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KNOX COUNTY DISTRICT  
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# THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2012

KCNEWSCOURIER.COM

75 CENTS

## KC man pleads guilty in death of grandson

By Wayne Hodgkin  
The News-Courier

BENJAMIN — A Knox City man has pleaded guilty in the case of his 5-year-old grandson's death on June 15, 2008.

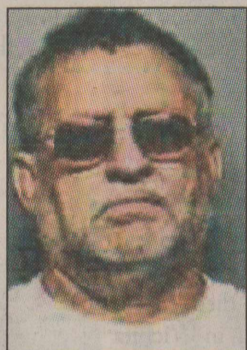
Allen Dean Rhodes, 58, entered his plea to one charge of criminally negligent homicide before District Judge William H. Heatly on Nov. 28 in 50th District Court.

Rhodes has been indicted twice by a local grand jury in the case, first in December 2010 and then again this past September following his arrest for trying to sell a controlled substance to an undercover officer.

After posting a \$25,000 bond, Rhodes was released from jail shortly after his most recent arrest.

According to officials Rhodes and his wife, Janice, who also was indicted in the case of their grandson's death, were the legal guardians of the child, Trevor Austin Tears.

See **KC MAN GUILTY**, Page 4



RHODES

## Former county official charged with embezzling funds

By Wayne Hodgkin  
The News-Courier

BENJAMIN — A Knox County woman accused of taking more than \$20,000 in county funds has pleaded not guilty in district court to charges of theft by a public servant.

Michelle Solis Esquivel, 42, of Knox City turned herself into sheriff's officials Oct. 25. She was arraigned Nov. 28 in 50th District Court in Paducah before Judge William H. Heatly and entered a not guilty plea.

According to the grand jury indictment, Esquivel is accused of embezzling more than \$20,000 but less than \$100,000 from Knox County's "hot check fund" between Dec. 23, 2008, and Nov. 4, 2011.

She had worked as the administrator of the "hot check fund" and as the county judge's and county attorney's secretary for a number

See **EMBEZZLE**, Page 4



ESQUIVEL

## Munday 66, Hamlin 13



Terry Messer/For the News-Courier

Senior Mogul running back Roddrick Taylor carries the ball down the field to the endzone Saturday in Munday's 66-13 win over Hamlin at Wylie.

## Moguls Maul Hamlin; Face Albany in Rematch

By Hanaba Munn Welch  
The News-Courier

ABILENE — The Munday Moguls added one more win to their perfect 11-0 record Saturday with a 66-13 win over the Hamlin Pied Pipers in Wylie Bulldog Stadium.

Turnovers and interceptions broke up plays on both sides, but it was the heavily favored Moguls who gained the most when things didn't always go as planned.

The regional semifinal match started with a turnover when Munday linebacker Ryder Cude recovered Hamlin's fumbled first snap.

Four plays later the Moguls were on the board with a 5-yard touchdown run from running back Roddrick

Taylor, who then scampered untouched into the end zone to add extra points.

The Moguls never lost the lead. It's their style. On defense, Cude kept getting it right, making 16 tackles and recovering one more fumble.

Taylor covered the most ground for the Munday offense, racking up 124 yards rushing and 83 receiving in the sunny afternoon game.

Defensive end Jake Myers turned two interceptions into touchdowns.

"I felt like our offensive line came off the ball really well. Probably the best I've seen them this year," Mogul head coach Patrick Corcoran said.

As reflected in the score, the defense didn't do too

See **MOGULS**, Page 8

## Knox Notes

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

### Retired teachers

Members of Knox County Retired School Personnel will meet at noon Tuesday in the social hall at Munday First Baptist Church. Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish, bingo gifts for local nursing homes and two children's books. For information, contact Nell Sloan at dsns@srcaccess.net.

### Recycling center hours

The Munday Recycling Center is now open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursdays and 10 a.m. to noon Fridays. Plastic grocery bags are no longer being accepted. Most other recyclable materials are accepted, including No. 1 and 3 plastic containers and most electronics, including cell phones. For information, contact Cindy Zuniga at 940-445-3666.

### Angel Tree

The Knox County Child Welfare Board is accepting gifts for children of Goree and Munday. Those wishing to participate are asked to visit the Angel Tree at First National Bank of Munday, take an Angel off the tree and buy that child a gift. Each child will receive new clothes and a toy. All gifts must be delivered to Munday Tire and Appliance by Saturday. Donations also will be accepted.

### Christmas-Hanukkah

The Rev. Dr. Al Reichman of Chosen People Ministries will speak during a special worship service at 6 p.m. Dec. 12 at First United Methodist Church of Knox City, 406 SE Second St. Reichman will give an explanation of how Christianity's "Christmas" and Judaism's "Hanukkah" are connected. The service is free and open to the public. A love offering will be taken. A meal will be served prior to the service. RSVP by noon Sunday to 940-658-3517.

### Christmas meal outreach

Believers Chapel is sponsoring its third annual Christmas Meal Outreach designed to provide a holiday meal for any widows, shut-ins or others who have a special need on Christmas. Deliveries will be made Dec. 23 in Munday and the surrounding communities. For information, contact Shannon Waters at 940-422-4885 by Dec. 22 and leave a contact name, address and phone number.

## Corrections

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

## News on the go



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

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## Seymour man dies in Knox County accident

By Wayne Hodgkin  
The News-Courier

BENJAMIN — A Seymour man killed in a one-vehicle crash early Monday morning was not wearing his seat belt, according to state investigators.

David Anthony Lamb, 26, was westbound on U.S. 82 about five miles west of Benjamin near Farm-to-Market Road 267 South in central Knox County when the white 2003 Dodge four-door pickup he was apparently driving left the roadway.

"Lamb failed to negotiate a curve, causing the vehicle to skid across the eastbound lane, into the south barrow ditch and overturned through a fence," said Senior

Trooper Sparky Dean, spokesman for the Department of Public Safety in Abilene.

Investigators believe the accident happened about 2 a.m. Monday.

Dean said the victim was not wearing a seat belt and was ejected from the vehicle.

Knox County Justice of the Peace Vonnie Ivey pronounced the body about 8:30 a.m. She said the man has relatives living in Knox County.

Texas Highway Patrol Cpl. Nick Jimenez continues to investigate the accident. He said the weather that night was dry and clear.

Funeral arrangements were pending with Smith Family Funeral Homes in Munday.



Wayne Hodgkin/Special to the Reporter-News

Texas Department of Public Safety Troopers Nick Jimenez, left, and Jodie Tullos, right, walk back to the roadway as they investigate a single-vehicle accident Monday morning off U.S. 82 near FM 267 South in Knox County that claimed the life of a Seymour man

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 Editorial: Noon Mondays

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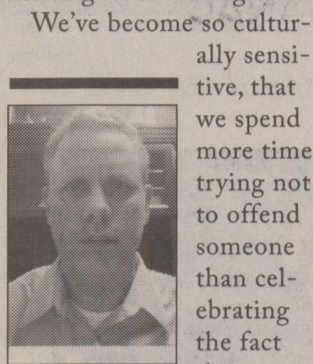
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**Paperboy**

**Proud to be an American**

Whatever happened to American indoctrination? The United States has been referred to as a melting pot for decades, but is it anymore? Are we still melting ... becoming one?



**CHRIS BLACKBURN**

We've become so culturally sensitive, that we spend more time trying not to offend someone than celebrating the fact that we are free citizens of a great country. Nearly every American has roots from another country. Only descendants of Native Americans, which is a very small percentage of the general population, can trace their ancestry to this country.

With that in common, it is paramount that our new citizens be indoctrinated into our culture. But, what does that mean exactly?

In my opinion, it means that immigrants to this country should learn our laws, pledge, anthem and do their best to learn English.

Once upon a time, that's how it worked. You didn't bring your country to the U.S.A. You left your country for this country and pledged your life and your

allegiance to that end. Does that mean you forget where you came from? Of course not. Does that mean you forget your pride in being from China, or Mexico, or France? Not at all.

But, at the very least, it should mean you made a lifetime decision to become an American and join our society and all it offers.

For 30 years we've had multiculturalism and political correctness placed at the forefront. We're so busy trying to show each other and emphasize our foreign culture and influence that we've forgotten who we (collectively) are.

I think it's wonderful to learn about other cultures, but we have our own culture here and this country works when our citizenry is geared to the greater good of this country.

This country has had dark and terrible days. Some of our history has been filled with things we'd all like to change. We can't. We must learn from the lessons history has taught us and become better.

Over the past several years we've had our pride hurt. We've been told how bad things are here and frankly, we've suffered from a lost identity.

We do have serious issues. Guess what? We've always had serious issues. We will likely always have serious issues.

Still, through it all, we are still here. There are still people wanting to come here. And despite all you hear about China and their rapid growth, we're still number one.

You don't see millions of people trying to flee the U.S. for greener pastures. You don't see oppressed and starving people because we take care of our own. Sometimes it's not pretty and our system is slow to evolve, but to discount this country and have a defeatist attitude

about it is preposterous.

In 1621, long before there was a United States, Pilgrim Edward Winslow expressed his gratitude: "God be praised, we had a good increase of corn ... by the goodness of God, we are far from want." Winslow also said: "Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling (turkey hunting), so that we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors."

The Pilgrims invited Chief Massasoit and his tribe for three days of feasting, games and celebration. The good relations the Pilgrims (and Puritans) enjoyed with the Natives lasted some 50 years. That is the tradition we honor with Thanksgiving Day.

It is up to the citizens of this country as to where we go from here. We are what we are. Live, learn and get better. That, in itself, is all we can ask for and how we evolve as a country.

Every single day we should get up, give thanks, and work to do better than the day before. I promise you, if that were truly the case, you would see this country make the necessary strides we need to make to continue to build a more perfect union. One that the world continues to see as a beacon of freedom and a place where hard work can make dreams come true.

I would like our leaders to stress unity while embracing individual freedoms. Appreciate your neighbor and their heritage, but recognize that if you are here, you are an American and you are expected to recognize all that entails.

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

**Deaths**  
**Steve Reyes**

Esteban H. "Steve" Reyes, 97, of Knox City died Monday, Dec. 3, 2012, in Wichita Falls.

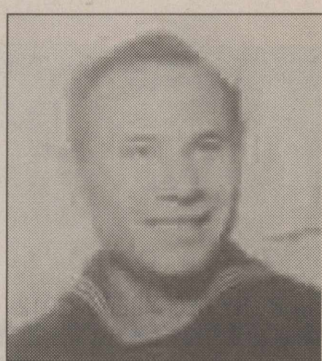
Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. today at Abundant Life Christian Fellowship Church with the Rev. Tex Cox officiating. Burial will follow in the Knox City Cemetery under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Homes.

Esteban Reyes was born on May 12, 1915, in Alpine to Jose and Nellie (Holgin) Reyes. He married Benita Flores. Mr. Reyes was a mechanic and owned a Phillips 66 service station in Knox City.

Steve served his country in the U.S. Navy during World War II and was honorably discharged in October 1945 as a Fireman First Class.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jose and Manuela Reyes; his wife, Benita Flores Reyes; sons Steve Jr. and Rueben; two sisters; four brothers; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Survivors include daughters



**STEVE REYES**

Nellie Lewis of Knox City, Beatrice Caram, Mary Ann Palma and Stella Brand, all of Wichita Falls; 13 grandchildren; 18 great grandchildren; four great-great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

If desired, memorials can be given in Mr. Reyes' name to Hospice of Wichita Falls, 4909 Johnson Road, Wichita Falls, TX 76310; or Texhoma Christian Nursing Center, 300 Loop 11, Wichita Falls, TX 76305.

Online condolences and memories can be shared with the Reyes family at smith-familyfh.com.

**Anita Garza**

WICHITA FALLS — Anita Garza, 63, died Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012, in Wichita Falls. She was born March 29, 1949, in Falls City to Juan and Juanita Garai.

Survivors include sons and daughters-in-law Alfred Garza of Wichita Falls, Andrew Garza of Wichita Falls, Anthony and Jamie Garza of Wichita Falls, Arthur and Laila Garza of Seymour and Adam Garza of Wichita Falls; daughter Alisa Garza of Munday; and special friend Drew Silvas of Munday; and 19 grandchildren.

Rosary was Tuesday at St. George Catholic Church in



**ANITA GARZA**

Haskell. Funeral Mass was Wednesday at the church. Burial was in Weinert Cemetery in Weinert. Arrangements were under the direction of McCauley-Smith Funeral Home in Munday.

**Amerolis Guinn**

KNOX CITY — Amerolis Guinn, 92, died Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2012, at her home in Knox City.

Graveside services were Nov. 29 at Johnson Cemetery in Munday with Mel Rich officiating. Burial was under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Homes in Knox City.

She was born Feb. 3, 1920, in Truscott to William Frank and Virginia Mae Dockery Hutcheson. She married L.C. Guinn June 16, 1936. She was lifelong resident of Knox County and a self-employed partner of Guinn Sheet Metal and Plumbing. She was a member of Abundant Life Christian Fellowship Church in Knox City.

Survivors include daughters and son-in-law, Genie Holcomb of Knox City and Sue and Joe Rich of Garland; grandchildren Courtney Johnson, Mel Cure, Samantha and Chere; and her wonderful extended family and



**ANITA GARZA**

caregivers, including Adina Roberson, Rena Johnson, William Watson and Tonya Manuel, all of Knox City; along with Hospice, Wichita Falls.

She was preceded in death by her husband, L.C. Guinn; sisters Freddie Long and Jessie Henderson; brothers Hershel Hutcheson and Douglas Hutcheson; granddaughters Shelia and Simone; and grandson Chris Cure.

Online condolences and memories can be shared with the Guinn family at smith-familyfh.com.

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# Levels at Millers Creek now 'critical'

## Retrenching watershed, refurbishing wells both on the table

By Hanaba Munn Welch  
The News-Courier

MUNDAY — Like sweethearts sipping on the same drink at a soda fountain, more than one town is sucking water out of Millers Creek reservoir.

If rain doesn't fall to break the current drought, the lake level could drop low enough to cut off the supply of water. Imagine a louder sucking sound than straws reaching the end of a shared chocolate malt.

Not that the North Central Texas Municipal Water Authority would let the system suck air. But when the water level drops below the lowest

inlet in the intake pipe, the lake might as well be empty as far as participating municipalities and water corporations are concerned.

"At some point we reach the bottom inlet that we can pump from," said David Kuehler, general manager of the water district. "At that level we can't draw water out of our lake."

The lake was a 27.74 percent of its capacity Wednesday.

The loss of water, mostly to evaporation but also to usage, has occurred over time.

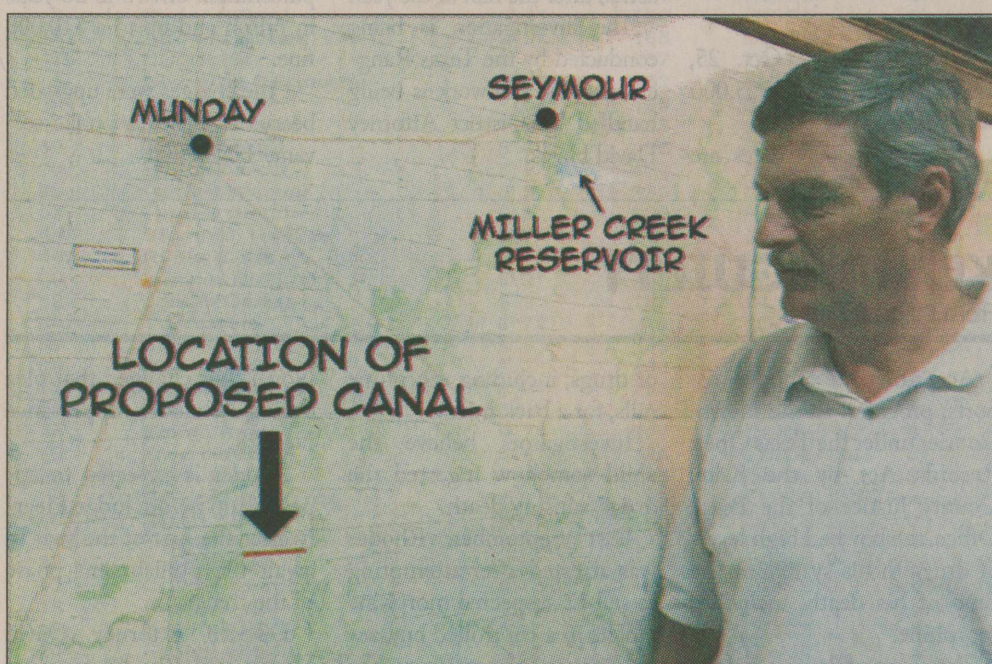
"The last time our lake was full was Aug. 5, 2007," Kuehler said. "It was real close to full that day — 98.6 percent."

On July 29, 2007, the percentage was 99.92 — full enough to lap at the top of the wall that dams Millers Creek and maintains the reservoir.

But most forecasters are predicting no quick end to the present drought. Two very hot summers in a row and an accompanying general lack of rain has hit Knox County and the surrounding region especially hard.

What to do? Water officials would like to construct a canal to increase the watershed of the lake — not all the time but when hearty rains

See MILLERS CREEK, Page 10



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier

A canal between Lake Creek and Brushy Creek could help capture runoff water to bring up the level of Miller Creek Reservoir, but the canal is only a proposal — not yet built or funded. Looking at the location on a map is David Kuehler, general manager of the North Central Texas Water District.



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Bonus Cash .....	\$1,000

\*Must Trade-In 1999 or Newer to Qualify

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Robert Hall Discount .....	\$220
Factory Rebate .....	\$3,000
All Star Edition .....	\$1,000
Bonus Cash .....	\$1,000
Trade-In Rebate .....	\$1,000*

\*Must Trade-In 1999 or Newer to Qualify

## SALE PRICE \$31,600

### 2012 Chevrolet 2500HD Reg Cab 4x4

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Factory Rebate .....	\$2,500

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2002 Chevrolet Tahoe, white/gray cloth, 5.3 V8, LS pkg, cargo doors, 103k, #50817 .....	Reduced \$7,900
2002 Ford F350 Crew Cab 2WD Flatbed, white/tan cloth, diesel, manual trans, 208k, #50698 .....	\$9,850
2004 Buick LeSabre Limited 4DR, white-gold pearl/tan leather, all power, 44k, #50846 .....	\$9,950
2005 Lincoln Towncar, Signature 4 Series, V8, Auto, White/Tan Leather, 68K #50604 .....	\$12,950
2007 Dodge Durango SLT 4x4, gray/gray leather, all power, V6 Auto, 78K, #50695 .....	\$15,000
2007 Chevrolet 1500 Ext Cab 4x4, white/tan cloth, 5.3 V8 Auto, pwr windows & locks, cruise, crossover toolbox, grille guard, 128k, #50825 .....	\$10,250
2007 Chevrolet 1500 Crew Cab 2WD, White/Black cloth, 5.3 V8, 107K, LT1, New body style, #50806 .....	\$15,500
2007 Chrysler Pacifica SUV, silver/gray cloth, V6 Auto, 6 passenger, aluminum wheels, touring edition, 86k, #50782 .....	Reduced \$9,995
2007 Toyota 4 Runner Sport 2WD, maroon/gray cloth, V8, sunroof, 68K, #50525 .....	\$17,100
2008 Buick Enclave CX AWD, gold/tan leather, power seats, V6, aluminum wheels, 66k, #50843 .....	\$19,500
2008 Chevrolet 1500 Ext Cab 4x4, white/black cloth, 4.8 V8, grille guard, tow pkg, 97k, #50678 .....	\$13,950
2008 Chevrolet Colorado Crew Cab 2WD, red/ebony cloth, 1LT, 71K #50606 .....	\$14,950
2009 Chevrolet 1500 Ext Cab 4x4, white/black cloth, 4.8 V8, grille guard, 106k, #50679 .....	\$17,750
2010 Chevrolet Equinox LT, white/charcoal cloth, 4 cyl, XM, power windws & locks, 40k, #50839 .....	\$19,500
2010 Chevrolet 1500 Crew Cab 2WD, white/tan cloth, 5.3 V8 auto, bucket seats, 23K, #50836 .....	\$27,000
2010 Chevrolet 1500 Crew Cab 2WD, black/black leather, LTZ, sunroof, V8, heated seats, 14K, #50841 .....	\$29,900
2010 Chevrolet Avalanche 2WD, black/black leather, bucket seats, Texas Edition, heated seats, 82K, #50840 .....	\$21,500
2010 Chevrolet 1500 Crew Cab 2WD, silver/ebony cloth, 5.3 V8 auto, pwr seat, steering wheel controls, 27k, #50819 .....	\$24,900
2010 Chevrolet Malibu LS 4DR, silver/gray cloth, 4 cyl, auto, pwr windows/locks, cruise, power seat, 21k, #50762 .....	\$15,500
2010 Chevrolet Equinox LTZ, maroon/brown leather, dual dvd, tow pkg, 19K, #50634 .....	\$28,000
2010 Chevrolet Traverse, silver/gray cloth, Bluetooth, rear view camera system, 71K, #50545 .....	Reduced \$19,250
2010 (2) Chevrolet Impalas LT, V6, 26,000 miles, goldmist/charcoal cloth .....	\$18,075
2011 GMC Sierra Denali Crew Cab AWD, diamond white/tan leather, 6.2L V8 Auto, Bose stereo, 16k, Like New, #50827 .....	\$40,500
2012 Chevrolet Suburban 2WD, white/tan leather, 2nd row bench, steering wheel controls, Bose stereo, 22k, #30087 .....	\$34,500
2012 Chevrolet 3500HD Crew Cab, dually 4x4, diesel, white/charcoal, work truck pkg, pwr windows & locks, tow pkg, 14k, #50852 .....	\$41,500
2012 Chevrolet Traverse, gray metallic/gray cloth, V6 Auto, pwr windows & locks, 14k, #30083 .....	\$24,500
2012 Chevrolet Malibu LT, Sedan, White/Black Cloth, 4 Cyl, Auto, 15K, #30072 .....	\$18,750

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**EMBEZZLE**

From Page 1

of years.

After her arrest Oct. 25, she was released on a \$25,000 bond.

No further court dates are

pending for Esquivel to date. However, according to district clerk officials, court will resume action after the first of the year.

The investigation is being conducted by the Texas Rangers, and the casework is being handled by District Attorney David Hajek.

The charges against Esquivel were upgraded to a second-degree felony, which carries a punishment of two to 20 years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine.

"The charges were upgraded because she was a public servant," Hajek said.

**KC MAN GUILTY**

From Page 1

According to autopsy reports, provided to the News-Courier under the Texas Open Records Act by the Knox County Justice of the Peace Office, the boy had high levels of drugs in his system at the time of his death, including morphine.

The cause of death officially was acute combine drug intoxication.

According to reports, Rhodes was prescribed a number

of drugs, including morphine pills, for a back injury.

Investigators believe the child somehow ingested the drugs, causing death.

Last September, Rhodes was arrested after attempting to sell 12 suspected morphine tablets in a controlled buy, according to reports from the Knox County Sheriff's Office.

Rhodes initially pleaded not guilty in the death case

Nov. 7, but changed that plea during a court appearance Nov. 28.

Rhodes is expected to appear again before Judge Heatly after the first of the year to await the punishment phase of the trial.

District Attorney David Hayek said Rhodes faces up to two years in prison for the negligent death charge and up to 20 years for the drug charge and up to a \$10,000 fine.

**Seminar offered to deal with grief**

Retired pastor and former hospice chaplain, the Rev. Gary Hubbard and his wife, Judy, will present a seminar next week to help area residents deal with grief.

Growing Through Grief will be offered from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dec. 13 at the Perry Patton Community Center in Munday.

"At special times of the year, as well as ordinary days, birthdays, anniversaries — coping with a loss becomes especially difficult

when a loved one has died, become seriously ill, or a separation of some kind has taken place and that loved one is no longer with you," the Rev. Hubbard said.

There is no charge or registration required in order to attend.

For information, contact Hubbard at jugalhubb@windstream.net or call 940-203-1080.

The News-Courier

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## Arrests: Oct. 21-Nov. 20

Following is a list of those arrested and processed through the Knox County jail. Information was provided by Knox County Sheriff Dean Homstad and obtained through the Texas Open Records Act. Arrests are listed by earliest date and time.

- Stallings, Shelby Keigh: reckless driving (class B misdemeanor), Knox County
- Sanders, Cody Don: possession of a controlled substance (state jail felony), Knox County
- Hawkins, Michael Shawn: driving while intoxicated, first offense (class B misdemeanor), Knox County
- Stewart, William Roy: unknown (class B misdemeanor), Foard County
- Camacho, Miguel: parole violation/driving while intoxicated, third offense or more (third-degree felony) Knox County
- Lane, Paul Charles: aggravated assault with a deadly weapon (second-degree felony) Foard County
- Gray, Brandon: driving while intoxicated with a passenger (state jail felony), Knox County
- Macias, Michael: forgery (state jail felony), Knox County; Jones County warrant.
- Brown, Jack: obstruction of a highway (class B misdemeanor), Foard County.
- Esquivel, Michelle Solis: theft (second-degree felony), Knox County
- McCullough, Kristi: possession of a controlled substance (class A misdemeanor), Foard County
- Nagy, Brandon Galen: possession of marijuana (class B misdemeanor), Knox County; Archer County warrant.
- Plume, Cleborn: burglary of a building (state jail felony)

- Knox County
- Baker, Ty: burglary of a building (state jail felony) Knox County
- Pedroza, Michael: assault Family Violence Act (class A misdemeanor), Baylor County
- Chavez, Juan A.: sexual assault of a child (second-degree felony), Knox County
- Speck, David Kyle: aggravated assault with a deadly weapon (second-degree felony), Knox County
- Greenwood, Tommy N.: interference with an emergency call (class A misdemeanor), Baylor County
- Toliver, Gwendolyn Denise: unknown (class B misdemeanor) Knox County; arrested in Wichita Falls.
- Zavala, Jose Alfredo: driving while intoxicated (third offense or more) Knox County; arrested in Scurry County.
- Arismendez, Joshua: driving while license invalid with previous conviction (class B misdemeanor); Knox County
- Costilla, Robert Jr.: criminal mischief (class C misdemeanor), Baylor County
- Tolson, Chad Cannon: reckless driving (class B misdemeanor), Knox County
- Lamb, David Anthony: public intoxication (class C misdemeanor), Baylor County
- Lamb, David Anthony: harassment of a public servant (third-degree felony), Baylor County
- Solorzano, Tanya: criminal mischief (class B misdemeanor) Foard County
- Jones, Ryan Heith: failure to identify/fugitive from justice (class B misdemeanor), evading arrest (third-degree felony) Knox County/Wichita County warrants.
- Cook, Justin Lee: theft (class A misdemeanor) Baylor County



**Submitted photo**  
Marty Smith, Childress district engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation, presents Gary Mizer of the Munday Area Office with awards for being accident free for 4,489 days and injury free for 9,324 days.

## TxDOT honors local office

Special to the News-Courier

CHILDRESS — The Texas Department of Transportation recently honored employees for exemplary safety records at the annual safety awards banquet.

The Munday Area Office received an award for being accident free for 4,489 days, from July 26, 2000, to Nov. 9, 2012, for a total of 12 years,

3 months and 14 days for not having a vehicle accident.

The office also received an award for being injury free for 9,324 days, from May 1, 1987, to Nov. 9, 2012, for a total of 25 years, 6 months and 8 days.

So far, for the fiscal year 2013, the TxDOT Childress District has not had any injuries or accidents and are meeting all five of safety

goals.

“This is a great accomplishment, and every employee in the district should be very proud,” said Marty Smith, Childress District Engineer.

Fiscal year 2012 was the best year ever for the agency in terms of safety citing TxDOT’s lowest number of injuries on record; lowest number of lost-time injuries

in department archives; and lowest number of lost-production days.

These all-time achievements marked FY 2012 as the safest year in the department’s 95-year history.

For the third year in a row, TxDOT’s historic safety record also ranked the agency as the nation’s leader among all reporting state departments of transportation.

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# The 501 Wild goose chase v. water-haul: It's a wash

**R**are is the day that includes both a water haul and a wild goose chase.

Until today I'd never chased wild geese. I have hauled water.

Before we get deep into our topic, let me explain something. I've been reading a book by Stephen King. If things get a little weird, that's my excuse. No, it's not one of his horror-science fiction tales or whatever it is he writes. It's a book about writing. King would have me string together all these words without adverbs. Have I already let one creep in? **PAUSE TO BACKTRACK.**

So far, so good, unless I overlooked one. King believes adverbs are like dandelions. One looks nice. Turn your back and the next thing you know you have a full-fledged adverb invasion and you might as well surrender.

Moving right along. (I think there's an adverb there somewhere.) Back to the wild geese. (Stephen King says sentence fragments are OK.)

Geese in V-shapes have been flying overhead and honking at me for days. They are Canada geese enamored of Texas peanuts. They sound more like a traffic jam than a real one. They don't wait around for amateur photographers to shoot them. I'm an amateur photographer.

This morning three formations flew over against a clear blue sky. Honk. Honk. Honk.

When I arrived later at one of their peanut fields, they'd left. Alas. I saw fragmented peanut shells and little downy feathers. Their footprints

covered the ground. I'd love to use an adverb to modify the word "covered" to say I mean covered. But covered is covered. Not a spot existed where they had not stepped. But they were gone.

So ends every wild good chase. If you ever caught one of the big birds, it wouldn't be a wild goose chase. Right?

As for water hauls, they're a bit like wild goose chases.

Chasing wild geese is a hopeless pursuit. Someone sends you on the chase or you send yourself. When it's over, you realize you never had a chance.

A water haul is a trip to haul water that accomplishes nothing more. When you have to haul water anyway, it's a wasted trip if you don't get something else done at the same time. My grandmother used the expression. Mother told me what it meant.

**INTERNET PAUSE.**

A Google search reveals "water-haul" — who knew it had a hyphen? — is the act of casting a fishnet and getting only water. That definition doesn't hold water for me. Maybe it works in fishy New England where nobody hauls water.

Hyphen or no hyphen, here's a real conversation I heard between a waitress and my postal supervisor, who was always spouting expressions:

"Want a refill on that coffee?"

"Yes, but don't make a water-haul."

Google doesn't know everything.

Quote me.

I'm now feeling smug enough to use a blatant adverb, but I'm going to the peanut field instead to wait for the geese. It won't be a water-haul. I've got a book to read.

Hanaba Munn Welch is a contributor and columnist to The Knox County News-Courier. Email her at [hanaba.quanah@gmail.com](mailto:hanaba.quanah@gmail.com).



HANABA MUNN WELCH

# Dixie Divas Advice from Mama: 'Be Sweet'

**W**hen I was growing up — probably well into my college years — Mama's last words as I walked out the door were always the same. "Be sweet."

Not even when I started driving and she should have said "be careful" did she

deviate. Somewhere along the way, though, she gave that up. Perhaps because she decided I would never be sweet,

or perhaps she thought I had finally learned it well enough. But, truthfully, I think it was because she finally switched to "love you" as I left.

It was embarrassing when my date and I stuck our heads in the den door to say good-bye before we left for the evening and Mama, normally hemming a garment, would chime happily, "Y'all be sweet. Y'all hear me?"

I'd roll my eyes and sigh heavily — that age-old teenage favorite — and moan, "Yes, Mama."

My boyfriend, always well-mannered, would cheerfully reply, "Yes, ma'am. You can count on me, and I'll make sure she is, too."

Not long ago I made a perfectly witty, private one-line observation about someone and entertained myself so deliciously that

I threw back my head and laughed. My sister, tempted to snicker, bit the edge of her lip, tossed me an amused look and said, "Now, be sweet."

To be honest, I never thought much about it until recent years as the talk of bullying and mean kids has become so prominent. Are there really that many mean kids out there now? Kids who taunt and criticize? If they are, it's because they aren't taught better at home.

I was reading a book about the actress Farrah Fawcett by her longtime love, Ryan O'Neal. In the book, he had included a handwritten note from the well-mannered, Texas-born Miss Fawcett to their son, Redmond. He was a young boy at the time so she was reminding him to do his spelling homework and a couple of other things about school. She ended the note with, "Be good and be kind."

Kindness.

Sweetness.

Though harder to find these days, those teachings begin at home, along with manners. In our family, teaching kindness to the children is as important as saying "Yes, ma'am" or "No, sir."

When I was a child, no more than 7 or 8, Mama got a call from my teacher who explained I had been going without lunch for a few weeks, choosing, instead, to buy lunch for a poor, half-starved classmate (in the days before free lunches). The next morning and all the days that followed until the girl moved away, Daddy gave me enough

for two lunches. I wasn't complimented. I had simply done what was taught and therefore expected.

My nephew Rod was 4 and spoke in that endearing way of children who mix up consonants. In his preschool class was a pretty, blonde girl who was severely challenged, physically and mentally. She walked with great difficulty, couldn't communicate and drool poured in a steady stream from the corner of her mouth.

One day at recess, several children mocked her, saying, "No! You can't play with us."

She crumbled in tears, sobbing at the unkindness. The teacher watched as Rod, gentle and sweet always (as is the man he grew to be), walked over to her, put his little arm around her shoulders and said comfortingly, "Don't twry Ashwey. Me will play with you."

A mother approached my niece Nicole one day at carpool and said, "Let me tell you about your son."

Nicole froze a bit, not knowing what was coming. The mother, who began to cry, explained her son is autistic and faced daily taunting and jeering by classmates. Every day, he came home sobbing, heartbroken. One day he stopped crying suddenly and smiled brightly. "But I do have one friend. Nix. He's my angel sent from God. He always takes up for me."

Be sweet. What a powerful parental teaching.

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



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# Lady Mogulettes

# Munday Moguls 2012



Kayla Urbanczyk (4) gets past a Lady Wildcat defender during the Childress Invitational Basketball tournament this past weekend. The Lady Moguls lost the game.



Lady Mogul Raci Dillard (33) grabs a rebound in a recent game with the Lady Wildcats of Canadian. Kayla Urbanczyk (4) looks on. The Lady Moguls played in the Childress Invitational tournament over the weekend.

1	Roddrick Taylor	5' 10"	165	DB/RB	Sr.
2	Jake Myers	6'	189	DE/RB	Sr.
3	Ryder Dillard	6' 1"	160	DE/SE	Sr.
5	Alfonso Nunez	5' 9"	165	DB/QB	Soph.
7	L.J. Collier	6' 2"	237	DL/TE	Jr.
9	Dewayne Castorena	5' 5"	152	LB/RB	Sr.
10	Dee Paul	6'	160	DB/QB	Sr.
15	Jarrett Masias	5' 9"	185	DL/RB	Soph.
19	Trey Stinnett	5' 10"	135	DB/QB	Sr.
20	Victor Garcia	5' 9"	162	DB/RB	Jr.
28	Garrett Weaver	5' 9"	135	DB/RB	Sr.
33	Tyrone Dockins	5' 9"	240	LB/RB	Sr.
44	Shannon Reeves	5' 7"	165	LB/TE	Sr.
45	Ryder Cude	5' 7"	140	LB/TE	Sr.
50	Xzavier Bulliner	6' 2"	260	DL/OL	Sr.
52	Tomas Carranza	5' 9"	189	DL/OL	Sr.
54	T.J. Garcia	5' 7"	218	DE/OL	Jr.
55	Logan Groves	5' 9"	239	DL/OL	Sr.
66	B.J. Araujo	5' 7"	183	DL/OL	Sr.
67	Jerico Thompson	5' 8"	295	DL/OL	Jr.
68	Mark Yzaguirre	5' 10"	258	DL/OL	Sr.
74	Emilio Avalos	5' 7"	261	DL/OL	Sr.
75	Trey Tidwell	5' 8"	185	LB/OL	Jr.
77	Ryan Redder	5' 10"	205	DL/OL	Sr.
2	Bryan Castorena	5' 6"	125	LB/SE	Fresh.
10	Jaron Blake	5' 8"	140	DB/TE	Jr.
11	Temerick Reagins	6' 0"	165	DE/RB	Fresh.
12	Zach Edgar	5' 6"	130	LB/RB	Soph.
13	Craig Thompson	5' 7"	150	DL/SE	Soph.
15	Austin Smith	5' 7"	140	DB/SE	Fresh.
19	Kellen Redder	5' 9"	150	DE/SE	Fresh.
20	Fabian Lopez	5' 8"	150	DB/TE	Jr.
32	Miguel Gonzalez	5' 6"	155	LB/RB	Jr.
50	Michael Grimaldo	5' 8"	160	DL/OL	Jr.
51	Eduardo Rangel	5' 9"	165	DL/OL	Fresh.
52	Ethan Ramos	5' 8"	230	DL/OL	Soph.
72	Gregory Castorena	5' 6"	145	DL/OL	Fresh.
54	Colby Fullwood	5' 9"	240	DL/OL	Soph.
60	Mitchell Lowrance	5' 8"	210	LB/OL	Soph.
63	Devan Massey	5' 9"	145	DE/OL	Fresh.
64	Juan Rangel	5' 10"	245	DL/OL	Fresh.
66	Heder Lopez	5' 5"	175	DL/OL	Fresh.
75	Victor Perez	5' 9"	215	DL/OL	Soph.

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Take Exit 299 toward FM 1707/Hays Road.  
Stay straight to go onto I-20 West.  
Take the first right onto Hays Road.  
The stadium will be on the right

**Go Moguls!**

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# MOGULS

From Page 1

bad either.

"The defense really controlled the game, put the offense on short fields," Corcoran said.

Saturday's temperature reached a near-record 81 degrees. A stiff breeze blew from the south, snapping the purple, gold and white Mogul flags atop the west section of the stadium and the green Hamlin flags above visitor seating across the field.

Early in the first quarter, Munday muffed a chance to score by fumbling in the end zone. Hamlin recovered only to turn the ball over to Munday near midfield after failing to make short yardage for a first down.

On the next play, Dee Paul threw a 55-yard touchdown pass to Taylor. For the two-point conversion, Paul took the ball through the middle on a keeper.

The pattern repeated itself in short order when Hamlin again turned the ball over to Munday on downs. On the Mogul's first play Paul threw a touchdown pass — this time to tight end L.J. Collier. Running back Tyrone Dockins carried the ball in for the extra two points.

Paul and the Moguls exhibited that same characteristic swiftness throughout the first half, making things happen fast.

Pass deflections and interceptions spiced the action, mostly executed by the Moguls. Munday lineman Jerico Thompson swatted a Taylor Lambert pass to effectively stop a Hamlin drive in the first quarter. His fellow-lineman Collier batted two passes — one in the second quarter that Mogul lineman Xzavier Bulliner managed to catch and carry and one more in the second half. Jake Myers intercepted twice for touchdowns,

once in the first half and then again in the second, and Taylor intercepted one of Lambert's long passes downfield and ran it deep to the Hamlin 18.

Taylor also showed his talent with a 60-yard run into the end zone with a trajectory that took him just inside the right goal line corner pylon as a Piper took him down, too late to prevent the score.

The Pipers gained yards passing and finally scored in the second quarter when the scrappy running back Darius Lee powered his way into the end zone. A penalty for illegal motion nullified Hamlin's first extra-point kick. The second kick failed.

Munday took a 59-6 lead to the locker room at the half.

In the second half, several backup Moguls saw action. Hamlin gained yards and strung together some successful plays, but the Moguls, where talent runs deep, held the Pipers to just one more touchdown and one extra point.

A fumble on the one-yard line stopped Hamlin's last serious threat to score. Munday failed to move the ball out of the tight spot and ultimately let punter Dockins, with the wind to his back, punch the ball into the other half of the field.

The Pipers gained yards and made one more first down on their final drive, but when the buzzer sounded and Lambert went down on a keeper, it was all over for the Hamlin team and anything but over for the Munday Moguls — bound for state — one game at a time, two games between them and the state title game.

Munday will play the Albany Lions at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Clyde in a battle for the regional title. The teams met early in the season in non-district competition. Munday won that game 55-28.

"Albany's gonna play fast and be physical, and we've got a match that," Corcoran said.

The Moguls are in good physical shape — not plagued by any significant injuries, Corcoran said.

As the season progresses, the Mogul first team — accustomed to resting in the second half — may have to put in more playing time.

"We try to handle our conditioning in practice and make sure we're prepared for that time we may have to keep our starters in for the whole game," Corcoran said.

Albany has an 11-1 record, reflecting the one loss to Munday.

Saturday's game left Hamlin with a 9-4 record for the season.

### MOGUL STATS

#### OFFENSE

RUSHING: Roddrick Taylor 7-124, 3 TD; Dee Paul 2-64, 1 TD; Tyrone Dockins 3-36, 1 TD; Alfonso Nunez 8-14; Jake Myers 1-4.

PASSING: Dee Paul 3-4, 107 yards, 2 TD, 1 INT.

RECEIVING: Roddrick Taylor 2-83, 1 TD; LJ Collier 1-24, 1 TD.

#### DEFENSE

TACKLES: Ryder Cude 16, Tyrone Dockins 10, B. J. Araujo 7, Jake Myers 6, Dewayne Castorena 6, L. J. Collier 5, Dee Paul 5, Trey Stinnett 5, Xzavier Bulliner 5.

TFL: L. J. Collier 1, Dewayne Castorena 1, Tyrone Dockins 1, Ryder Cude 1, Xzavier Bulliner 1.

FUMBLE RECOVERIES: Ryder Cude 2, Jake Myers 1, Garrett Weaver 1.

FUMBLES CAUSED: Dewayne Castorena 1, Trey Stinnett 1, Jerico Thompson 1.

INTERCEPTIONS: Jake Myers 2, Roddrick Taylor 1, Xzavier Bulliner 1.

KNOCKED DOWN/FORCED BAD PASSES: L. J. Collier 2, Garrett Weaver 2, Tyrone Dockins 2, Roddrick Taylor 1, Trey Stinnett 1, Ryder Cude 1.

MISSED TACKLES: Ryder Dillard 1, Tyrone Dockins 1, Ryder Cude 3.

## 2012-2013 Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	HOME/AWAY	LOCATION	TIME/RESULT
8/31	WINDTHORST	HOME	SCRUGGS FIELD (MUNDAY)	W 68-7
9/7	STAMFORD	HOME	SCRUGGS FIELDS (MUNDAY)	W 34-27
9/14	ALBANY	HOME	SCRUGGS FIELD (MUNDAY)	W 55-28
9/21	BRONTE	AWAY	STEPHENSON STADIUM (BRONTE)	W 48-0
9/28	HOLLIDAY	AWAY	SCRUGGS FIELD (MUNDAY)	W 49-7
10/12	PERRIN-WHITT *	HOME	SCRUGGS FEILD (MUNDAY)	W 62-6
10/19	PETROLIA *	HOME	SCRUGGS FEILD (MUNDAY)	W 67-0
10/26	MUENSTER *	AWAY	HORNET STADIUM (MUENSTER)	W 45-10
11/2	ERA *	HOME	SCRUGGS FIELD (MUNDAY)	W 82-0
11/9	ELECTRA *	AWAY	TIGER STADIUM (ELECTRA)	W 73-0
11/23	WINK	HOME	WOLF STADIUM (COLORADO CITY)	W 66-34
12/1	HAMLIN	AWAY	WYLIE BULLDOG STADIUM (ABILENE)	W 66-13
12/7	ALBANY	AWAY	BULLDOG STADIUM (CLYDE)	7:30 P.M.



Terry Messer/For the News-Courier  
Mogul senior running back Jake Myers looks to escape a Pied Piper defender Saturday during Munday's area win over Hamlin at Wylie.

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## LEGAL NOTICE

### BID NOTICE

The City of Knox City will be accepting sealed bids for the sale of 107 South Central Ave Blk 44 Lots 6-9 Original Town, also known as the American Legion building within the city limits of Knox City. A property listing & bid sheet may be obtained at City Hall, 902 E Main. All sealed Bids will be taken and then opened at the regular Council meeting on Tuesday, December 18th 2012 5:30 PM. The Knox City Council reserves the right to refuse any and all bids.

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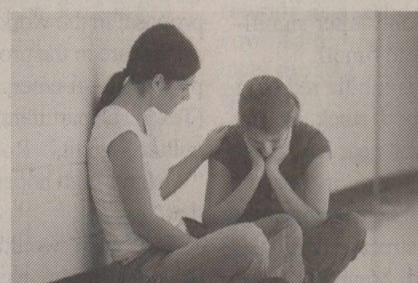
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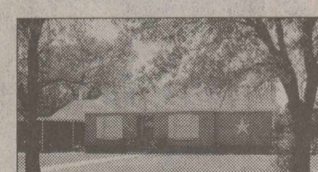
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**MILLERS CREEK**  
From Page 3

fall. It's a plan that can't proceed without the approval of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

The state agency has a reputation for being tougher than the federal government's Environmental Protection Agency, but water needs are great across the area, and Kuehler is hopeful the proposal will gain the necessary approval.

"We have a water-right application that will be filed in the next 60 days with TCEQ, trying to get permission to scalp Lake Creek," he said.

"Scalp" means taking the top off running water when it reaches a certain level.

"It's strictly taking the top off a flood," Kuehler said. "It will effectively increase our drainage area by about 50 percent."

The canal would run from Lake Creek north to Brushy Creek.

"A dam across Lake Creek would make part of the water go into Brushy Creek, which goes into Millers Creek," Kuehler said.

The dam would function to divert water only after significant rainfall and runoff.

The canal is a little red strip that looks good stuck on the map on the wall near Kuehler's office. Otherwise, it doesn't exist. Even if TCEQ approves the idea, the structure will take years to build. Meanwhile, the water district has implemented stage two of its own conservation measures that impact all member cities and residents. Stage two calls for a 15-percent reduction in water use.

"Our Stage Two trigger for our drought plan is 7,500 acre feet," Kuehler

said. "Before it rained in September, we were at 6,633 acre feet."

On Wednesday, the Water Data for Texas website showed the Millers Creek acre-foot reading at 7,418.

An acre-foot is a measure of volume the same as an acre one-foot thick — 325,853 gallons, more or less.

Eleven cities and water supply corporations use water from the reservoir, but not every user is totally dependent on the lake water.

"Four of them mix well water," Kuehler said.

Each entity takes its own measures to respond to the wa-

ter district's stage two status. "Each one of them has their own water-conservation plan," Kuehler said.

Naturally, the cities with working water wells are in a better position to deal with the drought than those without well water. Both Knox City and Munday have wells, but neither city is able to use them. The wells don't meet TCEQ standards.

When stage two conservation measures went into place, the water district worked with both cities to investigate putting the water wells back into service.

"It's not impossible to do it," Kuehler said.

But it's not easy. "There's the right way and the wrong way and their way," he said, referring to TCEQ. "You have to do it their way."

In Knox City, two of the city's three wells date from the 1930s.

"We uncapped the old wells," Knox City Administrator Chad Roberts said. "They don't meet TCEQ standards."

Knox City has applied for a Community Development Block Grant to rejuvenate the well field and has another grant proposal in the works.

"We are in the process of applying for an emergency TDA (Texas Department of Agriculture) grant," Roberts said. "We have high hopes of getting that."

The grant would fund the drilling of a new well and construction of a new chlorination system, Roberts said.

"When those engineers come in, they're going to dig up a good well," he said.

For now, the city water conservation plan — already in stage three — prohibits anyone dependent on city water from using sprinkler systems to water grass.

Hand-held hoses are allowed.

"You have to have the hose in your hand," Roberts said.

Rain would solve everything.

"Pray for rain," he said. "Water is going to be like liquid gold around here if it doesn't rain."

In Munday, the situation is similar.

"Unless we get some really good rainfall and some runoff into Millers Creek, we're going to be in the same shape we were last year — maybe not as good," said Munday City Man-

ager Ricky Ake. "Water conservation is something that's on the front burner."

Water use is down in Munday.

"The citizens have done a real good job," Ake said, noting a drop in daily use from 240,000 gallons a day to 160,000.

"It's been eight to 10 years since we've put well water into our system," Ake said. Like Knox City, Munday needs a new chlorination system and other improvements to start using well water again.

After the construction of Millers Creek reservoir, places like Knox City and Munday were on track never again to use well water.

"They thought, 'Why go to the trouble of making the lake so we can get better quality water and then turn around and use well water?'" Kuehler said.

A problem with well water in the area is nitrates that make it unsuitable for very young children and women who are pregnant. Otherwise, nitrates are not considered harmful.

The cities of Goree, Haskell, Munday and Knox City own the North Central Texas Water Corp. Seven other users buy water from the corporation but don't pay taxes to support it.

The cities of Aspermont, Benjamin, O'Brien, Rochester and Rule as well as two other entities — the Rhineland Water Supply Corp. and the Paint Creek Water Supply Corp. — are Millers Creek Lake water users.

Groundwater tables are dropping across the region the same way the lake is dropping.

"There are areas where the groundwater has pretty much disappeared," Kuehler said.

Irrigation wells take a toll on groundwater, especially when drought conditions prevail.

The best solution to cure all water woes would be enough rainfall to replenish surface water and to curb the depletion of underground reserves.

In lieu of such drought-breaking rains, just enough rainfall to water cattle, sustain pastures and winter wheat and bring up the level of Millers Creek Lake would help significantly.

Even if the reservoir remains well below the level of the dam, any increase in the lake level could buy time to allow TCEQ and the Texas Department of Agriculture to approve applications for ways to improve municipal and area water systems.

# This year's cotton prices as disappointing as the drought

By Hanaba Munn Welch  
The News-Courier

RHINELAND — Gins are ginning, but this year's cotton crop is proving not to be much better than last year's drought-year crop — not that anyone expected it to be. This year's growing season was also disappointingly dry — the kind of weather that's nice when it's time to pick or strip cotton. But the general lack of moisture is cause for unease across the spectrum of agriculture, ranching included.

The price of cotton is also reason for concern, except for mills buying the raw product.

It's a buyer's market. "Cotton prices have been stagnant," said Stan Bevers, agronomist with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Vernon.

Bevers keeps tabs on both crop conditions and prices.

"It is certainly better than last year, but that's not saying a whole heck of a lot," he said. "They're trying to get it out and will continue to get it out over the next month."

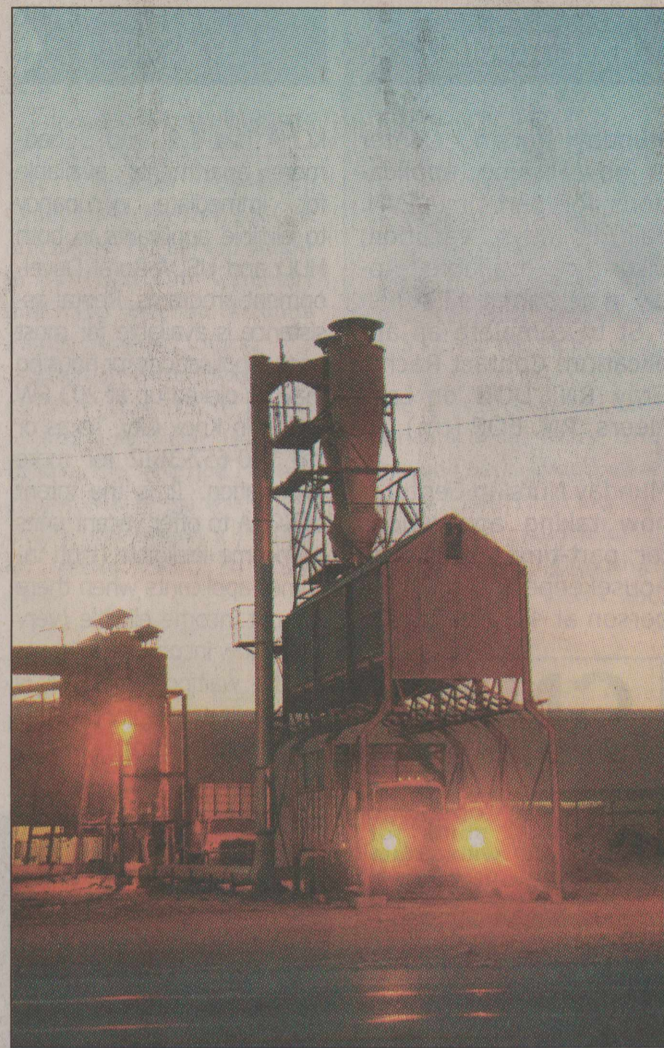
Gins in both O'Brien and Rhineland are in full swing. The bale count at the end of the day Tuesday in O'Brien was 6,250. The Rhineland Gin had baled 22,500 by mid-morning Wednesday.

Farmers in the area can expect to get a price in the 60-cent range, Bevers said.

"It's been that way since June," he said. "It's been kind of a boring situation."

The reason prices are stuck where they are is, not surprisingly, an effect of supply and demand. Too much supply.

"The amount of cotton we have in the world is bad," he said. "The last



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier  
**Headlights beaming across Highway 6 on Sunday night, a truck catches cottonseed at the O'Brien Coop Gin. The seed crop is an important part of the harvest. Mills produce feed products for both humans and animals from cottonseed.**

USDA report as of November said we were going to carry over 80 million bales of cotton."

The United States, where few mills still operate, uses 3.4 million bales annually, Bevers said.

"The carry-over in this country is going to be 6 million," he said.

The outlook for exporting cotton is not encouraging because of the global carry-over.

"Nobody is going to want to buy," he said.

If Bevers has a message for cotton producers, it's this: "There's very little prospects for cotton prices to increase," he said. "That's

the take-home message right there."

It's a message that spawns a question. When it doesn't pay to grow cotton, what crop can cotton farmers turn to?

"We've gotta do something this coming year," Bevers said. "What are we going to grow? If you can fight off the hogs milo could be a crop in Knox and Haskell, just so we don't have to plant cotton."

Peanuts is another alternate crop, but the price of peanuts has been lackluster too.

"The price is not very good unless you contracted back in May or June," Bevers said.



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier  
**Ginner Armando Prieto monitors the flow of cotton Sunday night at the O'Brien Coop Gin, where the bale count was almost 6,000 by early evening. By late Monday afternoon, the count was 6,100 bales.**

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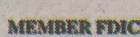
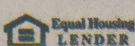
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