Judge Issues Burn Ban For Knox County

Wednesday December 7 High/Low 31°/12°

Few Snow Showers

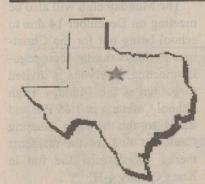
Thursday December 8 High/Low 36°/15° Mostly Sunny

December 9 Friday High/Low 43°/25° Partly Cloudy

Saturday December 10 High/Low 58°/33° Sunny

Sunday December 11 High/Low 62°/35° Party Cloudy

Monday December 12 High/Low 58°/32° Mostly Sunny



Knox County News

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Volume XXXV

Number 6

Thursday, December 7, 2005

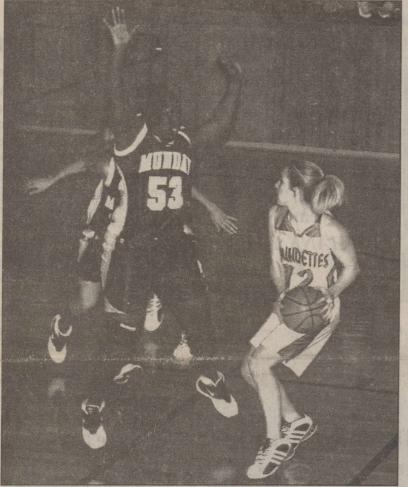
Knox City, Texas

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Houndettes Win Over Munday Mogulettes 52-29



Nikki Moss of the Houndettes

the basketball court in fast paced 11 points. In the third quarter the action Tuesday night in front of Mogulettes rallied bringing their a standing room only hometown score 14 points closer. However, crowd against the Munday Mo- the Houndettes held them to only gulettes and Moguls. The Houndettes tipped off and totally dominated the first half of the game, final score of 52 to 29.

The Houndettes and Hounds hit holding the Mogulettes to only 5 points in the fourth quarter and gaining another victory with the

Photo courtesy Sherry Baty

Hounds Fall to Munday Moguls 30 - 53



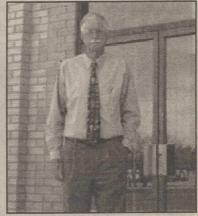
Photo courtesy Sherry Baty Tye Chisum of the Knox City Greyhounds

The Hounds hit the court in a fast paced game against the Mo-

The Hounds always give their

best shot especially against their county rival but the Hounds went down in defeat with a 30 to 53 loss to the Moguls.

Local Superintendent's Weigh In On School Finance Situation



Benjamin ISD Superintendent Ben Grill

November Texas Supreme Court ruled as unconstitutional the current school funding system used by the state and gave the state Legislature until June 1, 2006 to fix it. Under the Texas Constitution there are school, county, city and all kinds of special district property taxes, but not a state property tax. Under the current school finance system there is a ceiling on school taxes for maintenance and operation of \$1.50 per \$100 valuation.

More and more schools are at or near that level. So, although locally collected, the tax acts like a statewide levy. While it's possible that school children will be on an indefinite summer vacation this time next year if lawmakers can't agree on a way to fix the state's tax system, the Legistlators feel it is unlikely.

Superintendent of Benjamin ISD, Ben Grill said in an interview, "The state needs to put in their share (of funding) because of all the mandates that they put on the schools, from salary schedule to cafeterias... transportation, courses to credits." When Guthrie CISD superintendent Dan Pickering was asked if the state, itself, should put more funding into the public school system and take some of the pressure off of local taxpayers, he answered, "Yes, most definitely the state should develop funding formulas to pay for state mandates especially in regards to teacher/staff salary issues." School budgeting may

also be affected. A budget has to be adopted by the School Board by August 20th for the next year school year. Governor Rick Perry said he will call lawmakers back to Austin "at an appropriate time" before the June 1st deadline, but did not give a specific date. There has been speculation that Governor Perry won't call a special session until after the March 7th primary election. With a deadline of June 1, this leaves less than three months for the budgeting process. Superintendent Baty feels that although the Legislature has a large task to undertake, they will meet the June 1 deadline. On the other hand, Mr. Pickering feels that there is no possible way that a decision will be made by June

Mr. Grill stated that the only reason BISD would not open in the fall is if the state required that schools remain closed. "We would use surplus money, and possibly borrow money from banks if we needed it to keep

going and try and open the next year, because students don't need to stop the education process."

"The state representatives need to do what's best for their districts. Over the years the state has put a less and less percentage into public schools, and local districts and taxpayers have had to pick up a higher percentage of funding, which means higher property taxes for local property tax payers, but we also need to keep 'Robin Hood' so large districts don't have that much more funding than poorer school districts," said Grill. When asked if he felt the if the state needed to keep 'Robin Hood' in effect, Mr. Pickering said, "Robin Hood is not very well understood by the mass majority of the people. Most feel it is a BAD thing where in reality it is the BEST possible solution to most of school finance.""I hope that they don't do something too fast without comments from back home on what's best for the community and their districts," said Grill.

Knox County Hunting Season In Full Swing

staff writer Kathy Rainwater

A cold clear wind rattles the range grasses across Knox County, accompanied by the thunderous booms of the "goose guns", modern day scarecrows that keep geese and ducks off of the tender wheat this time of year. Camoflauge, hunter orange, bird dogs and retrievers are giving the population of cowboys and horses a run for their money, and with this, the winter hunting season is in full swing in Knox County.

Knox County Game Warden Ronnie Ainsworth says that most of the hunters coming in from outside of Knox County are waterfowl hunters, while most Knox County residents are after the wild hog and deer, and quail are mostly taken by lease hunters.

For those not blessed to have property in Knox County, any one of several outfitters peppered across the county will be glad to get you up close and personal with the abundant wildlife.

Jeff Stanfield of Stanfield Hunting Outfitters in Knox

Hunter Passes Away In Knox County

A fifty-three year old man passed away at the Truscott - Brine Lake early Monday morning while hunting with his adult son. The cause of death was an apparent heart attack. The name of the deceased has not been released. Neither men were from Knox County.

City is happy with the better than average waterfowl season, having picked up after a slow migration in November.

Greg Bradford owner of Ranger Creek Goose Guide Service north of Vera is also very pleased with the season so far. "Thousands of geese have moved in, and more are expected with the cold weather. The ducks have been spotty at best. We're just not seeing them in any big numbers," said Bradford.

Peat Robinson, Conservation Specialist at the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Truscott-Brine Lake, on the other hand, has not seen a lot of geese, but a good crop of ducks and quail. Although the Corp is not an outfitter, they do have hunters come in often during the season, mostly duck hunters, according to Robinson. The three freshwater ponds and the Brine Lake set a prime, and beautiful, stage for the hunter. There are restricted areas, and deer and rifles are off limits, though, so a quick stop by the Project Office to learn the do's and don'ts would be in a hunters



Deer were seen near Gilliland, Tx.

favor.

photo courtesy Sheri Baty

Knox County can also boast a high number of trophy-sized deer this year, two Boone and Crockett class deer having already been tagged in the

county this season, according to Ainsworth. Robinson also stated that the quail are abundant this

A hunter sees a special beauty in the world around him, a beauty that is sometimes hard to understand for someone who hasn't participated in the sport.

The hum of hundreds of geese coming in overhead so close that you could touch them, the strut and call of a turkey, the majestic silence and keen senses of deer, the thrum of a covey of quail when flushed, the companionship and dedication of a good dog, the commeraderie among fellow hunters, and the rush of the sport that keeps your blood warm in weather that keeps most people indoors.

Knox County is a good place to be.

Dont . Spend Christmas Alone

Traditional Christmas Dinner

Any One Welcome Fellowship Hall at First Baptist Church in Knox City

Also Deliver to those who can't come out. We will have food for diabetics

Special needs should call ahead. 657-3141 church Need to know by December 22 for Delivery 657-3654 parsonage Let's Have Christmas Together!



50th Wedding Anniversary



The Family of Oscar and Leta Mangis Invite You To Join Them In Celebrating Their 50th Wedding Anniversary December 17, 2005 2:00 p.m.-4:00p.m. Church of Christ Annex

No Gifts, Please

47 TXism: "feeling his **TEXAS ACROSS** The Original " (frisky) cowboy hat material 48 "Me casa **CROSSWORD** this continent gets 50 TXism for "similar" half of TX mohair 51 in San Antonio, the all come by Charley & Guy Orbison 'ugly king" is Rey out in the wash" 52 TXism: "he's still got 7 former conference _ in his garters' Copyright 2005 by Orbison Bros. for UTSA (abbr.) 53 Waco's county: Mc 8 Houston golfer 54 TX Blocker on "Bonanza" Blancas (init.) 55 TX deer in season 9 Cowboy Larry Allen 56 TXism: "get down to was in '05 Bowl 12 TXism: "_ in a skillet would have more fun" (bored) 17 TXism: "if it a snake it would have bit you" 20 TXism: "useless as Chennault panty hose was advise 22 to sign as payee to Chiang 23 TXism: "laid " (buried) 59 TXism: "green 24 Susan Sarandon around the gills wanted to avoid TX Rio, TX _ & Louise DOWN 29 lopsided victory hens' teeth" 1 TXism: "it'll take a 30 lodging at a TX 38 TXism: " 15 TXism: "your barn campsite married" (newlywed) door is fix it" (badly broken) 31 El Paso's Ranger 39 TXism: " 'taint' 16 meat of the matter Peak has an 40 drug testing sample 18 this Dolores starred person in TX 41 TX George with TX Ginger in San Antonio mayor 32 identifying tag "Flying Down to Rio" (init.) McFarland was in '91. Cockrell 36 TX Ivory Joe sang "Our Gang" Spanky 19 Halloween word 4 TX's softest mineral I Met You 21 TX Tierney (init.) 9 a UT alumnus was Baby' 44 famous TX case: 33 Rangers baseball ta (goodbye) this country's pres. 37 TXism: "safe as Roe __ Wade 46 Bush, Jr. to Bush, Sr. league (abbr.) 25 TXism: "if Darin of TX-filmed in church" rooster, he'll crow" haystack" 49 describing Nieman-"State Fair" (init.) 26 actor Estrada 43 attenders of Kerr-11 Dublin is no. scrimmage 35 "Gig ! _ Aggies!' Marcus store milk producing co. ville Folk Festival 50 Swiss mountains

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Letter To The Editor

smart enough to

be a Texan (init.)

I have been complaining about the electric bills for months now. I understand thousands of other citizens who get their power from American Electric Power (AEP) billed by West Texas Utilities (WTU) have complained as well, with no results.

was Billie Joe in

"Petticoat Junction"

I have written the governor, senators, state representatives, the public utilities commission, and the attorney general. I am enclosing the last letter I have written to the public utility commission, after receiving a letter from them stating they could find "nothing out of line"

I would like for you to run this letter as an editorial, maybe it will get some results fro myself and many other citizens in this area.

> Thank You, Charlene L. Martin

Dear Sirs,

I received your letter, it was exactly what I expected, What power company is going to admit over charging or price gouging? Especially in a deregulated area.

I repeat, there is no way our electric bill should be as high as they are. We keep the thermostat set on 75 in the summer, 69 in the winter! You tell me how this can range between \$450.00 to \$700.00 a month, and yes we have had our central air and heating unit checked by 2 different

I repeat! We are on a fixed income, we cannot pay these outrageous electric bills with the other bill we have, plus raising three

boys in our senior years, an they are NOT going hungry or naked! The solution to this problem is quite simple! We cold make AEP (American Electric Power) do their OWN billing instead of paying all the numerous billing companies. This would save the power company and the consumer a bundle of could present a bill to regulate all utility companies that operate in Texas.

57 coral snake: "red and

yeller, ____ a feller"

I know Xcell Energy in the panhandle of Texas does it all, furnish power lines, and service and repair. They also do their own billing! Why can't AEP do the same? Could it be they are owned by a foreign company? Maybe someone is lining their own pockets?

I have a brother in Amarillo, Texas, he has a large three bedroom house. His electric bill was \$85.00. Does this tell you something? Or is this the difference between regulated and deregulated. You tell me their is no difference, I bet to differ, there is a HUGE difference between an \$85.00 bill and a \$500.00 bill!

The citizens of this area of Texas are being raped by the power company. I am sending a copy of this letter to the Attorney General's Office and maybe every newspaper in the area.

If I cannot get something done, then maybe the citizens of this area, who have also complained about AEP, WTU, and all the other billing companies will wake up and join me in this

Sincerely, Charlene L. Martin

4-H NEEDS YOU

The 2005-06 4-H year is getting underway and Knox County needs you. Youth ages 8-18 are invited to come see what 4-H is all about by attending one of our three club meetings held monthly throughout the county.

The Benjamin 4-H club regularly meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 4:00 PM in the Benjamin School Library led by club manager, Stacia Propps.

The Knox City 4-H club regularly meets the second Wednesday of the month at 4:30 PM at the Knox City Community Center across from the swimming pool led by club manager, Michelle Esquivel.

The Munday 4-H club regularly meets the third Wednesday at 3:45 PM at the Munday High School Cafeteria led by club manager, Dalyn Griffith. 4-H provides opportunities for youth to be involved in many projects such as livestock, foods and nutrition, photography, clothing and textiles, consumer education, judging and quiz bowls, and educational presentations. It also gives

Knox County youngsters the chance to give back to the community by participating in county, district, and state community service projects. For the December meeting, the Benjamin 4-H club will be meeting on December 7 at 4:00 PM and plan to go caroling through the Benjamin community.

If you are interested in joining the fun, be at the Benjamin school at 4:00 PM to hop on the trailer. The Knox City club will be meeting on December 14 at 4:30 PM and plan to go caroling at the Brazos Valley Care Home followed by their annual Christ-

You deserve this

recognition for all

the great work and

dedication that you

THANK YOU

&

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

gave to BISD.

for 24 years.

Has It Been A Year Of Retirement?

You are appricated.

by Lori Coop mas party. If you are interested in singing

your heart out for those who truly enjoy it, be at the Knox City Community Center at 4:30 PM to join the fun in Knox City.

The Munday club will also be meeting on December 14 due to school being out for the Christmas holidays during their regular meeting. Everyone is invited to gather at the Munday High School Cafeteria at 3:45 PM and travel to the Munday Nursing Center to sing for the residents there. Don't miss the fun in Knox County 4-H!

If you are interested in learning about what you can accomplish through 4-H or want to volunteer your time to the program as a leader, please contact any of the club managers listed above or the Knox County Extension office at 940-459-2651.

Christmas **Spirit Contest**

Knox City Chamber of Commerce is holding a Christmas Spirit Contest: Decorate your home and/or business. There will be two categories; Best Decorated Home and Best Decorated Business (Decorated windows in downtown businesses included). Judging will be Thursday, December 15 so make sure your lights are on that night. Registration not required, your address will need to be visible either on the house or mailbox. The winners will be announced on December 21, 2005 in the Knox County News. The Best Decorated Home will receive a \$25 Gift Certificate for shopping in Knox City.

ACU Offers Economic Data Web Site Resource For West Central Texas

Abilene Christian University's Center for Business and Economic Research has launched a Web site that provides regional economic data for West Central

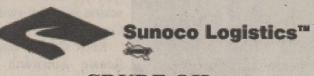
The Web site, www.acu.edu/ cber, is offered as a service of the ACU College of Business Administration, and it consolidates publicly available economic information, creating a one-stop shop, said Dr. Monty Lynn, professor of management at ACU.

The Web site also provides economic data and specialized economic analysis for the West

Central Texas region. The region consists of Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland. Fisher, Haskell, Jones, Kent. Knox, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, Stonewall, Stephens, Taylor and Throckmorton counties. The site also includes information on a variety of organizations that provide business development assistance. The CBER site was supported by a grant from the Development Corporation of Abilene and the West Central Texas Workforce Development Board. ACU's COBA has also been working in

cooperation with the Texas Midwest Community Network to develop its county research.

"The greatest benefit is the convenience and accessibility of the information that could be a benefit to lots of different people," said Nancy Smith, community relations coordinator for the West Central Texas Workforce Development Board. According to the site, "the ACU CBER promotes healthy economies and communities in West Central Texas by providing information about the economy and business services."



CRUDE OIL TRANSPORT DRIVERS

Sunoco Partners Marketing & Terminals is seeking applicants for crude oil Tansport drivers. The successful candidates will transport oil from lease sites to pipeline storage tanks and perform minor repairs to unit, gauge and test product, use handheld computer to complete transactions and interface with wide range of customers.

Candidate must be at least 21 years of age, possess a CDL with air brake, tanker and hazardous material endorsement. No more than two moving violations in the last five years and have a High School Diploma or equivalent. Must be able to pass a DOT medical exam. Sunoco offers medical and dental insurance, 401K and a generous hourly wage for qualified persons.

If interested, please go to sunocologistics.com to fill out on-line application. For any questions plese call 325-672-4888. EOE,M/F D/V



Healthy deas

(NAPS)—Caring for a family member with a serious illness can be a physically and emotionally draining experience. According to the 2002 fact sheet "Family Caregiving" from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Aging, more than 22 million American households are involved in caregiving for someone age 50 or above. The demands of taking care of someone sick, especially when there are other roles to play, such as parent or spouse, can wear on a caregiver, say experts at Bankers Life and Casualty Company. If you are a caregiver, something as simple as talking with someone who knows what you're going through can help. If you need help, call the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Aging toll free at 1-800-677-1116 or visit them online at www.eldercare.gov. To reach a Bankers agent in your area, call 1-800-231-9150 or go to

Cherish all your happy moments: they make a fine cushion for old

-Christopher Morley

by Lee Pitts

My friend ReRide and I were talking sports over a cup of cocoa when he asked, "If you were to name an MVP (Most Valuable Pet) around the ranch what would it be?"

"ReRide, that's the first thought-provoking thing to come out of your mouth since I've known you. I think we can eliminate some animals from contention for MVP right away, like the barn cat whose only contribution is killing the occasional mouse."

"Well they do have one positive characteristic that I like," pondered ReRide. At least they cover up after they go to the bathroom. I wish my cows would do

"Speaking of cows, I think we can also exclude them as MVP candidates."

"How about the chicken?" asked ReRide in a voice that grated like a rusty hinge.

"I swear ReRide you are dumber than a box of hair. You might as well have a pet rock for all the hard work and affection you're going to get out of poultry. No. I think the competition for the most valuable pet boils down to either the dog or the horse."

"Well then," proclaimed Reride, "it would have to be the dog."

"Hold your horses a minute there cowboy. You're telling me that a dog is more vital to the operation of a cow ranch than the horse? You can't ride a dog!"

"That's right," said RerIde, "which means you can't be bucked off and get killed by some croppy outlaw horse."

I protested... "But you can't rope off a dog."

"Well you can't rope off a horse," observed ReRide semicorrectly. "At least a dog will come when you call it," ReRide continued in defense of the dog, "but a horse you have to go catch. And when you get thrown from your horse and get busted up in some rock pile your dog will run back to the house and bring back some help."

"Maybe your dog would do that, mine would use the opportunity to run away from home. Even if you can catch your dog ReRide, then what are you going to do with it?"

"A dog will gather cattle just like a horse and will go into thick brush to get waspy cattle while you sit in the shade on your high

"If you have a dog like that I want some pups," I replied sarcastically.

"Then there's the friendliness factor," said ReRide. "A dog

makes a much better friend than any horse. My dog rides in the cab with me and is an excellent listener and she lays in my lap at night to watch TV. You can't do that with your horse unless you have a BIG crew cab and a very large sectional sofa. Even then it's not going to be real comfortable. And we haven't even mentioned ranch security issues yet. If someone tried to steal your useless horse a good dog would warn you by barking."

"Nothing I hate worse than a yapping dog," I said. "At least horses don't bark."

"Which means they can't notify you when undesirables come prowling around the ranch like in-laws and syndicated columnists. If you had a good dog it would warn you in advance so that you could hide and pretend not to be at home like I do."

"Ah-ha! Now I know why you're never home when I come to borrow stuff and always there when I bring a fresh pie or cook-

ReRide continued: "A good cow dog costs a tenth of what a good Quarter Horse will cost you and with a dog there are no expensive accouterments to buy like saddles, halters and bridles. They are cheaper to feed than a horse and you don't have to shoe a dog every six weeks," ReRide reminded me. "And we haven't even talked about the intelligence of dogs versus horses."

"Now hold on buster. Put your jaw in a sling for a minute. This is where I win the argument hands down. I'll have you know that there have been many times while I was working cattle on my horse that I thought he was every bit as smart as I am."

"My point exactly," concluded the smart aleck ReRide.

Not-So-Convenient Stores

I don't get into town much. In that respect I'm kinda like a hermit or a Northern Nevada buckaroo. One reason I don't go shopping in the big city more often is that it's gotten really complicated. The Farm Supply sells clothes, the gas station sells food and the bookstore is also a deli that sells time on computers so you can buy books on the Internet from their competitors. The drugstore sells liquor and the liquor store sells state lotto tickets which is gambling, which is against the law in our state.

Last week I went into town to the bank to deposit a check only to find that the bank I have patronized for 30 years is no longer there. It closed up shop in our town and left behind an ATM so our local bank is now a vending machine. Now you may think me backwards but I have never used an ATM in my life so I went to the grocery store where they used to cash my checks but found out they no longer will. They advised me to go to a supersized grocery store in a neighboring town which now housed the bank that moved from our town. So I went to the grocery store only to find that it evidently now sells everything but food. Along with a bank, inside the alleged grocery store I found a dry cleaning store, photo shop, locksmith and a drugstore which, of course, also sold beer, ice cream, plants and fertilizer. Are you still with me?

I forgot to mention that inside the "grocery store" there was also a movie rental store that also sold food items. I decided to pick up a movie to watch but couldn't because we have a VCR machine and the store only rented and sold DVD's and CD's. But if I had wanted a CD I would have gone to the bank which, coincidentally, shared the same space as the video rental store inside the "grocery store".

While in town I got gas at an all new "travel plaza" that sells groceries. Inside the plaza there was a Dairy Queen and a Starbucks with a long line of folks waiting to buy \$4 cups of coffee that really were milk shakes like Dairy Queen sold right next door. The service was slow because the same person was taking cash and credit cards for fuel, frappuccinos and

French Fires. (I wonder if he ever gets confused and puts a shot of espresso or a quart of oil in a Blizzard or a hot fudge sundae?)

While we were in town my wife and I decided to look at new cars because ours is getting a little long in the gear teeth. My only criteria for buying a new car was that it had to be made in America. So we went to Chrysler, a good old American company that evidently is now owned by the Germans. At Ford and GM we found that the "American cars" we liked were all made in Mexico. The only car we found that was made in America was made by Nissan, a Japanese company which used to be Datsun.

The mess is everywhere. Our next stop in town was the hardware store, my favorite place and the only store in which I like to shop. I even joined their hardware club to accumulate points which I now have no idea what to do with. I was expecting to discover that the hardware store was now selling food but they weren't. No, they were selling clothes. Of course, it seems like such a natural fit doesn't it?

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for all your prayers, cards, food, flowers, calls and e-mails.

Betty Baliff, Will Acree and family, Jeff Acree, and all our extended family

Thank You

We would like to thank the residents of Knox City for the kindness shown to us at the loss of our loved one, Stell Ferguson.

You offered help and comfort in so many ways and each act was greatly appreciatd.

Your kindness and friendshop will be long remembered. THE BRADLEY FAMILY

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for the flowers, cards, and food they sent. We would also like to thank the Santa Rosa Catholic Church for everything they did for our family.

The Pedroza Family

A Special Thank You

To Ray Penman and all of the Penman Conoco employees for everything they did for our family during this difficult time.

> Connie, Stephanie, Michael & Sophia Pedroza

The pursuit of happiness is a most ridiculous phrase; if you pursue happiness you'll never

-C. P. Snow

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

It's Christmas time, when we celebrate the birth of Christ. In the U.S., surveys show that more than 80% of us believe in God. That's more people than have lawyers, drive foreign cars, believe DNA is absolute proof of a criminal act, own a home, have

been divorced, or watch Oprah! How can such a high percentage of a highly educated, wellread, technologically and scientifically knowledgeable people believe in an omnipotent being? Where inside of us is the biological process that allows faith to exist? Not just to exist but to flourish. How do you define the words soul, love, compassion, conscience, guilt or sorrow without going outside the parameters of scientific definition?

To choose to believe only what is scientifically provable is to assume, I guess, that all human behavior can be traced to the basic instincts of territoriality, reproduction of species, and survival. That a conscience is a highly refined sophisticated mechanism that somehow helps keep peace in the herd, insures that each member gets her share of the kill, and that each dog in the pack gets a place in the pecking order.

If Earth is truly just a long series of accidental chemical bondings and adaptation to the environment, and God has no hand in it, then those animal rights folks who say a rat is a dog is a baby, are right. Human existence on earth would have no significance, no more than dinosaurs, rocks, oxygen, stars, wars, or renal dialysis. As Bertrand Russell, an atheist, once said, "Unless one assumes a God, any discussion of life's purpose is meaningless."

One of the dilemmas that deep thinkers have, is the need to explain the biological, physical, neural or meteorological mechanisms that allow something to happen. Miracles are hard for

them to swallow. There must be some earthly explanation that the Dead Sea parted, Lazarus rose from the dead, and Jesus turned water to wine

FAITH IN CHRISTMAS

It is necessary for them to write off Jesus feeding the multitude. To conclude the Bible is more fiction than fact. That Christmas is just a benign commercial day off.

But for the vast majority of Americans, Christmas is the recognition of something bigger than ourselves. It also strengthens our beliefs and reminds us that Jesus was born to change the world and that He has. Our entire concept of God exists by faith. It's not complicated. When I'm asked if I believe Christ was born of a virgin, I say, of course! If I can believe in something so all mighty, all-powerful and unbelievable as God, I can surely believe Jesus was His son.

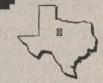
Merry Christmas, and God bless you.

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Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

Well we have had another cold snap. Saturday night and Sunday were quite different from the days prior. More like Christmas weather so maybe now I can get more in the holiday mood. If I'm going to, I guess I'd better, because I see by the calendar that Christmas Day is now 20 days

Gertrude Brannan has been having some pretty uncomfortable days and Saturday night she was admitted to Knox County Hospital.

The diagnoses over there was a blood clot in her leg and on Sunday she was transported to Covenant in Lubbock. No word today on how she made the trip or how her condition is but hopefully things will begin to improve for her very soon.

Talked to Pepe Bolonas Sunday. He has had some heart problems for a while and on Saturday night his daughter feared his problem had worsened as his breathing was not as it should have been but after checking with the medical folks, it was determined that this was not heart related. He was feeling (in his own words) great Sunday and that is good news.

Three Wichita Falls centers

Register January 10

940.696.8752

Leory West is still doing fine. He is not able to do what he once did but that will get better as he gets stronger. He sees a dermatologist on Wednesday.

It was a pretty good week for sports fans over this way last week. Monday night Jr. High hosted Harold girls and won by a whopping onesided score of 50 to about 5. The boys played Knox City and I believe they won also.

Thursday night Guthrie came over here and our girls beat them by one point. The boys lost then the weekend tournament was at Patton Springs. The boys lost out early the girls won 3rd by defeating Guthrie.

Thanksgiving guests of Earlene Menizer were Trapper Meinzer of U.T., Dick and Patsy Meinzer of Rhineland, Maggie Seidenburger of Texas Tech Moullia Newman of Brownwood, Knut Mjolhus of Lubbock and Wyman and Selinda Meinzer of Benjamin. Earline said grandsons Hunter Meinzer who is in California. Pate Meinzer who is in Oklahoma, called so they all had good visit both in person and on the phone.

Earlene is to have cataract

surgery in Wichita Falls tomor-

Don Hertel had all his kids and their families during Thanksgiving Kent, Elizabeth and Victoria of Plano, Craig, Donna and Olivia of Gainsville and Scott and Megan of Dallas.

He said Scott is working in Houston now so he had to get on back Saturday but they did all have a good time.

Betty Lyles visited in Sherman several days last week withher daughter Judy and family. Judy has been quite ill and was in the Sherman hospital several days but is home now and is doing much better.

Visiting Gertrude Brannan last week were Ann and Lee Roland of Almagorde, N.M. Mary Whittestt of Gallup, N.M. and Bob Brannan of Lubbock.

Nancy Siemens of M.U. in Wichita Falls and a friend Nathan Beaver also of Wichita Falls were weekend guests of her family, Jacob, Tina, Margaret and "Little" Tina and Jakey.

Lisa Bolanos of Austin is her a few days with her day Peppy. She came at this time to help him a few days as he's not feeling his best right now.



Laney To Leave Legislature

Cotton-farming State Rep. Pete Laney, D-Hale Center, announced that he won't run for reelection.

Laney is tied for third on the House seniority list, having begun his service in 1973.

Only Rep. Paul Moreno, D-El Paso, and Craddick have served longer. Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, is tied for third.

Laney was Craddick's predecessor as speaker, having served in that high post in the 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999 and 2001 ses-

Aging Center Lunch Menu

Week of December 12 th thru December 16th Monday, December 12th Sausage, Macaroni, Pepper Casserole, Blackeyed Peas, Cole Slaw, Light Bread, Dessert

Tuesday, December 13th Salisbury Steak, Buttered Potatoes, Garden Salad, Hot Rolls, Banana Pudding

Wednesday, December 14th Stir Fry Chicken/Vegetables, Buttered Rice, Hominy

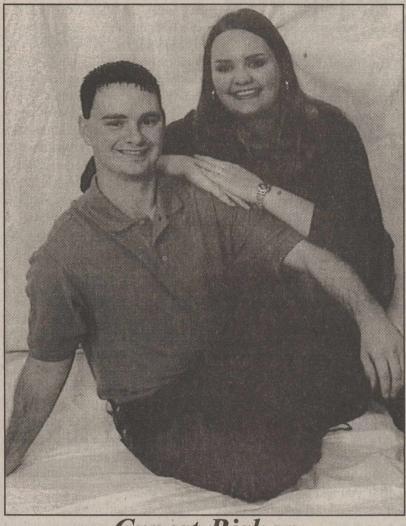
Casserole, Garlic Bread, Ice Box Pie

Thursday, December 15th Steak Fingers, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Biscuits Dessert

Friday, December 16th Chicken/Broccoli/Cheese Soup, Garden Salad, Sliced Cheese, Crackers, Cookies Call in Orders by 10:00 a.m.

All menus subject to change without notification. It is important to contact the site manager so that meals can be prepared.

Wedding Announcement



Cypert-Bishop

Craig and Debbie Wilde are pleased to announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their son, Russell Dale Bishop to Kristin Camille Cypert, daughter of Buddy and Tonya Cypert of Haskell.

The prospective groom is a 2002 graduate of Knox City High School. He recently completed the pharmacy technician program at Vernon College and is employed as a certified pharmacy technician by McKesson Medication Management

KHOR

CKZDV

through United Regional Healthcare System in Wichita Falls.

Business Administration in Mar- more. keting.

South Rehabilitation Hospital in such as cubes, cakes and liquids. Wichita Falls.

4, 2006 wedding at the Haskell the producer should be aware of Church of Christ.

Jones-Haskell

1501 Columbia, Stamford, Texas

Trussell Thane - Therapeutic Optometrist

Dr. Thane is board certified in the diagnosis

and treatment of eye disease.

Contact Lenses Packages Available

Hours: Monday - Thursday, 8:30 to 5:00

Friday - 8:30 to 1:00

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Eye Clinic

Boost Cattle With Nutrient Supplements In Winter

Cattle graze pastures all year long, but the nutrient composition changes with the season, and fall and winter diets are generally low in protein, minerals and vitamins, and thus usually inad-

equate for grazing beef cattle. Once grass has stopped growing and loses it green lush appearance, it becomes coarse and fibrous. Crude protein content of grass fall, and the forage becomes harder for cattle to digest.

Animals consuming diets low in protein lose their appetite, develop a rough appearance, become weak and possess lowered resistance to disease, and overall growth, reproduction and calf weights are greatly, reduced.

Some people think cattle can simply consume more to make the needed nutrients. But, since the grass is slowly digested, con-The prospective bride is a sumption is lowered and the ani-2002 graduate of Haskell High mal receives even less nutrients. School. She will graduate form If protein is added to this type of Midwestern State University in diet, digestion will increase, and December with a Bachelors of eventually the animal will eat

Protein supplements are avail-She is employed by Health able in many types and forms, Each will vary in nutrient com-The couple plans a March position and concentration, and the protein amount.

Since protein is required for growth and milk production, protein requirements for developing heifers and lactation cows are higher than for dry, pregnant

Also the amount fo dry matter (energy), mineral, vitamins and protein should all be considered when a deficiency occurs.

When energy is low, some gain should be fed as an energy supplement along with protein to make up the difference.

************** SANTA ROSA'S GIFT FOR YOU!

IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON, SANTA ROSA TELEPHONE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE YOUR HOLIDAYS FULL OF GREAT CHEER (AND CHIT CHAT)!

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SANTA ROSA TELEPHONE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS AND A FANTASTIC HOLIDAY SEASON.







KC Area Church Directory FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ~ Knox City

VIERNON 2006 Spring & Spring I VOLLEGE Dogistration

Campus Connect Registration

December 8-12 &

December 16-January 3

Register for Spring II semester while registering for Spring or Spring I. For more information on classes, see schedule on VC Web site.

Classes begin January 1

Register for Continuing Education classes at anytime

See the schedule at www.vernoncollege.edu

Registration

16-week & 8-week semesters

Vernon campus

Register January 12

940.552.6291

Gayle Baucum, Pastor
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 10:55 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6:30 p.m. ~ Mid Week, Wed. at 6:30 p.m.
FBC Sunday School, and the worship services at 10:55 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
are telecast live on Classic Cable, channel 6 in Knox City and O'Brien

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ~ Knox City John Wade, Pastor Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ Knox City Tex Cox, Pastor Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m. FOURSQUARE CHURCH ~ Knox City

Paul Chambers, Pastor Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00 p.m. ~ Mid Week, Wed. at 7:00 p.m. SANTA ROSA CATHOLIC CHURCH ~ Knox City

Father Leo Schloemer ~ Deacon Ben Vasquez Sunday Bilingual Mass at 11:00 a.m.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH ~ Rhineland Father Leo Schloemer~ Deacon Ben Vasquez Monday Through Friday Mornings, 8:00 a.m. Mass Saturday Mass at 7:00 p.m. ~ Sunday Mass at 9:00 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of Benjamin John Gillispie, Pastor Sunday School at 10:00 a.m., Sunday Morning at 11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening at 6:00 p.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of Benjamin John Wade, Pastor Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. ~ Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.

GILLESPIE BAPTIST CHURCH ~ Gillespie Matt Harrington, Pastor
Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00 p.m. ~ Mid Week, Wed. at 6:00 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST ~ Benjamin Bible Study at 9:00 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

THE BELIEVERS' CHAPEL ~ Highway 222 W.O. Smith, Pastor Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m. Mid Week, Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

O'BRIEN BAPTIST CHURCH ~ O'Brien Jim Reid, Pastor Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00 p.m. Mid Week, Wed. at 6:00 p.m.

WEINERT FOURSQUARE CHURCH

Rob Harrison, Pastor

Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m. THIS CHURCH DIRECTORY IS SPONSORED **EACH WEEK BY THE FOLLOWING**

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County Hospital 657-3535

O'Brien Co-Op Gin 658-3631

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF KNOX

KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS O.A. WILSON ET AL

O.A. Wilson, W.W. Wilson, Mrs. E.N. Wilson and Art Wilson, if living, and if any or all of the above named defendants be dead, the unknown heirs of said above named persons, and the unknown owner or owners of the hereinafter described land, and the executors, administrator, guardians, legal representatives, legatees and devisees of the above named persons, and any and all other persons, including adverse claimants, the unknown stockholders of any defunct corporations, their successors, heirs and assigns, owning or having or claiming any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon the following described property, delinquent to Plaintiff herein, for taxes, all of said property being located in said County and State, to-wit: 0009188, Lots 5-8, Block 50, Lee Addition, City of Munday Knox County, Texas.

Which said property is delinquent to Plaintiff for taxes in the following amount: \$397.59, exclusive of interest, penalties and costs, and their is included in this suit in addition to the taxes, all said interest, penalties and costs therein allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein.

You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by the Knox County Appraisal District, Plaintiff, against the above named persons, as Defendants, by petition filed on October 19, 2005, in a certain suit styled the Knox County Appraisal District et al vs. O.A. Wilson et al, for collection of the taxes on said property and that said suit is now pending in the District Court of Knox County, Texas, 50th Judicial District, and the file number of said suit is 8962, that the names of all taxing units which assess and collect taxes on the property hereinabove described not made parties to this suit are NONE.

Plaintiff and all other taxing units who may set up their tax claims herein seek recovery of delinquent ad valorem taxes on the property hereinabove described, and in addition to the taxes all interest, penalties, and costs allowed by law thereon up to and including the day of judgment herein, and the establishment and foresclosure of liens, if any, securing the payment of same, as provided by law.

All parties to this suit including Plaintiff, Defendants, and Intervenors, shall take notice that claims not only for any taxes which were delinquent on said property at the time this suit was filed by all taxes becoming delinquent thereon at any time thereafter up to the day of judgment, including all interest, penalties an costs allowed by law thereon, may upon request therefor, be recovered herein without further citation or notice to any parties herein, and all said parties shall take notice of and plead and answer to all claims and pleadings now on file and which may hereafter be field in said cause by all other parties herein, and all of those taxing units above named who may intervene herein and set up there respective tax claims against said property.

You are herby commanded to appear and defend such suit on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance of this citation as set out below, said appearance and answer date being the 2nd day of January, A.D., 2006, (which is the return day of such citation), show cause why judgment shall no it be rendered for such taxes, penalties, interest and cost, and taxes due the Plaintiff and the taxing units parties hereto, and those who may intervene herein, together with all interest, penalties, and cost allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein, and all cost of this suit.

The citation is issued and given under may hand and seal of said Court in the City of Benjamin, Knox County, Texas, this the 23rd day of November, A.D., 2005.

Clerk of the District Court, Knox County, Texas, 50th Judicial District WE'RE
OPEN
LATE
FOR
CHRISTMAS
SHOPPING
MONDAY
thru
FRIDAY
10 am - 7 pm
SATURDAY
10 am - 5 pm



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STATE OF TEXAS §

SCOUNTY OF KNOX §

ORDER RESTRICTING OUTDOOR BURNING

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court has determined that circumstances present in all or part of the unincorporated area of the county create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoors burning.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the Commissioners Court of Knox County that all outdoor burning is banded in the unincorporated area of the county for 90 days from the date of adoption of this Order, unless the restrictions are ferminated earlier based on a determination made by the Texas Forest Service or this Court. This Order is adopted pursuant to Local Government Code § 352.81, and other applicable statutes. This Order does not prohibit outdoor burning activity related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Natural Resource Commission for (1) fire lighter training; (2) public utility, natural gas pipeline of mining operations; (3) planting or harvesting of agricultural crops; or, (4) burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager certified under Section 153.048, Natural Resources Code.

In accordance with Local Government Code \$ 352.081(h), a violation of this Order is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not in exceed \$500.00.

ADOPTED this 2ND day of DECEMBER, 2005 by a vote of 4 aye and 2 nays.

Bearies C. Aloy COUNTY JUDGE TRAVIS C. FLOYD

Attest:

Ronnie Verkalen
RONNIE VERHALEN, County Clerk

SMELL

A distinctive "rotten egg" odor added to make odorless natural gas detectable

LSIEN

An unusual hissing, roaring or blowing sound near gas lines or appliances

LOOK

Blowing dirt, bubbling creeks or ponds, dry spots in moist areas or dead plants surrounded by green, live plants

J__ =

The area immediately—do not smoke, use a cell phone, turn on or off any lights or appliances or operate any kind of vehicle or equipment that could cause sparks

Although natural gas leaks are rare, learn to recognize the signs. If you suspect a natural gas leak, play it safe: call Atmos Energy at 1-800-817-8090 from a safe distance.

ATMOS energy.

If you suspect a natural gas leak, call 1-800-817-8090. For more information on gas safety, visit atmosenergy.com.

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Days

After Hours 658-3342 658-3330 658-3629

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Stars Shine Bright in Rural Texas

By Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs

The stars at night may be big and bright, but it's truly the leadership of rural Texas that shines. For their pioneering leadership, we celebrate the 2005 Texas Yes! Hardworking Rural Communities of Claude, Eden, Post, Quitaque, Rio Grande City, San Augustine and White Deer, and second-time winners, Brownwood, Fort Stockton and Yoakum, for their accomplishments in education, tourism, business development

and job growth. Though resources are limited, the spirit and drive of rural Texas exemplified by these communities know no bounds. And the story is repeated in small towns across this great state every day - community volunteers, local business owners, and city and county officials are working together and building stronger futures.

"It's the human touch that makes the difference," said Roy Rutherford from the community of Claude, selected along with Eden and Fort Stockton for additional honors as Texas Yes! Shining Stars.

Rural Texas is truly leading the way for others across the state in economic and community development. These Texas Yes! Hardworking Rural Communities have pulled themselves up by their bootstraps. Their big hearts and bright ideas are making a difference for the future of all of Texas.

Texas Yes! is a member-based program sponsored by the Texas Department of Agriculture for rural communities, businesses and organizations. For more on the 2005 Hardworking Rural Communities, go to www.TexasYes.org.

Happiness is that state of consciousness which proceeds from the achievement of one's values. -Ayn Rand

For Sale **Accepting Bids**

1998 Dodge 1 ton dually, 160k miles, Manual transmission, with new Lincoln Ranger 250 Welder and Cutting Torch. Vehicle in Good Condition.

1995 Chevrolet extend cab, Z71, High miles, Automatic transmission, 4 WD, Good tires.

1992 GMC Extended Cab, Long bed, High miles. Body is in fair condition.

If interested contact Wayne at Citizens Bank, NA 940-658-3527

Delta Kappa Gamma **International Society**

Beta Chi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International Society it November 6th meeting at the Knox City Elementary School. Nancy Toliver presided at the meeting.

Member Dorothy Myers inspired all to get volunteerism. Mrs. Myers discussed the program at First United Methodist in Munday. This program is designed to teach English to Spanish speaking adults.

Lillian Hicks, Chapter recording secretary, was honored with the Red Rose Salute. She was also the winner of the door

The chapter's next meeting will be on Saturday, December 3 in Munday.

Special Called Commissioner's Court Meeting

Special called meeting of the Commissioners Court of Knox County, Texas at the Courthouse thereof in the City of Benjamin, Texas for the purpose of transacting any and all business that may lawfully be brought before the same.

Knox County Judge Travis Floydcalledthespecialmeetingto order. Present were Commissioners Jerry Parker, Jimmy Urbanczyk, and Johnny Birkenfied and Clerk Ronnie Verhalen.

The Court considered the following matters as posted and filed for Record in the Office of the County Clerk on November 29, 2005 at 8:30 p.m. There were no public comments.

The sole purpose of the

called meeting was to consider a Burn Ban for the County. After brief discussion, upon motion by Commissioner Birkenfeld and seconded by Commissioner Jerry Parker the Court voted unanimously to institute a burn ban for 90 days. (C.C. Minutes, 12-2-2005, #1)

Commissioner Urbanczyk further moved to authorize the Judge to initiate or lift a burn ban depending upon weather conditions and to give individuals permission to burn, but only under certain tightly restricted provisions. Commissioner Parker seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Knox County Sheriff's Report

1. Bryant, Belvin 11/21/2005 Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

Misd. C 2. Palacio, Alfredo 11-22-05

Driving while intoxicated 1st Mids. B 3. Livingston, Heath

11/22/05 Theft by Check

4. Martinez, Joe Anthony 11/28/05 **Public Intoxication**

Misd. C 5. Thomas, Cynthia 11/28/05

Traffic Warrants Knox County 6. Spells, Quentin 11/29/05

No Driver's License/Burglary of Residence Felony 2 7. Oudems, Jasmen

11/29/05 Possession of Drug

Paraphernalia Mids C/Burglary of Residence Felony 2 8. Jowers Lewis 11/30/05 MTR/DWI McCollock County 9. McGee, Elliot 12/01/05 Possession of Controlled

Substance State Jail Felony 10. Garcia, Bobby Jr. 12/01/05

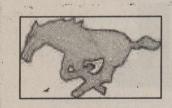
MTR/Assault w/Bodily Injury 11. Eaton, Christopher Chase 12/01/2005

Fail to Comply requirements of Striking Unattended vehicle

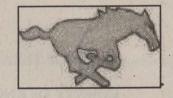
Hit and Run 12. Kuehler, Randal 12/03/05 DWI-1st Misd B

13. Carranza, Daniel 12/04/05

Do not weep; do not wax indignant. Understand. -Baruch Spinoza



Benjamin Sports



Go Mustangs and Lady Stangs The Jacky Young's

Benjamin Booster's

Benjamin Lady Stang & Mustang Raskethall Schedule 2005

		Duske	louil	301	neunie	200
	Nov. 15	Patton Springs	Here		JVG,VG,VB	5:00
	Nov. 18	Guthrie	There		VG,VB	6:30
	Nov. 22	Newcastle	Here		JVG,VG,VB	5:00
	Nov. 29	Guthrie	Here		VG,VB	6:30
100000000000000000000000000000000000000	Dec. 1,2,3	Patton Springs	There	,	VG,VB	TBA
Section 2	Dec. 6	Paint Creek	Here	1	JVG,VG,VB	5:00
	Dec. 9	Abilene High	Here		JVG,VG,VB	4:00
CHARLES STATE	Dec.13	Abilene High	There		JVG,VG	5:00
The state of the s	Dec. 13	Christ the King	Here		VB	5:30
17	Dec. 27	Newcastle	There		JVG,VG,VB	5:00
	Jan. 3	Lueders-Avoca	There		VG,VB	6:30
	Jan. 8	Northside	Here		JVG,VG,VB	5:00
	Jan. 10	Megargel	There		VG,VB	6:30
	Jan. 13	Crowell	Here		JVG,VG,VB	5:00
	Jan. 17	Harrold	Here		VG,VB	6:30
	Jan. 20	Chillicothe	There		VG,VB	6:30
	Jan. 24	Norhtside	There		VG,VB	6:30
	Jan. 27	Megargel	Here		VG,VB	6:30
	Jan. 31	Crowell	There		JVG,VG,VB	5:00
	Feb. 3	Harrold	There		VG,VB	6:30
	Feb. 7	Chillicothe '	Here		VG,VB	6:30

C.H. Underwood Girls Coach Danny Copeland Boys Coach 940-459-2231





Benjamin Chamber

of Commerce

Go, Fight, Win!



All The Way Purple and White Dicky, Laura and Anna **McCanlies**

We're Behind You Mustangs, Lady Stangs. & Colts Chad, Kathy, Johnathan and Justin Rainwater

CITIZENS BANK, N.A.

658-3527 Knox City



ANTA ROSA

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Knox County Hospital Knox City Clinic • Munday Clinic Knox County Home Health **Knox County EMS**





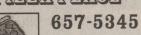
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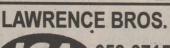
LARSON *PHARMACY*

Larry & Beth Staggs 657-3210

Matt's Service Station 1010 East Main • Knox City 657-4404 • Full Service Station Formerly Wayne's 66

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AIR AG, INC. Complete Aerial Applications and Helicopter Service Office 940-658-3744 Fax 940-658-3105 Mobile 940-256-1492

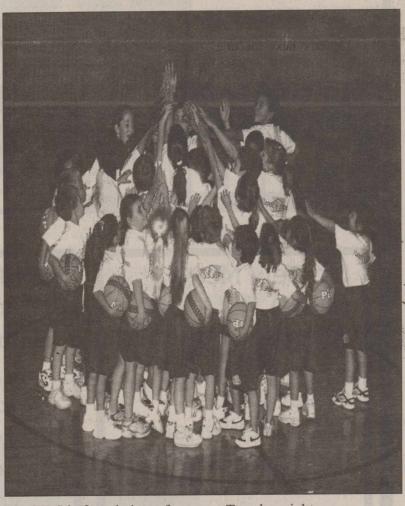
Memories of Munday

110 E. Main • Munday

AGRILIANCE "Supporting Our Teams" Go Hounds & Houndettes 1354 CR 1430 Doug & Bettye Moore **Knox City**



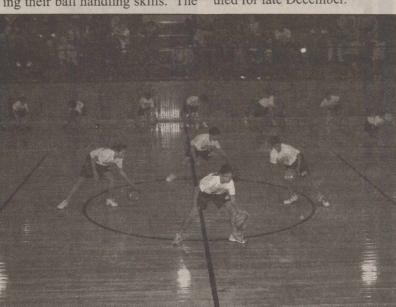
Kayla Martin **PIPS Perform During Half Time Tuesday Night**



The PIPS before their performance Tuesday night.

Houndettes game, the Knox City - their performance since October. O'Brien Players in Progress (PIPs) team wowed the crowd with their half-time performance exhibiting their ball handling skills. The

During the half time of the team has been preparing for They will perform during half time of the ladies home games. Their next performance is scheduled for late December.



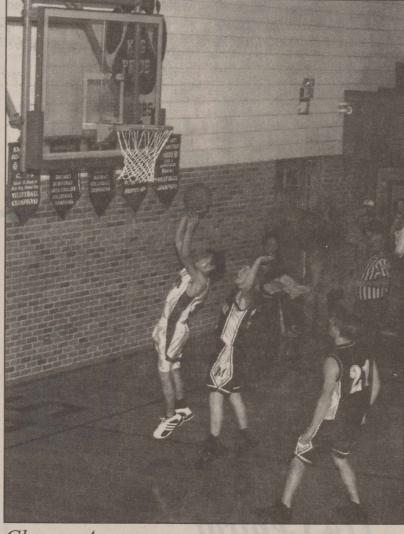
The PIPS In Action



Grant Lewis and Jordan Carter



Kayla Stewart



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Real Estate

FOR SALE

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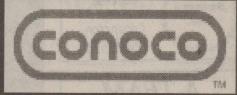


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