perfect score. I rarely did.

Whenever I brought home a C in math, Mama would sigh as she signed my report card or test paper and say, "You're just like me. I was never any good in math." She knew economics, though. She knew how to make a dollar and she knew how to save one.

I've been thinking about kids in the middle like me. They usually do pretty well in life. For the most part, if you consider it, the middle-of-the-roaders have pretty good existences. No one expects too much from us, so there's not a lot of pressure. Then, if we happen to do well at something, people are pleasantly surprised and slap us on the shoulders, praising an unexpected accomplishment.

Middle-of-the-road people like me live longer, I believe. Danny McGuire? He died years ago. Too much stress and not enough Red Rover.

Ronda Rich is a Southern humorist, storyteller and best-selling author. Her latest book, "There's A Better Day A-Comin'," is available at rondarich.com.

USDA: Farm payments scheduled to resume

Special to the News-Courier

U.S. Department of Agriculture officials have announced farm payments, which had been temporarily suspended due to sequestration, has resumed.

This includes payments for the 2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE), the Noninsured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) and the Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC).

"I'm pleased to announce that farmers and ranchers can expect to begin receiving their payments beginning today, May 8," said Farm Service Agency administrator Juan Garcia. "We appreciate the producers' patience during the delay. We're working diligently to get these payments out as quickly as possible."

On March 4, FSA began a temporary suspension of FSA program payments in order to assess the impact of sequestration and determine the least-disruptive process possible for carrying out required cuts.

The department will use the secretary's limited authority to transfer funds to avoid reducing these program payments.

Producers should be advised that program sign-up periods currently underway have the following enrollment deadlines: 2013 Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program – June 3rd; 2011 SURE – June 7; and the 2013 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program – August 2nd. Producers should contact their local Farm Service Agency office as soon as possible for appointments to enroll in these programs before the deadlines.

USDA has made a concerted effort to deliver results for the American people, even as USDA implements sequestration — the across-the-board budget reductions mandated under terms of the Budget Control Act.

USDA has already undertaken historic efforts since 2009 to save more than $828 million in taxpayer funds through targeted, common-sense budget reductions. These reductions have put USDA in a better position to carry out its mission, while implementing sequester budget reductions in a fair manner that causes as little disruption as possible.

Wildlife habitat project applications available

Special to the News-Courier

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservation has announced applications for funding opportunities with the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program are being accepted at the local office

NRCS in Texas has received $5.5 million for WHIP funding in 2013. This funding has been established to improve bobwhite quail and pronghorn antelope habitat, as well as for landowners that have lost wildlife habitat through the drought and wildfires of recent years.

WHIP helps Texas landowners restore and improve fish and wildlife habitats, and benefit at-risk species. This funding will give landowners in Knox County the opportunity to address wildlife concerns on their land.

Through WHIP, the NRCS provides both technical assistance and financial assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. WHIP agreements between NRCS and the participant generally last from five to 10 years from the date the agreement is signed.

Landowners interested in participating in the program are encouraged to contact their local USDA-NRCS field office, in the nearest USDA Service Center. Applications are accepted continuously, and the ranking criteria are established by the state conservationist, based upon input from the state technical committee.

WHIP applications must address traditional natural resource issues such as water quantity, water quality, grazing lands, forest health, soil management, emerging natural resource issues, and climate change.

For information, including eligibility requirements, call the USDA Service Center office. Service center locations and program information can be found on the Texas NRCS Web site at tx.nrcs.usda.gov.

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TDA Market Recap

Cotton markets continue to drop

Special to the Courier

For the week ending May 18, 2013, feeder cattle prices reported by Texas auctions ranged from $6 lower to $5 higher per hundredweight (cwt) compared to the previous week. Texas direct feeder cattle sales were steady to $3 lower. The Oklahoma City National Stockyards were mostly steady to $2 higher, except steers less than 800 pounds were steady to $2 lower. Negative cattle feeding margins and lower feeder cattle futures continued to pressure the market. However, tight supplies and improved pasture conditions in some areas were also supportive.

Fed cattle cash prices were $1 lower. Choice wholesale beef prices hit a new record-high of $209.51 per cwt on Friday. Beef exports for the year are nearly 12 percent behind last year's pace.

Cotton prices were lower due to burdensome world supplies and in spite of ongoing concerns about planting delays and very dry conditions in major Texas growing areas. Weekly cotton export sales were down from the previous week, but cumulative sales for the year reached 99 percent of the projected marketing year total. Wheat prices declined on reports of beneficial rains in overseas growing areas and weak exports that were well below the average level needed to meet the projected total for the marketing year, which ends in two weeks. Corn prices were unchanged as markets remain concerned about slow planting progress across the Midwest.

As for futures markets, fed cattle, feeder cattle, cotton, wheat, corn and lumber were lower.

Most of the state received rainfall during the week, but totals of one-half inch or more were limited to Central and Northeast Texas, a few locations in the Edwards Plateau region and some parts of South Texas. Information on agricultural weather and crop conditions is available in the weekly USDA-NASS "Texas Crop Progress and Condition" report: www.nass.usda.gov

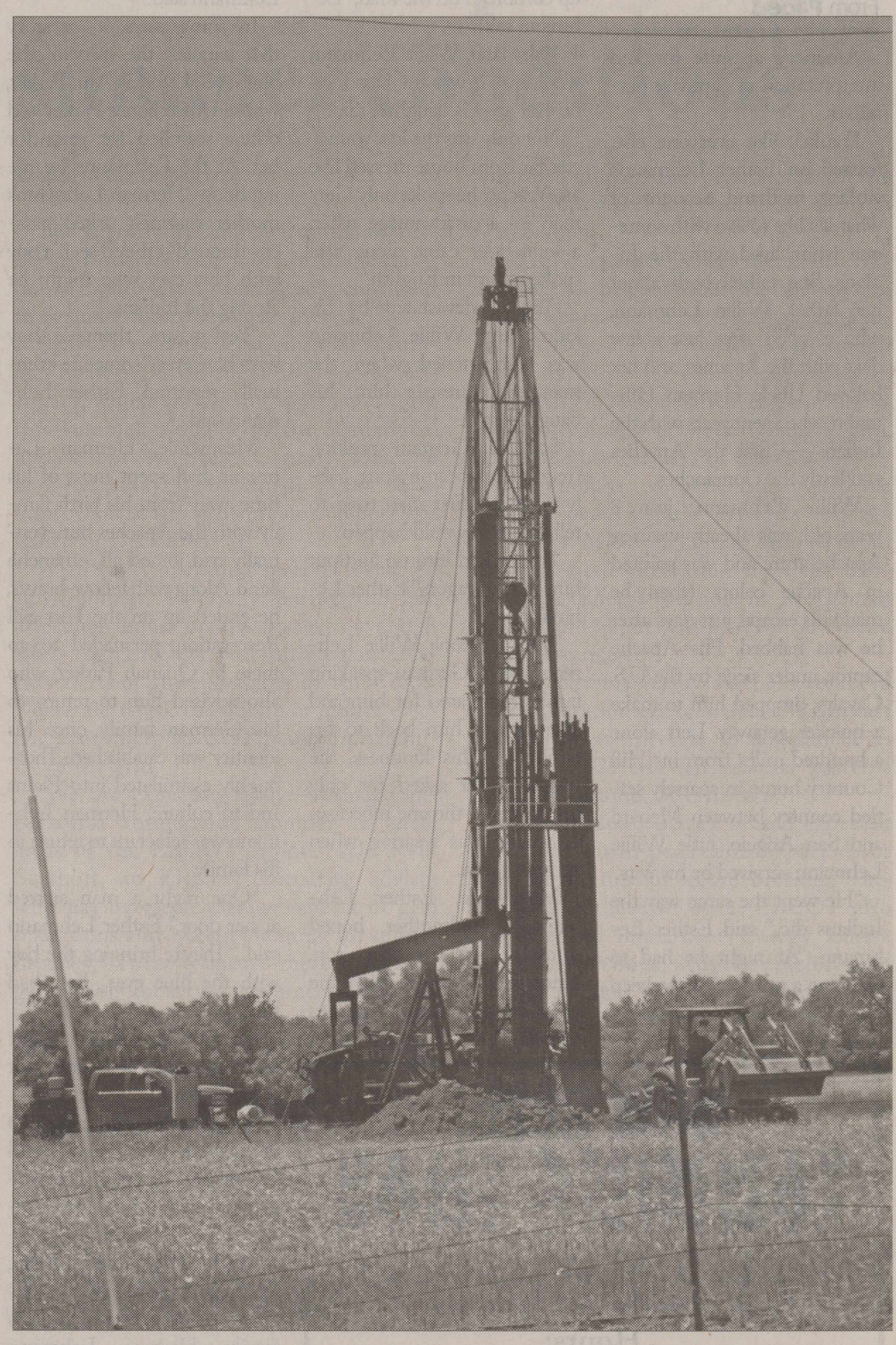
Texas Cash Markets:		Week Ending May 18, 2013	Previous Week	Previous Year
Feeder Steers	($/cwt)	152.22	153.12	177.29
Fed Cattle	($/cwt)	124.99	125.95	122.89
Slaughter Lambs	($/cwt)	102.50	110.00	143.50
Slaughter Goats	($/cwt)	185.00	190.00	210.00
Cotton	(¢/lb.)	81.00	81.50	73.25
Grain Sorghum	($/cwt)	11.74	11.70	11.37
Wheat	($/bu.)	7.15	7.43	6.70
Corn	($/bu.)	7.17	7.17	6.92
Onions	($/50 lbs.)	13.00	13.00	10.00
Watermelons	($/lb.)	0.25	0.25	0.18
Futures Markets:				
Feeder Cattle	($/cwt)	133.90	135.37	151.30
Fed Cattle	($/cwt)	119.40	120.45	119.52
Cotton	(¢/lb.)	86.41	86.48	77.99
Wheat	($/bu.)	7.37	7.72	7.05
Corn	($/bu.)	6.53	6.88	6.36
Lumber	($/MBF)	315.80	335.00	388.50

MBF = thousand board feet

All cash prices above are market averages for locations covered by the USDA Market News program and do not reflect any particular sale at any specific location. Feeder cattle prices are for 500-600 pound medium and large No.1 steers at the Oklahoma City National Stockyards. Futures prices are quoted for the nearest month contract on the last trading day of the week. Timber prices are from the Texas A&M Forest Service, bimonthly "Texas Timber Price Trends."

For additional information, contact TDA at 800-835-5832 or visit www.TexasAgriculture.gov.

Oil boom



Chris Blackburn/The Stonewall Courier

Oil continues to drive the economy in Stonewall County. This rig can be found near Old Glory south of U.S. 380. Oil production has increased each year since 2008 in the county. Currently there are 825 oil and gas leases in the county and 297 producing operators.

Perry renews proclamation extending drought emergency

Gov. Rick Perry has again renewed a proclamation extending drought emergency for specified counties due to the ongoing exceptional drought conditions across the state. The proclamation directs necessary resources be made available to aid response efforts and notes the ongoing strain on water resources.

The state of disaster includes the counties of Anderson, Andrews, Archer, Armstrong, Atascosa, Austin, Bailey, Bandera, Bastrop, Baylor, Bee, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Borden, Bosque, Brazoria, Brazos, Briscoe, Brooks, Brown, Burleson, Burnet, Caldwell, Calhoun, Cameron, Carson, Castro, Childress, Clay, Cochran, Coke, Coleman, Collingsworth, Colorado, Comal, Comanche, Concho, Cooke, Coryell, Cottle, Crane, Crockett, Crosby, Culberson, Dallam, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Denton, DeWitt, Dickens, Dimmit, Donley, Duval, Eastland, Ector, Edwards, El Paso, Erath, Falls, Fayette, Fisher, Floyd, Foard, Freestone, Frio, Gaines, Garza, Gillespie, Goliad, Gonzales, Gray, Grayson, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hale, Hall, Hamilton, Hansford, Hardeman, Hardin, Harris, Hartley, Haskell, Hays, Hemphill, Hidalgo, Hill, Hockley, Hood, Houston, Hudspeth, Hutchinson, Irion, Jack, Jackson, Jeff Davis, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Johnson, Jones, Karnes, Kendall, Kenedy, Kent, Kerr, Kimble, King, Kinney, Kleberg, Knox, La Salle, Lamb, Lampasas, Lee, Leon, Liberty, Limestone, Lipscomb, Live Oak, Llano, Lubbock, Lynn, Madison, Martin, Mason, Matagorda, Maverick, McCulloch, McLennan, McMullen, Medina, Menard, Midland, Milam, Mills, Montague, Montgomery, Moore, Motley, Navarro, Nolan, Nueces, Ochiltree, Oldham, Palo Pinto, Parker, Parmer, Pecos, Potter, Presidio, Randall, Reagan, Real, Reeves, Refugio, Roberts, Robertson, Runnels, San Jacinto, San Patricio, San Saba, Schleicher, Scurry, Shackelford, Sherman, Somervell, Starr, Stephens, Stonewall, Sutton, Swisher, Tarrant, Taylor, Terrell, Terry, Throckmorton, Tom Green, Travis, Trinity, Upton, Uvalde, Val Verde, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Ward, Washington, Webb, Wheeler, Wichita, Wilbarger, Willacy, Williamson, Wilson, Winkler, Wise, Yoakum, Young, Zapata and Zavala.

Learn the history of longhorn cattle at Copper Breaks

Special to The News-Courier

QUANAH — The history, lore, and legend of the beloved Texas Longhorn will be the focus of the campsite talk on Saturday, May 18 at 2 p.m. Park Ranger Carl Hopper will discuss the importance of the cattle brand in the Texas cattle industry, techniques of branding, and the Longhorn breed.

The program will take place in conjunction with the regular Saturday "Meet the Longhorns" presentation. Visitors will assemble at the park headquarters before being escorted to the longhorn pens.

The event is free with regular park admission of $2 for adults.

Meet the Longhorns is an ongoing Saturday campsite program which allows visitors to get a close personal look at Little Bit, Litte Red, Spot, Blanco Besos, and the other members of the herd at Copper Breaks.

"Two of our longhorns will eat out of your hand and one will give you a big kiss," says ranger Hopper, "You don't have to kiss him, but he will make the offer."

The program is free with regular park admission of $2 for adults.

For more information on the special events schedule, or other Copper Breaks events or facilities, contact the park daily during business hours at (940) 839-4331. Copper Breaks State Park is located 13 miles south of Quanah and eight miles north of Crowell on State Highway 6.

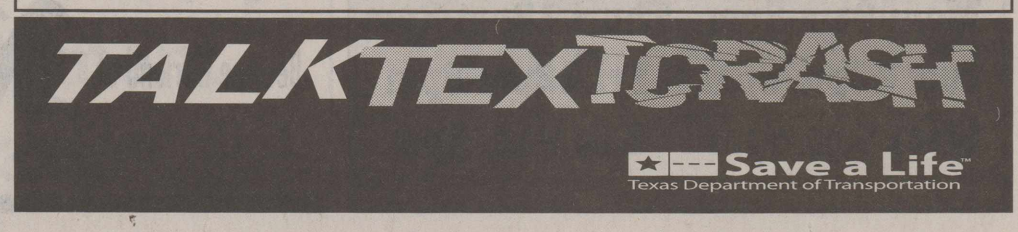
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

Hunt Oil Company, 1900 North Akard Street, Dallas, Texas 75201-2300 has applied to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Canyon and Twin Peaks formations in the S.B. Burnett Estate "YA" Lease Well Number YA-56. The proposed injection well is located 18 miles southeast of Guthrie, Texas in the Anne Tandy (Strawn) Field, King County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 4100' to 5268'.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the **Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capital Station, Austin, Texas, 78711-2967. (Telephone 512/463-6792)**





COMANCHE

From **Page 1**

America's appetite for and interpretation of captivity narratives.

Frankel, like everyone else, feasted on Esther Lehmann's vibrant firsthand account of what it's like to live with someone who's lived with the Indians. She talked both about her father, Willie Lehmann, who escaped after just a few days with the Apaches, and her beloved Uncle Herman Lehmann, who spent years with the Indians — first the Apaches and lastly the Comanches.

Willie Lehmann, just 8 years old, was already wearing Apache attire and was painted in Apache colors when he made his escape, just days after he was nabbed. His Apache captor, under siege by the U.S. Cavalry, dropped him to make a quicker getaway. Left alone a hundred miles from his Hill Country home in sparsely settled country between Menard and San Angelo, little Willie Lehmann survived by his wits.

"He went the same way the Indians did," said Esther Lehmann. "At night he had to crawl up a tree to sleep to keep the wild animals from eating him up."

The child had no provisions.

"He found a piece of dried-up cornbread on the road," Lehmann said.

Years later, Willie Lehmann would say it was the best food he ever ate, his daughter said.

Not only was the lost youngster far from home dressed like an Apache; he spoke only German — a disadvantage when a lone rider came along and spoke to him in English.

Already devastated by his kidnapping, Willie Lehmann was disheartened when the man didn't rescue him, his daughter said.

Soon a German-speaking freight hauler came along, likely what the first man tried to tell the child would happen.

"He picked him up and put him in the wagon," Esther Lehmann said.

The man took Willie Lehmann to a German-speaking family that cared for him and later carried him back to his family. For his kindness, the wagon driver asked for only one thing — the one moccasin Lehmann was wearing when he found him.

Meanwhile, Esther Lehmann's grandmother hoped someday find her other son, Herman, who was 11 when the same band of Lipan Apaches carried him off in the same raid.

"She never gave up," Esther Lehmann said.

In some ways, it's a story that parallels the story of the blue-eyed Cynthia Ann Parker, whose Uncle James Parker and others searched for years for her. At the Lehmanns' boarding house, Herman Lehmann's mother routinely asked passers-through if they'd seen a boy with blue eyes who might be among the Indians.

"Yes ma'am, there's a boy with blue eyes," someone eventually reported, Esther Lehmann said.

Meanwhile, Herman Lehmann had spent most of his time away from his birth family with the Apaches but eventually had joined a Comanche band. Along with fellow-braves, he ended up on the Fort Sill Reservation, persuaded to go there by Quanah Parker, who also advised him to return to his German family once his identity was established. Thoroughly assimilated into Plains Indian culture, Herman Lehmann was reluctant to return to his family.

"One night a man arrived at her door," Esther Lehmann said. "They're bringing the boy with the blue eyes. They had him tied."

At first the family didn't know him, and he seemed not to know them.

"Everybody was trying to decide what to do," Esther Lehmann said, repeating the family version of events that happened before she was born.

"All at once he said, 'Mama, me Herman,'" she said.

But despite recognizing his family, Herman Lehmann didn't suddenly revert to his original culture. In fact, he retained much of his adopted culture for all his life.

"We had jerky year-round because he loved his deer jerky," his niece said.

Sometimes he disappeared.

"He would leave and just walk out in the pasture," Lehmann said. "He would be gone for days. I think he went out and reminisced about the Indians. It was something he really missed."

Esther Lehmann was only a child when her Uncle Herman died in 1932, but she had gotten to know him well and counted him as her favorite playmate. When he would take trips to Oklahoma to see his Indian friends, she would sit on the doorstep and wait for him to come back, she said.

The late Fred Gipson, author of the book "Old Yeller," was a friend and neighbor of the Lehmann family. He wrote a book based roughly on Herman Lehmann's life, "Savage Sam," but despite his fascination with the whole saga, he couldn't handle all aspects of Herman Lehmann's Indian ways — at least not Lehmann's predilection for raw liver. As a rodeo act, Lehmann entertained the crowd by killing a calf with his bow and arrows and then cutting out the liver and eating it.

"When he cut that liver out and started eating it, Fred Gipson would run the other way," Esther Lehmann said, smiling at the memory.

The anecdote prompted the symposium moderator, Scott Zesch, to ask Esther Lehmann if her uncle ever scared her and her friends.

"He'd let out his war whoop every once in a while," she said.

At the end of Lehmann's remarks, Zesch recommended the book "Nine Years Among the Indians, 1870-1879: The Story of the Captivity and Life of a Texan Among the Indians," written by Herman Lehmann and J. Marvin Hunter. Zesch noted that the latest edition has significant extra essays at the end.

Following Lehmann, author and archivist Donaly Brice recounted the Council House Fight in San Antonio, the pillaging of Linnville and the Battle of Plum Creek — 1840 events that pushed the Comanche out of the Texas Hill Country.

Next, Dan Gelo shared experiences from his 31 years of field work as an anthropologist, describing the saga of the Comanche as one that is "slowly unfolding." Gelo talked about Comanche culture in the context of geographical landmarks, language and music, showing images and playing a recording of a Comanche mourning song to illustrate his points.

Frankel, director of the School of Journalism at the University of Texas, wrapped up the event by talking mainly about his new book. First he described his non-Texan upbringing and ignorance of Texas-Indian history.

"We never heard of Apaches in Rochester, New York," he said. "We never heard of Quanah Parker. We did hear of a movie called 'The Searchers.'"

Frankel saw the movie when he was about 7 and again in college, never realizing it was inspired by a true story behind Alan Le May's novel of the same name. When Frankel decided a few years ago to explore the idea of writing about "The Searchers" and its pivotal place in American movie history as a classic captivity narrative, he stumbled onto the truth behind the legend.

"I had no idea what I was walking into," he said.

By the next year, he found himself literally walking into history at a Quanah Parker Family reunion.

"I was totally hooked," he said. "It (The book undertaking) got much larger."

Frankel asked for a show of hands to confirm that most people at the symposium already knew the basic story of the capture of Cynthia Ann and the story of her son, Chief Quanah Parker. A sea of hands went up. Frankel, accordingly, spent little time reiterating the basic story but shared instead some lesser-publicized aspects of the story and talked about people's attitudes at the time toward Cynthia Ann Paker.

Unlike Herman Lehmann, who managed to adjust well enough to non-Indian life to make the best of it, Cynthia Ann Parker found little happiness, especially after the death of her little daughter, who was captured with her.

"After a brief period of kind of being a semi-celebrity, it's clear she's unhappy," Frankel said. "They (Her relatives and others around her) think her mind has been corrupted, her spirit has been compromised by 24 years with the barbarians. There isn't even an obituary when she dies."

It took years, but the two sides of the Parker family, the Anglos and the Indians, achieved a rapprochement. They don't have one big family reunion, but they send representatives to each others' gatherings.

"They even exchange a silver bowl each year," Frankel said.

For Frankel, the story of the Parker family upholds the thesis of his book.

"Cynthia Ann has joined the American Captivity Narrative," he said.

Her legendary story, as well as others like it, "needs to be looked at by each generation to unravel a little bit if we can," Frankel said.

Attitudes are different now from the era when Cynthia Ann Parker and other members of her family were captured and others were brutally killed at Fort Parker, near the headwaters of the Navasota River, by the Comanche raiding party. Her 1836 capture came at the beginning of a 40-year war between settlers and Comanches — the longest running conflict in U.S. history, Frankel pointed out.

"Talk about a clash of civilizations, this was a real clash of civilizations," he said. "Muslims, Christians and Jews at least worship the same God. They were intimate enemies. They weren't using drones or dropping bombs from 30,000 feet. There were no boundaries or rules."

The combat was intimate, with enemies looking each other in the face, Frankel said.

"Each side begins to see the other as slightly less than human," he said. "Families on both sides were often the target."

It wasn't the first time settlers were shocked at the idea of any of their own being carried off by the Indians. As an American literary genre, Mary Rowlandson introduced the theme. She was carried off by Narragnasett natives in New England in 1676 and wrote her own account.

James Fenimore Cooper wrote about captives as did other novelists.

"The (women) captives somehow maintain their purity or die trying to return to White civilization," Frankel said, describing the typical plots. "When Cynthia Ann was kidnapped in 1836, three of the top-sellers were Cooper novels. The other was about the Rowlandson episode."

A great divide separated the way the Indians and the Texans looked viewed captives.

"The depth of misunderstanding was really bottomless," Frankel said. "The Comanches saw it (taking captives) as a way of survival."

Captives helped them increase their numbers at a time when they needed more people, Frankel said.

"The Texans saw the Comanche as subhuman because of their casual cruelty and how they treated victims," Frankel said.

After the Comanches lost the long-running war by the mid-1870s, a different Indian stereotype took hold — one that cast Quanah Parker in the role of the "noble savage, the White Comanche."

"We can assume he was a raider, a hunter, a man of violence," Frankel said.

But Quanah knew better than to talk of his Indian ways.

"He emerges very quickly as a force for reconciliation," Frankel said. "He knew there was no way back."

By 1905, Chief Quanah was one of the chiefs who rode in his regalia in Teddy Roosevelt's inaugural parade.

In the public eye, the red blood that ran in his veins and dominated his youth was overcome by his white blood. Quanah, to great extent, let the impression prevail. The image served his purposes as he used his influence with the White Man for the welfare of his tribe, dealing with influential people from Texas ranching circles to Washington, D. C.

But by the time John Ford directed "The Searchers" in 1956, the noble savage stereotype had given way to the rapacious savage stereotype.

"There's nothing pretty about it," Frankel said. "As the movie unfolds, it gets more complicated. Ford gives us the myth. At the same time, he begins to undermine the myth."

Since "The Searchers," views of Native Americans have changed.

"Sensibilities have changed because we have changed," Frankel said. "Inevitably this leads us down the road to 'Dances with Wolves.' The original story is about Comanches."

Each generation interprets the stories of the Indians in the conquest of the West differently — "according to their own sensibilities," Frankel said.

"We still talk about these stories for the same reasons — to explain ourselves, our country, our fears and our nightmares," he said.

For Frankel, attending Parker Family reunions, White and Comanche, has put him in touch with the most famous captivity narrative in the history of Texas — the poignant story of Cynthia Ann Parker.

"It's such a rich, deep history, I think that's why you are here today," he said.

Frankel's book, complete with his analsis of the epic movie, adds other dimensions to the story and its place among America's myths.

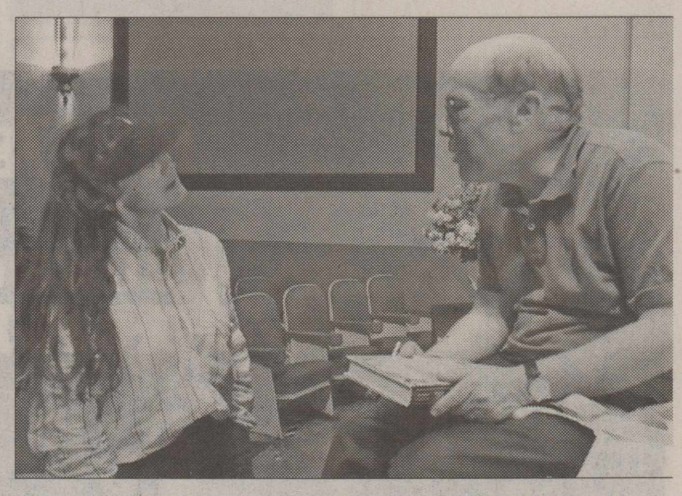
Comanche lore on the uptick across Texas

The News-Courier

The outstanding turnout Sunday in Mason in the Texas Hill Country for a historical symposium about Comanche Indians reflects an increase in interest in the topic of the Comanche presence in Texas.

Not only in Texas, where the story of Comanche captive Cynthia Ann Parker is part of the standard school curriculum, but also across the country, new books are drawing fresh attention to an intriguing era in Texas history when Comanche, Kiowa and Apache Indians waged war against encroaching White settlers, drawing Texas Rangers, the U. S. Cavalry and volunteers into a string of skirmishes that lasted four decades, culminating in the battles of the Red River War.

The Texas Plains Trail Region, both to honor history and to encourage tourism, has marked many places with tall Quanah Parker Trail Arrows crafted by New Home sculptor Charles Smith.



Hanaba Munn Welch/The News-Courier

Holle Humphries of Lubbock, an organizer and promoter of the Quanah Parker Trail in the Texas Plains Trail heritage tourism region, talks with author Glenn Frankel Sunday afternoon in Mason at a Comanche Symposium hosted by the Mason County Historical Commission.

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Students in the News

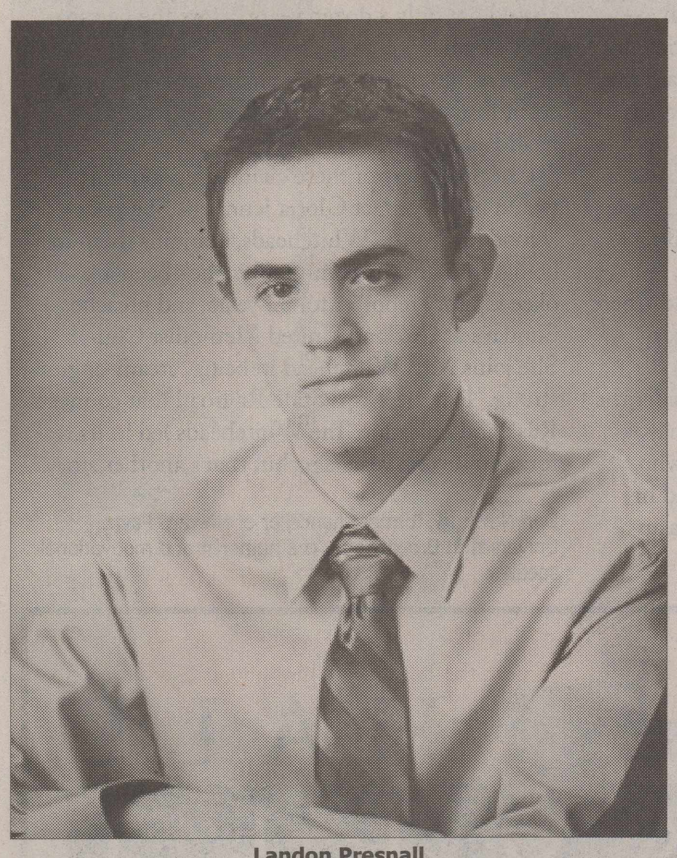
Presnall brothers named to BC dean's list

Shane and Landon Presnall, recent graduates of Muenster High School, received academic honors at Boston College by being named to the university's Dean's List for the Spring 2013 semester.

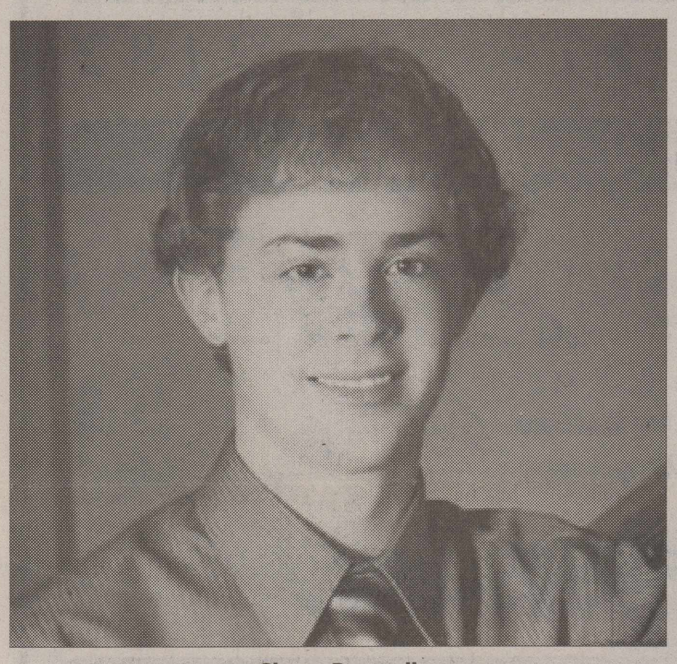
Shane, a sophomore political science major, earned a 3.73 grade point average. Landon, a freshman biology major, achieved a 4.0 grade point average as both earned First Honors in Boston College's School of Arts & Sciences.

The brothers are the son of Jeff and Cheryl Presnall of Muenster and the grandsons of Bob and Peggy Presnall of Goree and Clyde and Bea Hoelting of Nazareth.

Founded by the Society of Jesus in 1863, Boston College is one of the largest Catholic universities in the United States.



Landon Presnall



Shane Presnall

Martin graduates with master's from McMurry

Kayla Joanna Martin, 2006 graduate of Knox City High School and 2010 graduate of McMurry University, has received her master's in social work on May 11. After a trip to South Africa this summer, Martin will attend the University of Texas at Arlington pursuing a doctorate in child protective law. She is the daughter of Youvon Martin of Knox City.



Kayla Joanna Martin

Carter named to McMurry's honor roll

Jordan Carter, a senior mathematics major from Knox City, has been named to the Dean's Honor Roll at McMurry University. To be eligible for the Dean's Honor Roll, a student must complete six to 11 hours with at least a 3.5 grade point average.

You are *TWENTY THREE TIMES* more likely to crash when you text while driving. Is sending an **LOL** text message really worth killing someone? Park the phone when you drive.

Opinion

Debunking Energy Tax Myths

By Merrill Matthews

President Obama says special tax breaks for the oil and gas industry must end. The demand always prompts puzzled gazes among tax and energy-industry experts, who ask: What tax breaks?

Thanks in part to a bill sponsored by Rep. Chris Van Hollen, a Democrat from Maryland and ranking member on the House Budget Committee, it's all much clearer. But rather than demonstrating the alleged oil and gas industry tax breaks, the congressman inadvertently confirms they don't exist. That makes his bill more about punishment than fairness.

Regardless of the bill's outcome, it has illuminated the fallacy behind the industry assaults.

Van Hollen's "Stop the Sequester Job Loss Now Act" would effectively hike taxes on oil and gas by changing how their taxes are calculated. The problem with the bill is the so-called tax breaks the industry would lose are not specific to them at all. They're available to many industries.

Title III of the act goes after oil and gas with: a limitation on the section 199 deduction; a prohibition on using last-in, first-out accounting for major integrated oil companies; and a modification of the foreign tax-credit rules.

Section 199 is part of the domestic production activities deduction included in the 2004 American Job Creation Act, which passed with strong bipartisan support. It currently provides a 9% tax deduction for businesses that manufacture, sell, lease or license a product, as well as related engineering and software activities. The deduction was intended to give domestic manufacturing a slight competitive advantage against foreign competition.

Congress already penalizes oil and gas companies by only giving them a 6% deduction, rather than the 9% that other industries receive.

But this isn't a special deduction for oil and gas. Many other manufacturing industries take the deduction. Van Hollen's bill refers to the disqualification from these benefits as a "Special Rule for Certain Oil and Gas Companies." In terms of fairness, it's like telling oil company workers they can't take the home-mortgage deduction anymore because they work for politically targeted companies.

Van Hollen targets the last-in, first-out accounting method. LIFO assumes the last inventory in is the first used, sold or distributed-an accounting method often used by commodity-type industries. Van Hollen proposes to reduce the inventory options available to the oil and gas industry, but all other industries can keep LIFO.

Critics of the industry claim there are other ways of appraising oil and gas inventory that would result in a higher value, and thus companies would have to pay more taxes. But that's like offering individuals the choice of taking the standard deduction or itemizing on their returns, and then demonizing those who choose the approach that minimizes their income tax obligation.

The third provision of Van Hollen's bill seeks to change the foreign tax-credit rules-but only for integrated oil and gas companies. American companies operating in foreign countries have to pay those government's taxes. The U.S. government generally gives companies operating in foreign countries a tax credit to offset their foreign taxes, so the companies are not taxed twice. That credit can sometimes apply to certain royalties paid to foreign countries.

Van Hollen's way of repealing this tax break for one particular industry is to assert the royalties cannot be called a tax when they apply to that industry: "[A]ny amount paid or accrued by a dual capacity taxpayer which is a major integrated oil company to a foreign country or possession of the U.S. for any period shall not be considered a tax." If an oil company can't call a foreign royalty a tax even when it acts like one, then it cant get the foreign tax credit.

Ironically, USA Today recently published the top-10 list of companies paying the highest 2012 U.S. income taxes, and oil industry companies took three of the slots. Number one was Exxon Mobil at $31 billion, followed by Chevron at $20 billion, and sixth was ConocoPhillips at $8 billion. That is about $60 billion in taxes among them, more than the other seven companies on the list-including Apple and Microsoft-combined.

The oil and gas industry already pays its "fair share" of taxes. Van Hollen's bill isn't about ending special breaks, it's about punishing success.

Merrill Matthews is a resident scholar at the Institute for Policy Innovation in Dallas.

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Property Tax Protest and Appeal Procedures

The law gives property owners the right to protest actions concerning their property tax appraisals. You may follow these appeal procedures if you have a concern about:

- the market or appraised value of your property
- the unequal appraisal of your property
- the inclusion of your property on the appraisal roll
- any exemptions that may apply to you
- the qualification for an agricultural or timber appraisal
- the taxable status of your property
- the local governments which should be taxing your property
- the ownership of property
- the change of use of land receiving special appraisal
- any action taken by the chief appraiser, appraisal district or appraisal review board that applies to and adversely affects you.

Informal Review

For informal review process please call Laura McCanlies, Deputy Clerk at 940-459-3891 to set up a appointment.

Review by the Appraisal Review Board
If you can't resolve your problem informally with the county appraisal district (CAD) staff, you may have your case heard by the appraisal review board (ARB).

The ARB is an independent board of citizens that reviews problems with appraisals or other concerns listed above. It has the power to order the CAD to make the necessary changes to solve problems. If you file a written request for an ARB hearing (called a notice of protest) before the deadline, the ARB will set your case for a hearing. You'll receive written notice of the time, date and place of the hearing. If necessary, you may request a hearing in the evening or on a Saturday or Sunday. Prior to your hearing, you may ask to review the evidence the CAD plans to introduce at the hearing to establish any matter at issue. The law provides that before a hearing on a protest or immediately after the hearing begins, you or your agent and the CAD shall each provide the other with a copy of any written material intended to be offered or submitted to the ARB at the hearing. To the greatest extent practicable, the hearing will be informal. You or a designated agent may appear in person to present evidence or you may send notarized evidence for the ARB to review at your hearing. The CAD representative will present evidence about your case. You may cross-examine the CAD representative. The ARB will make its decision based on the evidence presented. In most cases, the CAD has the burden of establishing the property's value by a preponderance of the evidence presented.

In certain protests where the owner has submitted an independent appraisal before the hearing, the chief appraiser has the burden of proving the property's value by clear and convincing evidence. You can get a copy of a protest form from the appraisal district office at

Knox County Appraisal District Office
County Courthouse
100 West Cedar
940-459-3891 Benjamin,Texas 79505

Note: You shouldn't try to contact ARB members outside of the hearing. The law requires ARB members to sign an affidavit saying that they haven't talked about your case before the ARB hears it.

Review by the District Court or an Arbitrator or SOAH
After it decides your case, the ARB must send you a copy of its order by certified mail. If you're not satisfied with the decision, you have the right to appeal. If you choose to go to court, you must start the process by filing a petition within 60 days of the date you receive the ARB's order. In certain cases, as an alternative to filing an appeal in district court, you may file, not later than the 45th day after you receive notice of the ARB order, a request for binding arbitration with the county appraisal district. In certain cases originating in certain counties, as an alternative to filing an appeal in district court, you may appeal to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH). An appeal to SOAH is initiated by, not later than the 30th day after you receive notice of the ARB's order, filing with the chief appraiser of the county appraisal district a notice of appeal. Appeals to District Court, Binding Arbitration, or SOAH all require payment of certain fees or deposits.

Tax Payment
You must pay either the amount of taxes due on the portion of the taxable value not in dispute or the amount of taxes due on the property under the order from which the appeal is taken.

More Information
You can get more information by contacting your appraisal district at

Knox County Appraisal District
County Courthouse
100 West Cedar
Benjamin, Texas 79505 940-459-3891

You can also get a pamphlet describing how to prepare a protest from the appraisal district or from the State Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division at P.O. Box 13528, Austin, Texas 78711-3528.

Deadline for Filing Protests with the ARB*

Usual Deadline
On or before May 31 (or 30 days after a notice of appraised value was mailed to you, whichever is later).

Late protests are allowed if you miss the usual deadline for good cause. Good cause is some reason beyond your control, like a medical emergency. The ARB decides whether you have good cause.

Late protests are due the day before the ARB approves records for the year. Contact your appraisal district for more information.

Special Deadlines
For change of use (the appraisal district informed you that you are losing agricultural appraisal because you changed the use of your land), the deadline is not later than the 30th day after the notice of the determination was mailed to you.

For ARB changes (the ARB has informed you of a change that increases your tax liability and the change didn't result from a protest you filed), the deadline is not later than the 30th day after the notice of the determination was mailed to you.

Mineral Protest Deadline is June 3,2013
Real Estate Protest Deadline is June 6,2013

If you believe the appraisal district or ARB should have sent you a notice and did not, you may file a protest until the day before taxes become delinquent (usually February 1) or no later than the 125th day after the date you claim you received a tax bill from one or more of the taxing units that tax your property. The ARB decides whether it will hear your case based on evidence about whether a required notice was mailed to you.

* The deadline is postponed to the next business day if it falls on a weekend or holiday.

MASONS

From Page 1

Prior to the stone being placed in its permanent home, attendees of the event were given the opportunity place items in the time capsule that will be sealed behind the cornerstone.

At the conclusion of the proceedings, a prayer offered for protection and thanks for the healthcare providers who work in the buildings.

The cornerstones were provided by members of the Orient Lodge 905 in Knox City. A cornerstone ceremony will also be held at the Knox City Community Center at 4 p.m. June 22. Following this ceremony will be an evening meal and banquet in honor of David Counts.


Share Curiosity.
Read Together.

Idle American

East Texas couple was born to serve

Shallowest minds are quickest to tackle deepest subjects, including one comment heard numerous times in many communities: "What this town needs is a few good funerals."

A stronger cry should be for more "good births" of folks disposed to spend their lives serving others.

Classic examples are the late Emmett Whitehead and his widow, Marie. They purchased the Cherokeean (now Cherokeean Herald) in 1950 — and Texans —particularly those in Rusk and Cherokee County — marvel at their record of community service.



DON NEWBURY

He died in 2002 at age 77. Marie, now publisher, is in her 63rd year at the paper with no "quit" in sight. Their daughter, Terrie, is editor, alongside her husband, Robert Gonzalez, who also manages the radio station. The AM and FM stations, operating 24/7, are in the same building.

They also offer an Internet edition and have a channel on the local TV cable.

A state historical marker outside Whitehead Enterprises Inc., identifies the Cherokeean Herald as Texas' oldest weekly newspaper in continuous publication, founded in 1850.

Terrie and Robert met while students at the University of Texas in a most unlikely manner. One day, as she was unlocking the door to her wing at Jester Hall, Robert and a buddy were handing out popcorn by the handfuls from a garbage-size bag.

At a party a couple of years later, they met again, her remembering his handing out popcorn and his recalling which floor. Learning she was one of the few students with her own typewriter, he asked her to type a paper due the next day.

Soon, they were a pair — both were full-time students; both had part-time jobs at the state Capitol. They didn't fret around-the-clock parking woes at UT, since Robert owned a "bicycle built for one." Her on the seat and him standing to pedal, they rode everywhere. A wedding proposal soon came; it, too, was unconventional. She proposed to him.

On the radio side, Robert hosts a call-in show each morning. "Stuff" is bought and sold, and he's always ready for unlikely topics.

He kept one suicidal caller on the line until help arrived, playing commercials non-stop for an extended period. One caller wanted to know how to "break into" prison. A couple of wardens heard the plea, followed up and found out the inquirer was a pre-qualifier.

A lady wanted to buy a "doggie dooley." Later, a listener called in with one for sale. (Check Google if you wonder what this item is, or take a wild guess.)

Whitehead's old office remains unchanged. There are his rolltop desk, big chair and citations for service filling every wall.

It calls for reverence, even silence, to consider the memory of a man whose service included mayor, county judge and state legislator — a man who chose Rusk as a wonderful place for him and his wife to rear their two daughters. (Wendee is an Austin chiropractor.)

His last "rabbit from the hat" resulted in a new health care facility in Rusk — East Texas Medical Center.

Success in newspapering, like much else, requires energy, vision, boldness and faith.

The family has it. One example: Marie, with two degrees from Stephen F. Austin, wrote a 300-page master's thesis on the history of Cherokee County newspapers.

She put to rest other publishers' claims to have the state's oldest weeklies with documentation later noted by the Texas Historical Commission.

Sam Houston, father of Texas and the Republic's first president, lived for several years with the Cherokees and took an Indian bride. He'd be proud of a county proudly bearing the name of a tribe chased out only a dozen years before the newspaper's origin.

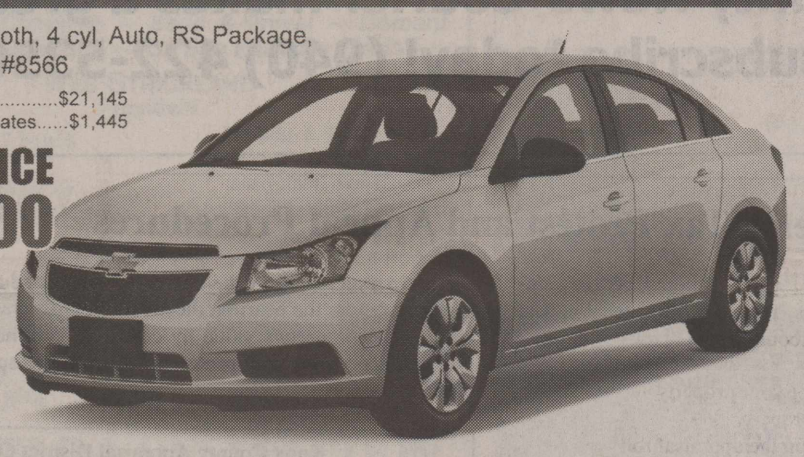
He would marvel at the progressive community spirit fostered by a small band of folks at Whitehead Enterprises.

Check out any of these claims. A good start would be to contact Gloria Jennings. She's not "blood kin" to the Whiteheads, but joins them in being proud of the community. She's been a Cherokee County reporter for 52 years, and preaches Sundays at Oakland United Methodist Church. She joins Mrs. Whitehead in being "steam-engine strong," like the Texas State Railroad that connects Rusk and Palestine. The Whiteheads led in its restoration several years ago, but that's another story.

Don Newbury, former chancellor of Howard Payne University in Brownwood, is a humorist and motivational speaker.

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2007 Dodge Durango SLT 4X4, gray-gray leather, 3rd row seat, 78K.....$13,800
2007 Chevrolet Equinox LS maroon-tan cloth, V6 #50945.....$8,900
2008 Chevrolet Colorado Crew Cab 2WD red-ebony cloth, 1LT, 71K #50606.....$13,550
2008 Pontiac Solstice Convertible inferno orange-charcoal cloth, 4 cyl manual, 6K #50499.....$17,500
2008 Chevrolet 1 Ton SRW Crew Cab black-gray leather, flatbed, Duramax Diesel, 125K #50153.....$27,000
2008 Chevrolet 2500 HD 4X4 Long Bed Crew Cab white-gray leather, diesel, auto, bedliner, power windows & power locks #50943.....$17,850
2008 Toyota Camry 4DR SE red-black cloth, 4 cyl, auto, sunroof, 50K #50905.....$14,800
2008 Chevrolet Suburban 2WD silver-black leather, navigation, sunroof, 2nd row buckets #50932.....$19,800
2009 Pontiac G6 GT Sedan gray-black cloth, V6, auto, aluminum wheels, 55K #50498.....$13,500
2009 Chevrolet 1 Ton SRW Crew Cab 4X4 black-black leater, LTZ, sunroof, Duramax diesel, front bumper replacement, Rhinoliner, 58K #50937.....$37,500
2010 Chevrolet Avalanche 2WD, black-black leather, bucket seats, Texas Edition, heated seats, 82K #50840.....$24,500
2010 (2) Chevrolet Impalas LT, V6, 26,000 miles, goldmist-charcoal cloth.....$18,075
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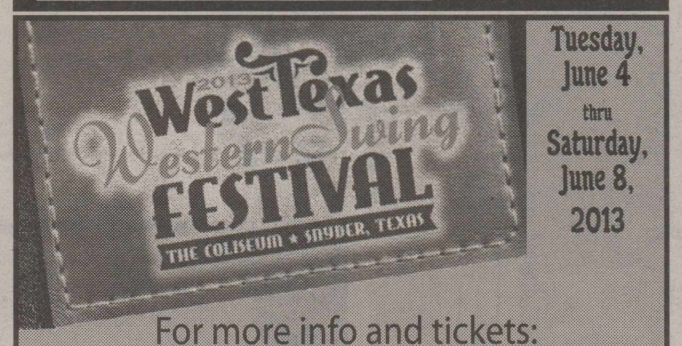


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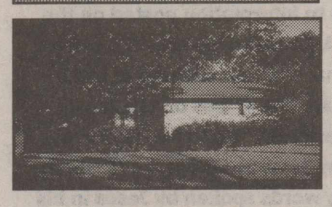
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Cemetery series

Gravestones tell history in words and images at Vera

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The News-Courier

VERA — The little town of Vera in northeastern Knox County is no longer the vibrant community it once was — a farm town served by a post office, a school, various churches and thriving businesses, including not only a gin but also a mill.

Like other small communities in rural settings, where few laborers now accomplish farming tasks that once required much more manual labor, the population has shrunk to far less than the number of graves in the cemetery. But despite the population decline of the town proper, the cemetery remains a showplace, its grass trimmed and its headstones mostly standing straight.

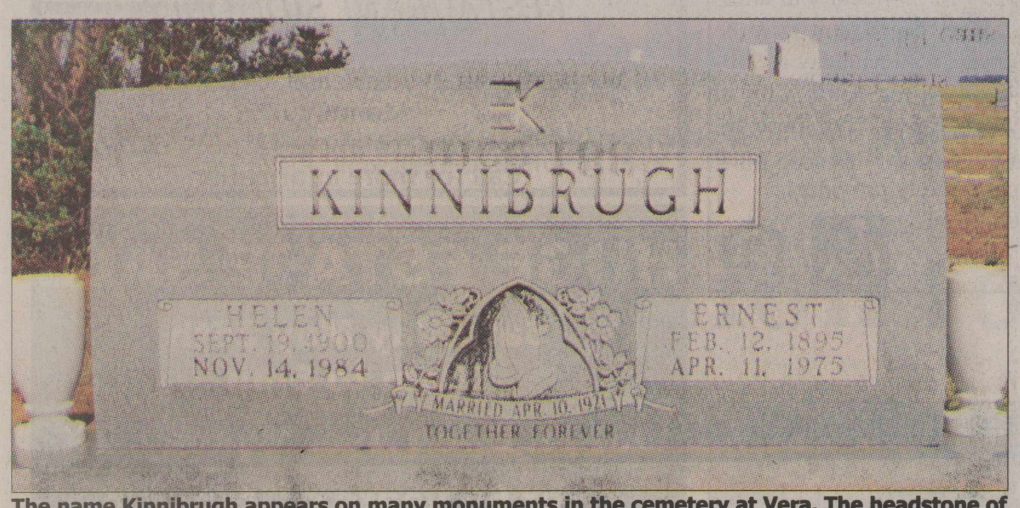
The sign, black no-nonsense block letters against a background of expanded metal painted white, is as neat and no-frills as the cemetery. Contact information for the Vera Cemetery Committee is posted below the sign.

The markers themselves are examples of design trends from the late 1800s to the present. They speak for themselves.

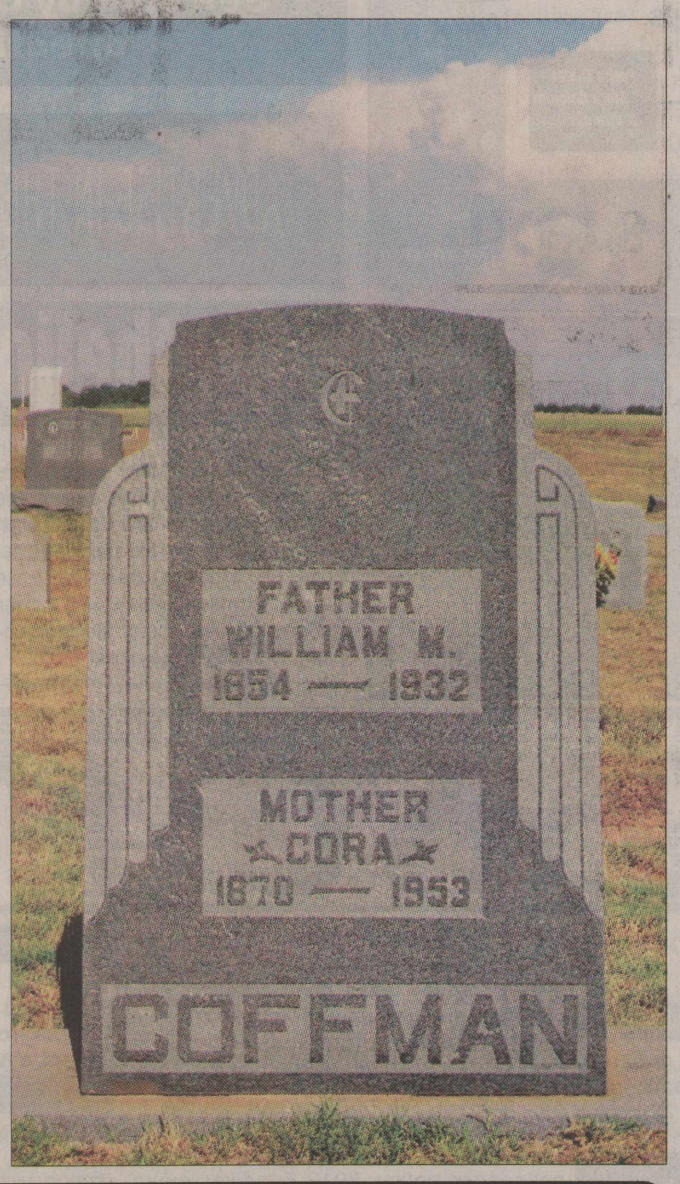


Photos by Hanana Munn Welch/The News-Courier

A very straight-forward sign marks the site of the Vera Cemetery.



The name Kinnibrugh appears on many monuments in the cemetery at Vera. The headstone of Helen Kinnibrugh, 1900-1984, and her husband, Ernest Kinnibrugh, 1895-1975, is distinguished as much by the cattle brand above the family name as by the more traditional imagery below — praying hands flanked by flowers and set in a gothic-style frame. The hands are a copy of Albrect Durer's famous 1508 drawing in pen and ink, one of the world's most widely reproduced pieces of art.

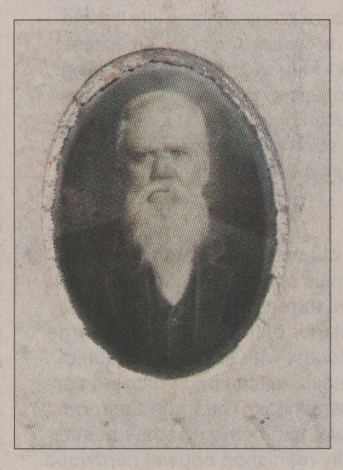


In a departure from traditional monument design, the marker of William M. and Cora Coffman is a striking example of Art Deco, a style of design seen in many art forms in America from the 1930s into the 1950s, from cars and locomotives to some of the country's most iconic skyscrapers. The only nod to traditional design is the Old English "C" near the top of the monument. One reason for a dearth of Art Deco in America's cemeteries might be that impressive monuments executed by signature designers in the latest styles were too expensive for most people. The Great Depression hit the United States when Art Deco was at its peak. As a result, the style expressed itself most often in public buildings funded by entities like the Works Progress Administration. Compare the Coffman monument to the Louisiana State Capitol, completed in 1932. Although the Coffman monument apparently went into place in 1953, at the end of the Art Deco era, it incorporates basic elements that define the geometric style typical of the Deco period, both in its shapes and decorative lines.



An arch, symbol of a gateway to heaven, serves to mark the graves of G. W. Ballard, 1832-1905, and M.C. Ballard, 1830-1908. The Texas Handbook Online notes that G.W. Ballard was not only the first postmaster at Vera but also the owner of a grocery store and mill. Ballard named the town of Vera for Vera Kellog, daughter of Holt Kellog, an early settler. M.C. Ballard was his wife. Her initials stand for Manerva Carolina, and her maiden name was Holloway, according to information posted on the genealogy website Ancestry.com. The website lists her birthplace as Arkansas City, Ark. The same site offers information on George Washington Ballard, born in Alabama. The two married in 1853 in Hot Springs, Ark. By 1880, the couple was living in Hill County, Texas. The verses on the gravestone reference a hymn and a Bible verse for wife and husband, respectively. "Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal" is from the hymn "Come Ye Disconsolate" by Thomas Moore, 1779-1852. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" is Matthew 5:8, words spoken by Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount, King James Version. At the top of the arch is a handshake under the word





Ceramic photographs can be found on many gravestones in the Vera Cemetery. The pleasant demeanors of Almedia and William M. Shipman are evident in their visages. She died in 1923 at age 72. He died in 1932 at age 89. Shipman is the name on many graves at the cemetery. So is Shippman and Shoopman. Hundreds of years before, the names all could have been variants of the same surname.

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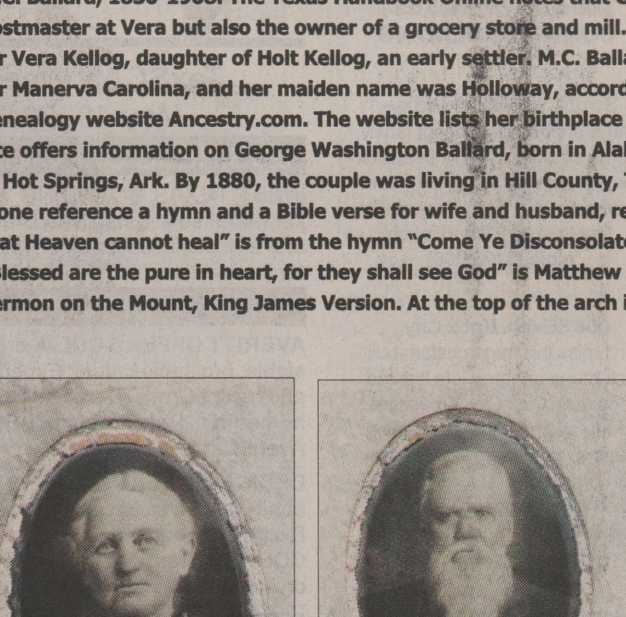
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