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THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

VOL. 35 NO. 47

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2012

75 CENTS

Knox City, Munday papers combine

The News-Courier

The Knox County News and the Munday Courier have been merged to form one newspaper to serve Knox County residents and the surrounding communities.

The Knox County News-Courier begins publishing with this edition and will be operated by Blackburn Media Group Inc. of Childress.

Christopher Blackburn, CEO of Blackburn Media Group, will serve as publisher of the newspaper.

"We're thrilled to be back in Knox County," said Blackburn, who previously was publisher of The Knox County News. "To be able to combine resources of both newspapers into a new and improved product will be a boon for the business community and the single, go-to news and information source for residents of these communities."

The Munday Courier had been in operation since 1971 when it was established by Aaron Edgar. Two years later, in 1973, the paper was bought by M.L. and Mattie Waggoner. Prior to 1971, the local newspaper was known as The Munday

Times.

In 1998, Jay and Cynthia White approached Waggoner about purchasing the Courier.

Blackburn once again has taken full ownership of The Knox County News, which has for the last year been operated by Tommy and Patricia Wells of Throckmorton. The Knox City paper has been in existence since the 1960s.

Blackburn said the new, combined operation would be beneficial for all.

See **COMBINE**, Page 4



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier
Jeannette Reeves of Buds for You in Munday prepares for Saturday's open house in the special Christmas section of the business. The "safari tree" she's working on is just one of the many fanciful displays that won't be viewable until 5 p.m. Saturday.

Holidays kick off this weekend across Knox County

By Hanaba Munn Welch

The News-Courier

MUNDAY — Forget the summer solstice. The longest day of the year in Knox County will begin Saturday at first light and stretch past midnight with exhibits, food and activities in both Munday and Knox City.

It's Munday's last Saturday Trade Days for the year, and for both towns the day is the prelude to the Christmas holiday season. "Christmas in November" is Knox City's name for Saturday's events. It's a day that holds something for everyone.

The Trade Days event will begin at 8 a.m. at the Munday Events Center and runs through 5 p.m. At 8:30 a.m., a \$5 pancake breakfast will be served. Lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m. with \$5 hamburgers.

A number of downtown businesses will have open houses from 5 to 8 p.m., including Buds for You, Casablanca, Just in Time, Osborne's, Rusty Star Stitches, Stitches and

See **HOLIDAYS**, Page 4

A reason for thanksgiving

Pecans provide family with more than a bountiful

By Hanaba Munn Welch

The News-Courier

Nothing against a big stuffed turkey for a centerpiece, but when it comes to Thanksgiving memories with the family gathered around the dining table, Brenda Floyd thinks about piles of pecans.

That's how it is when a family farm has a pecan orchard and children, even adults home for a holiday, are free labor.

"We would all come together here at the farm," Floyd said. "We would all gather around the dining room table, and she (the late Faye Johnson, Floyd's mother) would pour pecans on the middle of the table, and we would all sit around and shell pecans and talk. It was the greatest time. Sweet memories, and we didn't even know it."

Pecans were a major sideline on the Johnson farm then and still are. The trees planted by the late Edwin Johnson, Floyd's father, produce

See **PECANS**, Page 4



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier
Brenda and Travis Floyd stand next to a stump of what used to be a pecan tree in their backyard. The tree was struck by lightning during a past storm, which caused the tree to fall onto their house, destroying much of the roof. Other tall pecans, all planted by Brenda Floyd's father, still surround the house, providing both shade and pecans.



Moguls look forward to post-season

Munday set to play Wink after bye in first round

By Hanaba Munn Welch

The News-Courier

MUNDAY — The 10-0 Moguls didn't have to worry about losing a game last weekend. They didn't play.

The Moguls probably don't have to worry about losing this weekend either, when they face Wink in the second round of the playoffs Friday. But that's exactly what worries junior L.J. Collier — what can happen to an over-confident team.

Two weeks ago, Munday beat Electra, 74-0, to put a spectacular end on the regular season this year, but Collier remembers Munday's 52-28 loss last year to Tenaha for the 1A Division II state title.

"Everybody thinks we've already got it won," he said. "They expect so much from us. We don't want to let them down."

Collier, tight end and defensive end, and his teammates didn't even have practice last Friday afternoon, but

he and some other players drifted over to the field house after school to pick up various items and catch rides home. They took a few minutes to share their thoughts about the game of football and how this year has shaped up so far for the unstoppable Moguls.

Why the success? "I think everybody on the team is talented," Collier said. "The linebackers are key."

Head coach Patrick Corcoran said speed has been a plus for this year's team.

"We have kids with the ability to run," he said.

The Munday strategy can be labeled "skilled kids in the space," Corcoran said, the aim being to get the ball to the right player, the one with space to gain yards on any given play.

Corcoran calls the plays from the sideline, but he never knows what's going to happen. It's the quarterback's call.

"Any one of three guys can get the ball on any play," Corcoran said. "I don't know who is going to get the ball."

It's a style of playing that



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier
Members of the Munday Mogul football team relax Friday with head coach Patrick Corcoran at the field house, enjoying a day off from practice but keeping their minds on the game. The Mogul football team will play the Wink Wildcats in the Moguls' first post-season game this weekend in Colorado City. Pictured, from left, are Roderick Taylor, Victor Garcia, Jerico Thompson, L.J. Collier and coach Patrick Corcoran.

brings out quick thinking on the field — the kind of thinking that happens almost without thinking, especially by the end of a winning season. It's what Corcoran expects of his team too — especially

defense. "Don't think too much," he said. "Defense becomes instinctual."

Even so, football can be a mind game from a psychological viewpoint.

Junior Jerico Thompson, left guard and defensive tackle, counts on anger to help him play his best.

"Taking my anger out on

See **FOOTBALL**, Page 6



MUNDAY'S FIRST FOOTBALL TEAM
GUY SCRUG GS. COACH
"Went by train to Stamford for Game"

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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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Corrections

If you spot an error of fact, contact Editor Wayne Hodgins at kcnnewsCourier@gmail.com.

KC loses downtown variety store

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The News-Courier

KNOX CITY — KC Hometown Variety closed its doors last week, leaving the town without a store offering a broad array of general merchandise.

The demise of the downtown business on North Central Avenue marked the disappointing end of a once hopeful venture launched by local investors.

Chad Roberts, city administrator and executive director of both the Knox City

Community Development Corp. and the Knox City Economic Development Corp., said nine investors went in together on the store.

"It's a tragedy for our town," Roberts said. "We really need some place that we can pick up items they carried."

The CDC owns the building, Robert said, and members don't want the building to remain empty.

Perhaps no one is more disappointed than the investors, like Steve Pepper.

"We just wanted it to fur-

nish jobs and take care of itself, and it just never would," Pepper said.

The rebuilding of downtown sidewalks disrupted the flow of business for the variety store for a while.

"The sidewalk project hurt their foot traffic," Roberts said.

Now that the sidewalks are finished, the store is empty — a yawning 6,500-square-foot space with bare shelves, waiting for another business to bring it back to life.

"We are pursuing leads right now for a name-brand store,"

Roberts said.

It's not the kind of quest the CDC keeps under wraps. Roberts and the board are open to suggestions, inquiries and proposals.

Meanwhile, the business climate in Knox City is not as dismal as the store closure might suggest. Sales tax receipts are growing.

"We're consistently on the rise," he said. "This last month we dipped down a little bit. ... The oilfield is booming. It's fixing to really pick up. We have a lot of nice

restaurants."

Just no general store.

Dollar General, with stores already in place in Haskell and Munday, isn't likely to want to open a store in Knox City, too, Roberts said. But he's hopeful competitors might jump at the chance, or at least come on board after careful consideration.

"We'd like to talk to Family Dollar or Fred's," he said, naming two prospects. "We're willing to listen to somebody that has a proposal," Roberts said.

Area-wide effort

Area prescribed burn association proposed

MATADOR — An effort is underway to form a prescribed burn association in the southern Rolling Plains of Texas.

This PBA will be modeled after other existing organizations around the state but will

be tailored to the unique local needs of the communities that it will serve.

The intent is to fill a gap in an 18-county area nestled between the existing North Central Texas PBA to the east, the Texas Panhandle

PBA to the north, the edge of the High Plains to the west, and the Interstate 20 corridor to the south.

Counties involved include Baylor, Borden, Cottle, Crosby, Dickens, Fisher, Foard, Garza, Hardeman, Haskell, Jones, Kent, King, Knox, Motley, Scurry, Stonewall and Wilbarger.

"Given the extreme nature of the 2011 fire season, as well as previous busy fire seasons in 2006, 2008 and 2009, prescribed burning, or more appropriately the lack thereof, is becoming an important issue in Texas," said Derrick Holdstock with the Texas Department Parks and Wildlife.

Utilization of fire, where and when appropriate, is increasingly becoming an important tool for land managers, fire departments and natural-resource agencies as a way to reduce hazardous fuel loads.

"These fuels, if burned under the extreme conditions of a wildfire, could cause greater damage to property or rangeland resources and could pose greater risks to

emergency responders and the public than if they were burned under prescribed conditions for the purposes of rangeland or wildlife management, or hazardous fuel mitigation at the wildland/urban interface," Holdstock said.

While a Texas landowner has the right to utilize prescribed fire under the law, they often lack the experience or confidence to carry out the burns without technical help.

"This is where PBAs can help," Holdstock said.

PBAs are organized landowner cooperatives that are user owned, controlled and operated. PBAs share knowledge, experience and equipment among contributing members to increase the application and safety of prescribed fire as a management tool.

The primary benefits to landowners are these:

- Support of a locally led and run organization of neighbors helping neighbors,
- Reduced costs of fire management,
- Reduced risk through

increased experience, equipment, training, and technical assistance,

• Community support and assistance,

• Ability to get more prescribed burning done on your land and the satisfaction of helping your neighbors do the same.

This effort is still in its early stages with our first open meeting to be held as soon as enough landowners indicate that they are interested. The intent of this meeting would be to gather together those landowners interested in forming this PBA and to begin creating bylaws.

Members of other Texas PBAs will be on hand to share their experiences and assist in this endeavor.

If you are interested in attending this initial meeting and/or joining this PBA, contact Holdstock at Derrick.Holdstock@tpwd.state.tx.us or call 806-217-2911 by Dec. 7.

This will ensure that you are notified of the dates, times, and locations of meetings and other PBA-related news.

On the prowl

Coyote shot inside city limits

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The News-Courier

KNOX CITY — The gunshot heard Wednesday in Knox City was right on target. Police Chief Caleb Hodges shot what he hopes was Knox City's only coyote.

Coyotes get no special privileges inside the city limits.

"He didn't have a city permit," City Administrator Chad Roberts jokingly said.

Several sightings prompted

people to report the stray coyote both to City Hall and to the police department.

"I had a guy stop at my house and tell me about it," Hodges said. "He wasn't hard to find. He was standing in the middle of the road."

Initially suspecting the animal might be rabid, Hodges was quick to take him down. Afterward, he saw no signs that the coyote was diseased, although the animal didn't run — typical of the tame behavior sometimes exhibited by rabid wild animals.

"He wasn't mangy or rabid either one," Hodges said. He shot the animal near the water treatment plant.

Whenever wild animals appear in the city, rabies is always a concern.

"A coyote in town during the day is suspicious of being rabid," Roberts said.

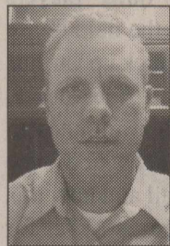
Hodges disposed of the carcass, he said. A necropsy was not performed.

Paperboy

For small businesses, shopping local is key

During tough economic times, businesses do many things to survive including cutting costs, raising prices and trimming payroll. Small business owners look for ways to maintain and stay in business.

In the newspaper business, we need local businesses to not only survive, but thrive. Part of what we do is help them move their



CHRIS BLACKBURN

products and services. As we close in on the end of the year, we're making it cost effective for you to advertise. We maintain competitive rates and have grown circulation throughout the year so more eyeballs see our clients' ads.

It's a simple concept, and can be successful when our customers take advantage of it. However, the other side of that equation is getting our readers to support local businesses.

Many families have tightened their belts, and that's great. Unfortunately, too many families continue to spend their money out of town, damaging the local economy.

We live in towns that usually don't provide everything we need. But for the things we do need, regardless if it's one item or 20, wouldn't it be more prudent to make those purchases locally?

When you shop locally, you're helping to keep the doors open. You're helping to keep your friends and neighbors employed. You're helping your local tax base.

Do any of you honestly think if you go to a local store instead of a big-box store in a nearby town that you're going to damage that large store? Now flip that. If you go to a big-box store instead of your local store, are you going to damage your community?

Our local businesses need your support. They want your support. We must enter a

partnership of local support to sustain these businesses through hard times. If we don't, more doors will close.

For decades, we've seen small businesses shut their doors in our small towns. Some will say it's because they were priced too high. Some will say it's because it's more convenient to go to one place to get all of their items.

Maybe so. But is it more convenient to travel 30 or 60 miles roundtrip to shop? What happens when there are no more local stores? I'll give you a clue, it's over.

Before heading out of town to shop, check your list and see what can be purchased locally.

If we work together to help our communities survive, we all win. If we don't, I fear many of our stores will close.

For our part, we'll attempt to deal in volume and work with our businesses without raising our advertising prices.

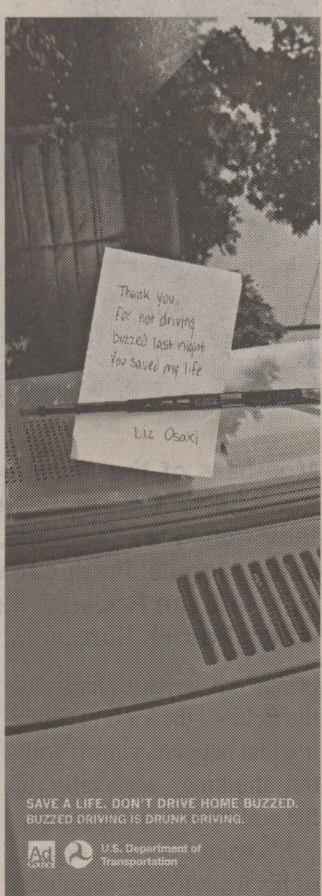
At the end of the day, your local business owner is depending on you. They will gladly welcome your business.

I find it ironic that people won't give a second thought about heading out of town to shop while at the same time patronizing local businesses for support on everything from school projects to sports teams.

It's a two-way street. If you want your local businesses to support youth and various civic projects, you need to shop with them. If not, we'll continue to see the hollowing out of our communities.

As a local business owner, I'm asking that you make a conscious decision to buy what you can locally. Doing so can make a huge difference for the merchant and our small towns.

Christopher Blackburn is publisher of The Knox County News-Courier and CEO of Blackburn Media Group.



BLACK FRIDAY SALE!

Bring in this coupon for a **FREE Snowman Ornament Friday, November 23 only!**
While supplies last.
Limit one per coupon. Limit one per customer and one per family.
No purchase necessary.

Christmas Train Set - Lionel Lines
36 piece G Gauge
\$39.99
regular \$69.99

Boxed Christmas Cards
Selected Brands Leanin Tree not included
\$1 - 10 count
\$2 - 20 count
\$3 - 32 count

Conair Home Vanity Mirror
regular \$28.99
\$14.99

Leather Bible Covers
½ price

Tekton Tool Sets
Hammer, Screwdriver & Tape Measure
Knife, Screwdriver & Tape Measure
Pocket Multi-tool
½ price!

Aurora Candle Warmer Lamps
½ price

Buckhead Betties Bathwraps
½ price

Travel Mugs with Handles, Holiday Designs
½ price
regular \$15.99

Don't know what to buy for Christmas? Give a Drug Store GIFT CARD!

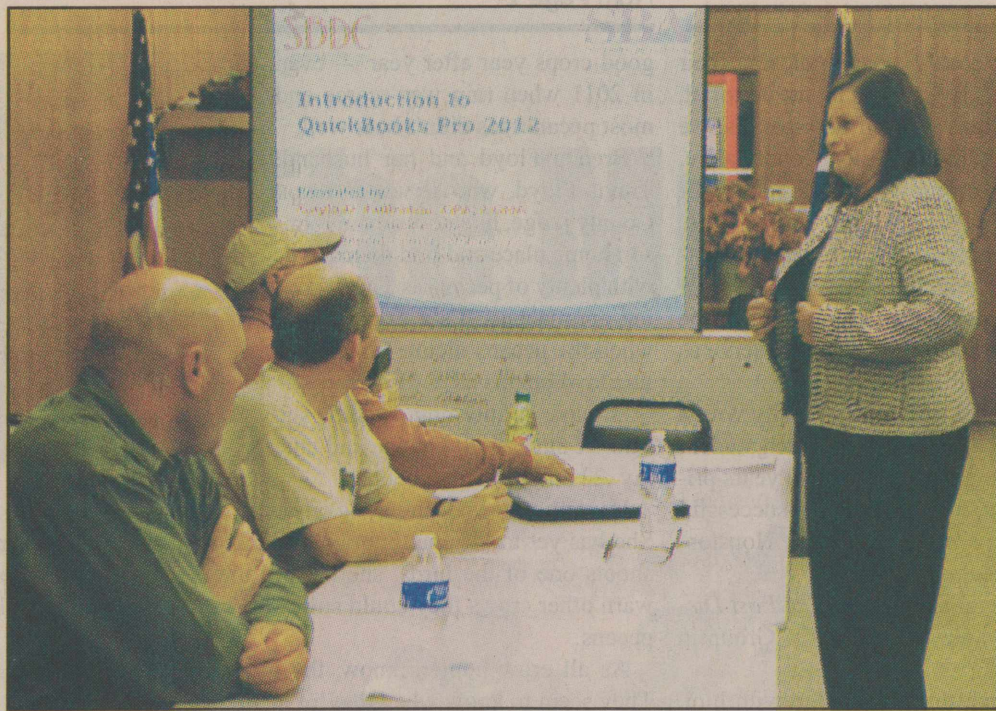
Prices good Friday, November 23 only!
Limited to stock on hand. No exchanges or refunds.
No layaways. No gift wrapping. All sales cash & final.

Closed Thursday, November 22 for Thanksgiving
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
www.haskelldrugstore.com

THE DRUG STORE
100 S. Avenue E.
Haskell, TX 79521
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Small Business



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier

Gayla Fullerton, certified public accountant, faces a question Thursday evening from businessman Steve Pepper, seated at the end of a table at the Knox City Chamber of Commerce office. In the foreground is Chad Roberts, Knox City city administrator, and next to Roberts is Greg Oliver. About 15 people with business interests showed up to hear Fullerton talk about QuickBooks, a popular computerized bookkeeping system. Fullerton is senior business consultant at the Texas Tech Small Business Development Center in Abilene. Knox County Visioning Group organized the free event. Attendees came from Knox City, Stamford, Goree, Munday and Aspermont.

Knox County Aging Services Week of Nov. 26-30

Monday November 26th
Ham And Beans
Spinach
Corn
Cornbread
Fruit Crisp

Tuesday November 27th
Stew
Salad
Cornbread
Fruit

Wednesday November 28th
Meatloaf/Tomato Sauce
Mashed Potatoes
Winter Blend Vegetables
Whole Wheat Roll
Jello/Fruit

Thursday November 29th
Salsbury Steak/Gravy
Bed Bliss Potatoes
Peas
Whole Wheat Roll
Fruit Cocktail

Friday November 30th
Lasagne
Brussel Sprouts
Garlic Toast
Pears

New Serving Time Is 12 Noon (In Knox City Only)
Alternate Desserts For Diabetics
Please Call In Your Orders By 10 A.M. To 657-3618
Orders Cant Be Taken After 10 A.M. And Need To Be Picked Up After 11 A.M.

Family, Friends Aid Sanders In Cancer Battle

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The News-Courier

O'BRIEN — Misty Sanders' smiling face is a familiar sight around Knox City. It's on donation collection containers in places like Allsup's and other places around town. Sanders, a mother of three, has inoperable cervical cancer — inoperable but not untreatable.

"I had my first chemo (therapy) Nov. 7," she said Friday as she and her sister-in-law Kristin Maingot looked at posters taped to Allsup's ice box advertising Nov. 24 events in Munday.

"I'm just now getting to where I can get out," Sanders said, as she and Main-

got together contemplated a trip to a neighboring town to take in some of the activities.

Sanders, cheerful despite her situation, said she's smiling because her mother, Bobbi Brisco, and Maingot have traveled from Kerrville, where they both live, to be with Sanders to see her through the rigors of her treatment regimen.

Besides chemotherapy, Sanders will undergo 30 radiation treatments requiring daily trips to Abilene.

"How are we going to get to Abilene every single day?" is the question Sanders said she asked herself when the reality of her illness set in.

But her family and friends and strangers have

come to her aid.

"The community has really come together," Sanders said.

And her faith has also come into play in a reassuring way.

"I feel like God is making it as easy as it can be for me," she said, searching for just the right words to describe her feelings.

Sanders, who resides in O'Brien, said she feels at home in Knox City, too, partly because of the school consolidation, as home. She's grown up here.

"My kids have the same teachers I did," she said, smiling.

But Sanders is always smiling, especially now that her mother and her sister-in-law are at her side.



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier

Love in action, Kristin Maingot holds her sister-in-law Misty Sanders in a hug Friday in front of Allsup's in Knox City. Standing behind Sanders is her mother, Bobbi Briscoe. Maingot and Briscoe have come from Kerrville to support Sanders during treatment for cancer. Sanders lives in O'Brien.

IT'S 2:00 AM . . .

DO YOU KNOW WHO'S ON YOUR LAND?

YOUR LAND, YOUR RIGHT

It's your right as a land or mineral owner to require any oil and gas company leasing your land to provide gate guards for your property. The cost of providing gate guards is the sole responsibility of the oil and gas company. As a landowner, you also have the right to request a specific gate guard provider. Gate guards are commonly used during all phases of oil and gas exploration activities in many areas of Texas and the United States. SiteWatch provides an on-site crew and trailer at the entry point of your property throughout the duration of all oil and gas exploration and activity. SiteWatch will ensure that only authorized personnel enters your property and that you receive the privacy and respect you and your property deserve.

SiteWatch is a licensed and insured provider of gate guards. Contact us today to learn about your rights as an owner, and discover the benefits of using SiteWatch on your property.

sitewatch

License No. TX C6548

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HOLIDAYS
From Page 1

Stones and The Relaxing Touch.

A dance, featuring Cameran Nelson and Guardrail Damage Ahead and also including Glass Alley with Cheyenne Pitts, will be from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the events center.

Wyman Meinzer, author and the official state photographer of Texas, will be

at the Buds for You open house to sell and sign copies of his newest book,

"Charles Goodnight: A Man for All Ages."

The Munday Chamber of Commerce rents Trade Days booths for \$10. Exhibitors requiring electricity pay \$15. Chamber director Pat Wild was still renting booths at the end of last week and will continue as long as space is available.

Some exhibitors will set up their displays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and others will arrive early Saturday to start putting their wares in place at 7 a.m.

Jewelry, clothing, antiques, desserts and other food items, Avon products, children's toys, knives — the Trade Days array promises to offer an array of products for a range of tastes.

Wild and her Chamber colleagues are counting on this Trade Days to put a grand finale on the year and carry the event into next year, when the once-a-month tradition will resume in April.

Some exhibitors show up only for November Trade Days.

At Buds for You, owner Perry Kuehler has been working hard too to be ready for the yearly bash. For 29 years, he's made it a tradition to unveil special Christmas exhibits at his business during the open house. This year the theme is "Santa Claus is Coming to Town."

A room next to his business on the south side of the square stays closed until the final moment. It's packed with fanciful Christmas trees, even an exotic "safari" tree, and larger-than-life Santa Claus figures of grand design.

It's the sort of Christmas magic that draws people from miles away.

"We've got people that come from Lubbock, Wichita Falls and Dallas," Kuehler said.

In downtown Knoxville City, everything special is happening from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., the traditional time slot for the yearly celebration.

This year Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will be at Knox City Florist, where the couple will pose for pictures, and Santa will listen to children's wishes.

The Knox City Chamber of Commerce will be serving punch and cookies. Downtown businesses also will be serving refreshments as well as showing off Christmas merchandise. Holiday music will enhance the evening, and restaurants will feature holiday specials.

Kay Pepper at Peppers, a place to shop for gifts or sit down and eat or both, is looking forward to Saturday as a time to see old friends.

"We will have a sale," she said. "We always have a sale to kick off the Christmas season."

But it's about more than making sales for Pepper.

"The community needs something to look forward to," she said. "Not everybody can do Black Friday."

In places like Knoxville City and Munday too, shopping for Christmas is about more than shopping, from the perspective of merchants and shoppers both.

"The community turns out," said Barbara Barnard, owner of Knoxville City Florist. "It's just a good time of fellowship, celebrating the season."

As always, drawings for Santa Dollars will highlight the evening in Knoxville City. Since Nov. 5, merchants have been giving tickets to shoppers for each \$10 spent in their businesses. The ticket holders must be present to win. The drawings will be at Knoxville City Florist.

COMBINE
From Page 1

"Both newspapers were dangerously close to closing their doors for good," Blackburn said. "By combining the editorial, advertising and business operations of both newspapers, we not only will be able to keep a tradition in Knoxville County alive, but also help it to become a more profitable business entity for the communities it serves."

Both the Knoxville City and Munday newspaper offices, Blackburn said, will remain open for the time being.

The combined editorial and advertising operations will be overseen by Haskell native Wayne Hodgin, who will serve as executive editor of the new publication.

Hodgin is a 2001 graduate of Texas Tech University with a degree in journalism. He served as editor of the Tech student newspaper — a 15,000-circulation daily — for two years prior to graduation. Since that time, he has managed successful community newspaper operations in the Lubbock, Houston, Atlanta and Savannah, Ga., markets.

Hodgin also is editor and general manager of *The Post Dispatch* and will continue to serve Blackburn Media Group in both capacities.

"Wayne brings a wealth of industry knowledge with him, and we're lucky to have such a professional with his background here in Knoxville County," Blackburn said.

In addition to a new and improved, singular product, Blackburn has announced lower advertising rates for the newspaper operation.

"By lowering rates, we'll be better able to serve the communities of Benjamin, Goree, Knoxville City and Munday," he said. "Newspapers not only serve to inform, but they also serve as an integral part of the business community. We're a business, too. I know how hard it is to operate in today's economy, and every penny matters."

Blackburn assures readers of both publications that hard-copy subscriptions will be honored.

"We're still working out the kinks of our electronic delivery, but hope to have that option up and available to our loyal e-readers as soon as possible," said Blackburn, who added an increased web presence also is forthcoming.

The Knoxville County News-Courier will sport a full-color front page and color throughout its inside pages. The paper's printing operation will be moved from Vernon to the *Times Record News* in Wichita Falls.

Distribution will be Thursday for single-copy sales and Friday for subscribers by mail. There were early deadlines this week because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Due to the quick turnover of ownership, office hours at both the Munday and Knoxville City offices are not established and it could be several weeks before those details are worked out, Blackburn said.

"It's going to take us a few weeks to get our entire operation running smoothly," he said. "We want to encourage our readers to bear with us and know we hold community journalism in the utmost respect. In the end, we'll have a product we can all be proud of, one that is business-friendly and, above all, community-minded."

PECANS
From Page 1

good crops year after year — even in 2011 when rain was scarce and most pecan trees didn't bear well.

Brenda Floyd and her husband, Travis Floyd, who serves as Knoxville County judge, live now on the Johnson home place and find themselves with plenty of pecans as Thanksgiving approaches. It's a time of year when the pecans dictate how Brenda Floyd begins each day.

"I have a morning ritual," she said. "I have to go outside and take my .22 and just start shooting."

Her targets are pecan-eating crows.

She has yet to hit one, but not for lack of trying. If she ever shoots one of the birds, she'll hang the carcass in a tree to warn other crows they could suffer the same fate if they steal pecans.

As all crow hunters know, the birds aren't sitting ducks. They seem to know when they're in anyone's gunsights.

"They're smart birds," Floyd said.

They're also discriminating when it comes to pecans. They avoid the natives and go for the improved varieties, Floyd said.

The trees in the Johnson orchard, planted close to Johnson Cemetery, northwest of Munday, produce many varieties, thanks to the grafting of Edwin Johnson.

"We have some natives at the edge of our orchard," Floyd said. "They just came up."

Edwin Johnson was a master at grafting, turning hardy native trees into producers of a range of other varieties, sometimes all with one tree.

"I could kick myself for not having him teach me how to graft," Floyd said.

Floyd still has her father's grafting tools. It's a skill she could still learn, but her regret is not having learned from the master.

Edwin Johnson himself grew up with a peach orchard, but he dedicated himself to pecans instead, planting and grafting — "he and his little helper, Pancho Sarabia," Floyd said.

Sarabia is also now deceased. The trees are his legacy, too.

"His family still comes and visits with us," Floyd said.

One reason the well-planned pecan orchard has done well for decades is water, Floyd said. In the absence of rain, good groundwater is especially important.

"Last year in that drought we had a pecan crop like you wouldn't believe," Floyd said. "The taproot of a pecan tree goes way down."

The Johnson farm has groundwater within reach of the trees.

"We've been so blessed," Floyd said. "All we have out here (for a water supply) is a well."

The Floyds lease their pecan orchard, but they still have plenty of pecans from trees around the house. Burkett's are Brenda Floyd's favorite variety.

"I wish we had a whole orchard full of them, the old Burkett," she said.

Other varieties on the Johnson farm include the Western Schley, Choctaw, Mohawk, Comanche, Apache, Wichita and Imperial, a variety Floyd likes because of their large size.

"The only problem ... it gets a little fuzzy stuff on it (the meat)," she said. "You can just scratch it off, and it's fine. It doesn't take that many for you to cut up and put in a salad."

But when it comes to dishes that feature pecans, Floyd's mother's pecan pie recipe comes first to her mind. It's a standard recipe, tried and true.

For Faye Johnson, growing pecans was about more than pies. She was an avid harvester and sheller and seller of each year's crop. At the beginning of the harvest, she wore gloves to church to hide her hands, black from extracting the nuts from their still-green husks, Floyd said.

Before mechanized shelling methods were available to her, she shelled pecans with a hand-held sheller, the Texas York nut sheller. Then she used a rubber band-powered inertia sheller and ultimately settled on an electric sheller.

"She made a table for it to sit on," Floyd said.

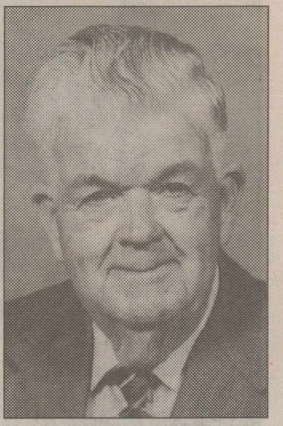
It was a business for the Johnsons.

"They sent them all over the United States," Floyd said.

For a resourceful hard-working person like Faye Johnson, who once bought her family a piano with egg money, pecans were an ideal way to make extra money.

"She would make enough for Christmas money and other things," Floyd said.

Now that both her parents are gone, Floyd is left with more than just memories and mementos. Each year, she and her husband reap the bounty of the pecan trees planted by her father — trees that blessed the family with harvests year after year when Edwin and Faye Johnson were alive and now stand taller than ever, still making pecans and bringing special meaning to Thanksgiving.



EDWIN JOHNSON

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Childress-based Blackburn Media Group, also known as BMG, is a multifaceted company consisting of nine publications, including seven newspapers and one shopper, in West Texas and western Oklahoma. The company was formed in 2005 by Chris and Sharon Blackburn with the acquisition of the Hall County Herald. In 2008, remaining interest in The Childress Index and The Hollis News were acquired. Later that year, The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon, The Knoxville County News, The Post Dispatch and The Wellington Leader were acquired. In 2010, The Colossal Classifieds, an area-wide shopper, was launched. For additional information, please contact us at 888-400-1083 or 940-657-3142. More information at blackburnmediagroup.com.

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Ramblings of a Homesick Runaway

The best Thanksgiving is yet to come

By Kurt McCord

As Thanksgiving Day is quickly approaching, I am thankful for so many things. Even as I type these words, my healthy children are laughing in the other room. I have a career I love, and I am respected in my field. I feel I have many more happy years to come. I haven't always felt this way, though.

In the summer of 1961, Roger Maris of the New York Yankees was on pace to break Babe Ruth's single-season, homerun record. The baseball commissioner at the time, an awful little man named Ford Frick, was a close friend of the Babe's — who by then was deceased — and Frick was very vocal about the fact he did not want Maris to break Babe's record of 60 home runs.

After one of the most memorable summers in the history of the game, Maris narrowly edged out teammate Mickey Mantle and hit 61 homeruns, thus breaking The Babe's record.

However, Ford Frick announced Maris did not break the record, because when the Babe played, there were only

156 games in the season, and when Maris played, there were 164. Since Maris broke the record in those last eight games, an asterisk was forever placed behind that No. 61.

Maris and many baseball fans were upset there were two different single-season, homerun records. Maris deserved that record.

Thankfully, the league finally got it right, removing the asterisk from that number in 1990, giving Maris the most-coveted accomplishment in professional sports.

Maris died in 1988, never knowing the record was his.

I'll never forget the happiest Thanksgiving of my life. I enlisted in the Army in July 1999. Combat infantry division plus July plus Fort Benning, Ga., equals misery. I probably should've displayed a little more common sense when choosing a time of year to enlist.

I'd never been away from home for any significant amount of time, and I was desperately homesick in my first few days. I was surrounded by people from all different walks of life, with different values,

upbringings, socioeconomic statuses and religions.

Some were there because they genuinely wanted to serve their country; some were there because they had no other viable options. Throwing 50 of these people in a room the size of a regulation basketball court and expecting them to work as a unit seemed like an exercise in futility.

We had a few days before our actual training started, and clashes broke out almost immediately. However, as the weeks passed, something extraordinary happened. All differences were put aside. We realized each of us was different, but our goal was the same. We just had to survive the next four months.

We shared in our agonies and rejoiced in our victories. Our platoon became known as the honor platoon, and we were collectively singled out as the best.

One thing people might not realize about basic training is there is an incredible amount of time to think. Hours standing in formation, 12-hour road marches and guard shifts were spent thinking about families, home and the promise of easier

days to come.

Letters from home were precious, especially the ones I received from my brother, Matthew. Graduation day was Wednesday, Nov. 24, 1999, the day before Thanksgiving. My brother, his wife, Megan, my mom and my stepdad were all in attendance. It was the proudest day of my life.

My Fort Benning family said our tearful goodbyes, and I remember how thankful I was to spend those four months with that group of men. To this day, I think of them and wonder how they are doing, or if any of them died defending our country.

After our last formation, my family hopped on a plane back to Texas, and drove through the night to get to Haskell. We slept for a few hours and headed to Thanksgiving lunch at my "Mymom's" house in Goree. I was surrounded by family; it was an incredible feeling considering the juxtaposition of what I'd just been through. It was, by far, the happiest Thanksgiving of my life.

Little did I know that I had only one more Thanksgiving left without an asterisk.

An asterisk was forever

placed beside my holidays on May 20, 2001. My brother and best friend, Matthew, was called to heaven that day. The first few holiday seasons beginning with 2001, I refused to celebrate. How could I? We had never spent a holiday apart, and now I was left without him for a lifetime.

Christmas gifts, happy TV commercials, people in the Christmas spirit were grueling reminders of what I had lost. As time has passed, and especially now that I have kids, the holidays are easier. I am able to remember my holidays with Matthew fondly.

Nostalgia and wistfulness have replaced unimaginable despair. In recent years, however, I have often felt guilty about my asterisk. Am I cheating those around me by not being as excited about the holidays as they are? Should I pretend my asterisk doesn't exist?

Recently, I've come to a revelation. My asterisk is perfectly fine. I'm no Dr. Phil; in fact, taking advice from me is akin to gathering nautical advice from the captain of the Titanic. But here's my advice to those of you who have lost loved

ones and struggle through the holidays.

The realization your holidays are never going to be the same should not be hidden; it should be acknowledged and accepted. Our loved ones are worth missing. I joyfully accept my asterisk.

I think of Matthew often, tell stories about him to my kids, laugh at the great times we had. This has helped me to enjoy the holidays again.

Don't get me wrong, I still miss him terribly, but that's OK. I know I'll see him again, and what an incredible day of Thanksgiving that will be.

I recently came across one of those old letters he wrote when I was in basic training. When Matthew wrote those letters, only God knew his words would comfort me in completely different situations. The letter begins like this:

"I can only imagine what you're going through. Just hang in there, it won't last forever."

So true.

Kurt McCord, a Goree native, lives with his family in Corinth. Email him at kurt.mccord@gmail.com.

The 501 Faux, false, fake

My Arkansas friend Beverly has a fake fireplace in her big new house. She likes it. I forgot to ask her if it crackles. If it does, there's no doubt a setting on her remote control for the "fire" to adjust the crackling volume. If she wants to add the smell of burning wood, no doubt someone is selling



HANABA MUNN WELCH

logs and glowing coals put out heat? Yes. Just because something is faux doesn't mean it doesn't work.

In case you can't tell, I've got mixed feelings about all things faux. I should get over it. If my husband and I ever get a fireplace, it'll probably be one like hers. In a few years, I won't know the difference.

How about that word "faux"? It's French, of course, America's primary go-to language for all words and phrases that don't sound quite chic

enough in English.

True or false: "Faux" means "false." True. "Faux" is the word to use to avoid saying "fake," unless you want to say "fake." Then go for it.

Take Beverly's fake-faux fireplace. If you smelled the burning pine, heard the crackling logs and then entered the hearth room, you'd initially think everything was authentic — a real-life case of trompe l'oeil.

Interesting, isn't it, that deceptive stuff sounds better in French? If you don't know the literal translation of "trompe l'oeil," it's "trick the eye," the artsy phrase of choice to describe things like painted fake staircases that can cause unwary viewers to walk unsuspectingly into walls. Yep, if you're going to be tricked by a painter, it somehow softens the blow when it happens in French. My theory.

By the way, if you dislike the French for sabotaging English, think twice. We are the ones doing the borrowing. Furthermore, it works both ways. The French nearly all say "le weekend" now instead of "fin de la semaine." That makes some Frenchmen mad. Obviously mother tongues don't always meet the challenges of expression, apologies to mother tongues everywhere.

Take "gemutlichkeit," the German word that's crept into English to describe a coziness where everyone is at peace with everyone else, typically with a beer stein in hand and swaying to a folk tune, jovially relaxed in a group setting, probably something like when people smoke marijuana together (my knowledge is second-hand), except with a bit more energy. Let's see if I'm right.

DICTIONARY PAUSE.

"Geniality; friendliness" is what my dictionary says. Talk about a lackluster definition. I like mine better.

In the dictionary of my mind, and probably yours too, definitions are more than words. They all carry connotations and evoke images. Sometimes it's just too much, this burden of language(s).

Shall we all just go to Beverly's hearing to sit in silence, staring into the flames, our brains turned off? We could invent a new gemutlichkeit — something beyond words.

If the world didn't already have enough faux religions, I'd tell her to expect us.

Hanaba Munn Welch is a contributor and columnist for The Post Dispatch. Email her at hanaba.quanah@gmail.com.

Just Jeff Hunting for S'quatch

(Editor's note: The following column is the second of a two-part series.)

Well, the first day in camp was about checking our guns and ammo. We got all of our equipment stored away when Coach asked when are we going to eat.

"He Who Likes Hairly Women," our guide, tells him "Son, I have been around lumber jacks, served four years on a ship and I have never seen anybody eat like you guys. I would ask if you have a hollow leg, but by looking at you I can tell you boys store it in your midsection."

We finally got in the woods and found some sign of a Bigfoot — a big footprint, and when I say big I mean huge; it was almost as big as Fred's forehead. We also found some hair on some twigs and a trail led to a steep incline toward a cave.

We are in S'quatch country, so we decided to go in and explore. This is where we found out who still has a man card and who had to squat to pee.

Coach might be the biggest, but he wasn't interested in leading in the cave, and Fred kept telling me, "Dawg, you lead. Chase is just 6 and he needs his Dad." I agreed with him,

but I remembered Michelle has a big life insurance policy on me, and I never want her to be that happy.

So we asked Tony to lead us, and he started to make a lot of sense. "Hey, wouldn't it be best to wait for them outside where we can see it and either rope S'quatch or shoot him?"

We took a vote, which took five seconds, and we all agreed Rope a S'quatch had to be a big reward somewhere for a live S'quatch.

Finally after about three hours we got this smell in the air that smelled like moldy cheese that had passed through a pregnant goat. It was horrible. It made Coach Steele's feet smell like a rose garden.

Then all of a sudden at the entrance of the cave it appeared kinda like an oversized bear with big feet and a long face and covered in hair. To be honest it reminded me of Tony's prom date, Nastinski Mongoli, a Bulgarian exchange student who was a weightlifter we called "Nasty." I swear S'quatch looked like a thinner version of "Nasty" — that thing was ugly.

Coach took charge of the roping since he worked on a ranch when he was in college. Fred laughed.

I asked, "What is it?" Fred shook his head said, "Can you imagine that poor horse? Damn, that would be cruelty to an animal carrying Coach all day."

So Coach makes the throw, and it hits bulls-eye.

We did not think this through. As soon as S'quatch hits the end of the rope, Coach looks like a top-water lure — the problem he is on land and bouncing off every tree and rock.

Finally we all grab the rope and slow S'quatch down enough to rope his legs. Coach gets up and looks like he just got his rear whipped in a fight with Mike Tyson. It took

us 15 minutes and four rolls of duct tape to get S'quatch tied down, but we did it.

The hard part was carrying out a live S'quatch, which weighed more than 400 pounds and was 7-foot-4 inches tall.

We took a picture with it standing next to Coach. The picture weighs four pounds, but it is way too much ugly for small kids to even see.

When we got back to camp, we where the heroes of the granola crunchers. Everyone wanted their hands on S'quatch, and we had to bail.

The problem with four smart guys like us, we had no plan after we captured S'quatch. What the heck would we do with it, and what do you feed one?

Well, Fred tried to put some refried beans and tortillas down him, and the next morning he was stone cold dead.

Fred was confused. "I used the same recipe Tanya does."

"How does it usually taste?" I asked.

"Heck, I don't know. She never cooks. If I want good food, I go to my mom's."

So Fred killed the first S'quatch with beans and tortillas.

When we did the unveiling of the mount, I looked over at Fred and he had a tear coming down his face. "What's wrong Fred?" I asked.

"Those durn cupcakes remind me of ol' Spanky." He told me Spanky use to jump out of cupcakes at bachelor parties when he first started dancing. I just laughed.

What a great trip and lots of memories. Some good, and some well not so good.

Jeff Stanfield is a not-so-politically correct writer and Southern humorist. Email him at jstanfield@windstream.net.



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More Americans Plan to Shop Small and Spend Big

Small Business Saturday Is This Weekend

Consumers say they will be out in full force on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, Small Business Saturday, to support the small businesses that fuel the U.S. economy, create jobs and keep communities thriving.

Of the tens of millions of Americans familiar with Small Business Saturday, 67 percent are planning to "shop small" on the day, November 24th, 2012 (44% said they shopped at small businesses on Small Business Saturday in 2011), according to the Small Business Saturday Consumer Insights Survey. The new research, released today by the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) and American Express, shows that of those consumers who shopped last year on Small Business Saturday, 70 percent plan to spend more or the same amount this year and will spend on average \$100 on Small Business Saturday.

Thousands of small businesses around the country are planning special offers, partnering with neighboring businesses, and hosting events to support the small business shopping day. Small Business Saturday, which falls

between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, was created in response to small business owners' most pressing need: more customers.

"Small Business Saturday has become the ceremonial kick-off to the holiday shopping season for small business owners across the country," said Susan Sobott, President at American Express OPEN. "Small Business Saturday provides an opportunity to harness the nation's enthusiasm for small business and celebrate their impact on local communities and the national economy."

Additional findings from the Small Business Saturday Insights Consumer Survey include:

- The top five places that consumers plan to shop on Small Business Saturday are restaurants (52%), bakeries (35%), clothing stores (34%), gift shops (31%) and book shops (29%).

- The number one reason that consumers plan to support small businesses on November 24th is they value the contributions small businesses make to their community (76%), while the number two reason was better customer service (59%).

- 50% of those planning to shop on Small Business Saturday plan to "shop small" with a friend.

- 67% of consumers plan to eat out at small, independently-owned restaurant on Small Business Saturday this year.

- Word-of-mouth is the top way that consumers find small, independently-owned shops and restaurants in their communities (79%).

"America's small businesses contribute to their communities in innumerable ways—creating half of private sector jobs, generating the revenue that spurs continued growth, and supporting the families they employ; it's no surprise that American

consumers have a deep trust in, and admiration for, the small-business community," said NFIB CEO Dan Danner. "Small Business Saturday gives us a chance to show our appreciation and to help America's job creators in a very real way, by patronizing small shops, restaurants and service providers. Anything that helps with sales is certainly appreciated by small-business owners, many of whom have struggled to stay afloat in a rough and uncertain economy."

One reason for the success of Small Business Saturday has been that many community groups and small businesses have taken ownership of the day. According to the

first installment of the Small Business Saturday Insights survey released earlier this month by NFIB and American Express, of the small business owners planning to leverage Small Business Saturday, 81 percent said Small Business Saturday would be more effective if their communities came together and hosted events.

For its part, NFIB wants to lend a hand and put small businesses front and center by helping small and independent businesses to get the word out online about their best Small Business Saturday deals. Small-business owners can go to www.nfib.com/smallbizsat to submit information about their

business and why shoppers should visit on November 24th. NFIB will promote these submissions on NFIB.com and in front of NFIB's 150,000+ Facebook fans and 30,000+ Twitter followers.

For the third year in a row, American Express is offering Cardmembers the opportunity to get a \$25 statement credit when they enroll their eligible American Express® Card and then use the card to spend \$25 or more on a single in-store transaction at a qualifying small business location on Small Business Saturday. Enrollment is limited on www.shopsmall.com. Offer terms apply and are available at www.shopsmall.com/offerterms.



FOOTBALL

From Page 1

the other team" is how Thompson describes his approach to the game. Never mind the other team has never done anything to make him mad — especially a playoff team the Moguls have never faced.

"I just think about something that makes me real mad ... like getting called names," he said, describing a method an actor might use to conjure up a required emotion.

For senior Roderick Taylor, running back and defensive back, videos help his game. Seeing footage of his own mistakes has enabled him to hang onto the ball better, he said.

What matters to Taylor is "just getting out there and playing with my teammates," he said.

Career-wise Taylor thinks he'd like to be a physical therapist. He's not dealt with Video also plays a role in senior tackle Emilio Avalos' sports life, too.

"I watch Warren Sapp videos on YouTube," Avalos said. Sapp played defensive tackle in the National Football League for 13 seasons.

It doesn't hurt that Avalos also lifts weights and, to clear his mind for games, listens to music.

Victor Garcia, a junior who plays running back and corner, has a simple philosophy — "keep working hard."

Garcia's favorite thing to do is run the ball. For him and his fellow Moguls, football is more than work. It's fun.

It's a word everyone understands when a team has a winning year.

"These kids make our job easy," Corcoran said. "They're just really a lot of fun to coach."

Unfunded mandates

Texas sets sites on Obamacare

Perry says no to creation of health care exchanges

By Wayne Hodgkin
The News-Courier

AUSTIN — Nov. 16 was the deadline for Texas and the other states to declare their intentions regarding the formation of health care exchanges, as set forth in the federal "Affordable Care" law, referred to by some as "Obamacare."

Gov. Rick Perry's declaration came in the form of a Nov. 15 letter to U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.

"As long as the federal government has the ability to force unknown mandates and costs upon our citizens, while retaining the sole power in approving what an exchange looks like, the notion of a

state exchange is merely an illusion," Perry wrote, adding, "It would not be fiscally responsible to put hard-working Texans on the financial hook for an unknown amount of money to operate a system under rules that have not even been written."

Perry originally declared his intention not to implement a state exchange or expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act in a July letter to Sebelius.

Meanwhile, on Nov. 15, state Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, filed Senate Bill 84, legislation proposing to create a state health care exchange. The legislation would make it possible for Texas families and individuals who are unable to obtain

coverage through their employer to purchase a reasonably priced policy through the exchange.

Ellis said SB 84 "will bring tens of billions of dollars to the state, expand Medicaid to approximately 1.5 million additional Texans, set up a state health insurance exchange that works for Texas and guarantees that the Commissioner of Insurance has the tools necessary to ensure rates are fair and affordable. The expansion of Medicaid costs less in four years than what Texas hospitals spend on the uninsured population in one year. The needs of these individuals will not disappear if we fail to expand Medicaid, but we will lose out on a nine to one match that other states will utilize and we will continue to pass the cost down to local hospitals and ultimately to taxpayers," Ellis added.

Ellis, in his effort, faces Republican majorities in the state Senate, the state House and the governor's veto power, should SB 84 pass both Senate and House.

Prediction: busy Texas roads

Texans who travel over the Thanksgiving holiday will have plenty of company on the road, Texas Department of Transportation reported on Nov. 14.

According to TxDOT, results of a reader survey from Texas Highways — the state's official travel magazine — show "48 percent of Texans plan to travel, and among those, 92 percent said they will be traveling by car on Texas roadways."

Before setting out, drivers can check road conditions by visiting DriveTexas.org.

Officials call for drug screening

Gov. Perry on Nov. 14 was joined by state Sen. Tommy Williams, R-The Woodlands, state Rep. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe, and other Republican lawmakers to call for reforms to the state's welfare and unemployment

benefit programs, including authorizing drug screenings for those applying for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Lewisville, pre-filed SB 11 for the upcoming legislative session to require drug screening for temporary assistance program applicants, and Williams, the governor's office reported, plans to file a bill to require drug screening for unemployment insurance applicants.

A governor's office news release reported the Texas Association of Business and National Federation of Independent Business joined the officials in a news conference in support of the proposed welfare reforms.

Tax revenue increases again

State sales tax revenue in October was \$2.03 billion, up 8.2 percent compared to October 2011, Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said Nov. 7.

Combs pointed out that the growth in sales tax revenue continued to be led by collections from the oil and natural gas-related sectors, while strong consumer spending drove gains in retail trade and the restaurant sector.

Combs said she would send November local sales tax allocations totaling \$611.5 million to cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts, up 5.4 percent compared to November 2011.

Unemployment figures improve
Texas Workforce Commission on Nov. 16 reported the state's unemployment rate dropped to 6.6 percent in October from 6.8 percent in September.

Also, employers added 36,600 total nonfarm jobs in October for a total of 277,400 jobs added in Texas over the year. The national unemployment rate was reported at 7.9 percent.

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PERSON APPOINTED WEEK P.A.S.S. END TO STAY SOBER

Save a Life
Texas Department of Transportation

Make fitness a part of holiday season

HOUSTON — The holidays are a time for family traditions so why not start a new tradition by making fitness a part of your annual festivities, suggests a Baylor College of Medicine (www.bcm.edu) orthopedic surgeon.

"Holiday food and drinks have a lot of calories so it's a good idea to incorporate physical activity into this time of year," said Dr. Theodore Shybut, assistant professor of orthopedic surgery at BCM. "One way to do that is by making fitness activities a part of your annual holiday gathering."

There are several holiday-themed 5k and 10k walks and runs that the whole family can participate in, he noted.

"You can tailor these events to the fitness level that's right for you and your

family by choosing to either run or walk," Shybut said.

In mild climates, riding bikes is another fun activity that the whole family can enjoy, and there are even places that rent bikes so out-of-town guests can also participate. Rollerblading is another fun family activity.

If you're the one heading out of town, find out where the best walking or running trails and local parks are located. Be sure to pack your sneakers and consider bringing a Frisbee or football for some spirited-family fun.

"If you're heading to the mountains, skiing and snow shoeing are great ways to stay active," Shybut said. "With a little research and advance planning, you can find fun events for the whole family that offer physical activity."

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Greyhound debaters prepare for Big Spring

The News-Courier

KNOX CITY — Knox City High School cross-examination debate teams are preparing for the Big Spring UIL tournament Dec. 8 after competing at San Angelo Central High School last weekend. "I'm very proud of their

performance," debate coach Caleb Hudgens said. "Big tournaments like Central draw big-school and good competition."

Sophomores M'Kayla Ericson and Jessica Wilburn went 1-and-2 at the tournament, defeating Big Spring and taking losses from Seminole and Sny-

der. The girls didn't advance to the quarterfinals.

"I'm glad that there were so many AAA, AAAA and AAAAA high schools at this tournament," second-year debater Wilburn said. "Debating against big schools makes us a lot stronger for district."

This year's policy debate

resolution, or topic, asks affirmative teams to propose cases that substantially increase U.S. investment in its transportation infrastructure. Opposing teams negate the resolution using a number of different arguments and strategies. Teams both affirm and negate the resolution at tournaments.

"Going neg (negative) is

my favorite," Ericson said. "We just wrote a 'fiscal cliff' argument to show why it's a bad idea to increase government spending to use for San Angelo. We'll definitely be revamping the argument for Big Spring depending on what happens in Washington."

Junior Tyler Clark, sophomore Ian Lagway and fresh-

men Cheyenne Camp and Sheldon Baty will join Ericson and Wilburn at the district meet in January.

Patton Springs, Aspermont, Benjamin, Chillicothe, Crowell, Guthrie, Harrold, Jayton, Matador, Paducah, Rule, Spur and Vernon Northside will compete in Knox City's spring UIL district.



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier

Knox City High School debaters are sharpening their debating skills, winning some and losing some at area competitions, and enjoying the challenge. They are, front row, from left, Jessica Wilburn, Cheyenne Camp and M'Kayla Ericson; back row, from left, Tyler Clark, Sheldon Baty, Ian Lagway and coach Caleb Hudgens.

Taking part



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier

Munday High School Community Live Involvement Council (CLIC) members spruce up a downtown Munday lamp post Friday with lighted greenery and a ribbon for the holidays. Trey Tidwell is on the ladder. Others, from left, are Mayte Torres, Yadi Gonzalez and Mariela Jasso.

Go Moguls WIN STATE!



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LEGAL NOTICE

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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 Twin Peaks, Strawn Lower and Strawn 5400' formations in the S.B. Burnett Estate "N" Lease Well Numbers N-11R, N-27R, N-44R, N-53R and N-86R. The proposed injection well is located 17 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 5000' to 5500'.

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, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas, 78711-2967. (Telephone 512/463-6792)

Brazos Valley Care Home is still taking applications for Activity Director. Must be energetic, enthusiastic and enjoy working with the elderly. Training and Certification will be provided. Apply in person at 605 S. Ave F, Knox City

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54th Carol of Lights slated for Dec. 1



Photo by Sothy Eng/Texas Tech
The 54th annual Carol of Lights celebration at Texas Tech University will be Dec. 1 in Memorial Circle.

Callie Jones

Special to the Dispatch

Texas Tech University hosts the 54th annual Carol of Lights celebration "Illuminate" on Dec. 1. The night kicks off with the traditional carillon concert at 6:30 p.m. performed by Tom Hughes, and the outdoor ceremony will follow at 7 p.m.

The Residence Halls Association has sponsored the event since its creation in 1956, growing it into the tradition it is today, drawing crowds of more than 20,000 each year.

The Texas Tech choirs, trombone groups, Masked

Rider and Raider Red will be present, and with the flip of a switch to begin the ceremony, more than 25,000 red, orange and white lights will illuminate the night sky.

As Texas Tech and RHA continue their commitment to sustainability, nearly all of this year's lights will be transitioned to LED bulbs, projected to reduce energy consumption by 87 percent.

The event will be held in Memorial Circle, the Science Quad and Engineering Key. Parking will be available in the Commuter North parking lot adjacent to Jones AT&T Stadium.

Vehicle traffic on campus streets in the vicinity of Memorial Circle will be restricted at 5:30 p.m. and will remain closed until the conclusion of the event.

Immediately following the Carol of Lights, the Texas Tech School of Music will host its annual Carols Concert at Hemmle Recital Hall beginning at 8 p.m.

The lights will be lit every night from dusk until midnight from Dec. 2 through Jan. 1.

RHA is one of the largest organizations at Texas Tech. Its main goals are to promote a high quality of leadership in a democratic form of student government and provide the best possible living and learning experience for students living in the residence halls.



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo

To help prevent foodborne illness during the holidays, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service suggests following basic food safety steps — clean, separate, cook and chill — and to throw out "questionable" leftovers.

Don't let foodborne illness spoil the holidays

By Paul Schattenberg

Special to the Dispatch

COLLEGE STATION — While the holidays are a time for surprises, one holiday surprise to be avoided at all costs is foodborne bacteria, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

"Foodborne bacteria can make people sick and take the joy out of the holidays," said Mary Bielamowicz, AgriLife Extension nutrition specialist and licensed dietitian, College Station. "Watching out for contamination and taking the proper steps to ensure better food preparation and preservation safety will reduce the chance of your holidays being spoiled by a food-related illness."

Bielamowicz said making sure all kitchen items — knives, cutting boards, cookware, serving pieces, dishes, food storage containers, etc. — are thoroughly cleaned before use is the first step toward fighting bacteria.

"Make sure you fol-

low the basic food safety rules, which are to clean, separate, cook and chill," she said. "Be sure you and anyone helping you washes their hands thoroughly with warm water and soap before handling any food."

She said raw meat should be separated from fruits and vegetables in the grocery store and refrigerator, as well as on the kitchen counter.

"Make sure your refrigerator is set at 40 degrees or lower and keep the door closed as much as possible during food preparation and storage," she said. "Perishable foods should be refrigerated within two hours after purchase."

"Cook foods to their proper temperature and refrigerate them promptly after cooking to reduce opportunities for bacterial growth."

Bielamowicz said leftovers should be eaten within three to four days after refrigeration.

"Remember that food may often smell or even taste fine after that time, but it still may have enough bacteria to make

someone ill," she said. "The general rule for food safety when it comes to leftovers is: 'When in doubt, throw it out.'"

Bielamowicz said the nonprofit Partnership for Food Safety, whose stated mission is to "end illness and death from foodborne infections in the United States," has developed a Holiday Food Safety Success Kit available to families wanting to learn more about the basics of food safety.

The kit, which can be found at holidayfoodsafety.org, provides food safety advice and meal planning information. It also contains information on buying and cooking a turkey and has a holiday menu planner, holiday recipes, and fun and educational activities for children.

More information on food safety can be found at the Fight BAC! website at fightbac.org as well as at foodsafety.gov, which provides consumer food safety information from various government sources.

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