

THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2013

KCNEWSCOURIER.COM

75 CENTS

Shortage of jail space poses problems

By Hanaba Munn Welch

The Knox County News-Courier

The Knox County Jail in Benjamin houses inmates both from within and without Knox County. At \$35 a day for the "outsiders," the practice of making the jail available to other jurisdictions pro-

duces revenue but, in effect, can curtail space available for people arrested locally.

Prisoners from within Knox County cost the county money. Cities no longer maintain their own holding cells. The old Knox City units — hardly the worse for wear but no doubt not up to code — are a piece of history set amid cactus as a land-

scape element at City Hall.

Some statistics:

From Nov. 18 through Jan. 11, Baylor County officials sent people to the Knox County Jail 10 times, with one person accounting for two separate stays, according to records provided by Knox County Sheriff Dean Homstad.

Knox County arrests plus out-of-county arrests based on warrants issued within Knox County totaled nine. During the same time period, Foard County used the jail for three inmates, including one with charges against him in Haskell

See **JAIL SPACE**, Page 10

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.

Alzheimer's support

The Haskell County Area Alzheimer's Support Group will meet at 3 p.m. Monday at the Haskell County Extension Office, 101 S. Ave. D in Haskell. The one-hour meeting is for caregivers, family members and friends of individuals in the surrounding areas with Alzheimer's or related dementia. The support group meets the fourth Monday of every month and offers a confidential environment where participants can share their concerns, support each other, and learn ways to cope with the challenges associated with long-term caregiving. For information, call Jane Rowan at 864-2546 or Alzheimer's Association North Central Texas Chapter at 325-672-2907 or 1-800-272-3900.

KC Chamber

The Knox City Chamber of Commerce will kick off its annual membership drive at 6 p.m. today with cookies, punch, coffee and cider at the Knox City Chamber office on North Central Avenue. All invited.

One-Act fundy

Drama students at Knox City High School are selling hand-crafted KCHS metal keychains for \$7. All proceeds benefit the One-Act Play production. For information, contact Terra Martinez at [terra.martinez@esc9.net](mailto:tterra.martinez@esc9.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.

Munday council

The Munday City Council meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month in the conference room at City Hall. The next scheduled meeting will be Jan. 8. For information, call City Hall at 422-4331.

Commissioners Court

The Knox County Commissioners Court meets at 1:30 p.m. the second Monday of the month in Commission Chambers at the Knox County Courthouse in Benjamin. The next scheduled meeting will be Jan. 14. For information, contact County Clerk Annette Offutt at kcdisco@srcaccess.net or 459-2441.

Corrections

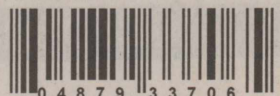
If you spot an error of fact, contact Editor Wayne Hodgin at kcnewscourier@gmail.com.

News on the go



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Dewhurst names Senate panel chairs

By Ed Sterling

For the Dispatch

AUSTIN — Key to getting the 83rd session of the Texas Legislature in gear, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, president of the Texas Senate, on Jan. 17 made public his choices for committee chairs and members of each committee. Senate bills can now be assigned to committees and public hearings set.

Sen. Tommy Williams, R-The Woodlands, returns as chairman of the body's powerful Finance Committee, whose primary task is to craft the state budget for 2014-2015.

Also named as committee chairs were senators: Kevin Eltife, R-Tyler, Administration; Craig Estes, R-Wichita Falls, Agriculture, Rural Affairs and Homeland Security; John Carona, R-Dallas, Business and Commerce; John Whitmire (dean of the Senate), Criminal Justice; Bob Deuell, R-Greenville, Economic Development; Dan Patrick, R-Houston, Education; Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, Government Organization; and Jane Nelson, R-Lewisville, Health and Human Services.

And, Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo, Higher Education; Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, D-McAllen, Intergovernmental Relations; Royce West, D-Dallas, Jurisprudence; Troy Fraser, R-Marble Falls, Natural Resources; Glen Hegar, R-Katy, Nominations; Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, Open Government; Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, State Affairs; Robert Nichols, R-Jacksonville, Transportation; and Letitia Van de Putte (Senate president pro tempore), D-San Antonio, Veterans Affairs and Military Installations.

Speaker Joe Straus has not yet named House committee chairs and members.

As of the end of the second week of the session (Jan. 18), 748 bills and resolutions had been filed by House members, while Senate members had filed 201 over the same period. To give some idea of what lies ahead in that regard, in the last 140-day regular session, 7,003 House and 3,312 Senate bills and resolutions were filed.

The bill-filing deadline is March 8, the 60th day of the current session. The deadline applies to bills and joint resolutions (proposed constitutional amendments) other than local bills, emergency appropriations and bills that have been declared "emergency" by the governor.

See **SENATE PANEL**, Page 10

Livestock show



Alexia Jimenez pictured showing her heavy weight steer. Jimenez won the grand champion trophy and the junior showmanship award for the way she showcased her steer in the ring.

Jimenez takes top honors at local stock show

By Hanaba Munn Welch

The Knox County News-Courier

Alexia Jimenez took top honors Saturday in the beef cattle category of the Knox County Junior Livestock Show. Her heavyweight steer won the grand champion trophy, and she won the junior showmanship award for the way she showcased the animal in the ring.

Shannon Reeves' steer, second in the heavyweight division, was reserve grand champion; Reeves also placed third in the same division with another steer.

Logan Groves won the senior showmanship award with his steer, first in the lightweight division.

Competition was fiercest in the swine competition with most of Saturday's show devoted to pigs and their exhibitors, the largest and longest part of the event.

Madison Thompson showed a heavyweight cross to win overall grand champion recognition. Kol-

bey Brown's medium-weight cross won reserve grand.

The judging also singled out the top pigs of the various breeds, with Durocs showing first and other breeds following in alphabetical order. Kendall Thompson showed the breed champion in Duroc competition with her first-place heavyweight; Kayla Hunter's lightweight Duroc won reserve.

Similarly, a lightweight Hampshire, shown by Kristen Kuehler, won reserve honors. Shannon Reeves' heavyweight Hamp was breed champion.

A heavyweight Spot, also exhibited by Kuehler, was named breed champion. Skylin Ledesma showed the reserve champion for the breed, a lightweight.

Reeves scored again with his Yorkshire pig, winning breed champion honors. Tanna Moeller showed the reserve Yorkshire.

Other purebred pigs together comprised a division, with Kue-

hler showing the champion and Elli Oustad showing the reserve animal.

Besides producing the overall grand and reserve winners, the crossbred swine also produced the swine showmanship winners, with Reeves and his light heavyweight winning senior showmanship honors and Kuehler named the junior showman for the way she showed her lightweight cross, placing first in the lightweight cross category.

Rabbits, chickens, sheep and goats showed on Friday.

In Class 1 competition, Lyndon Baty won the top poultry award with his grand champion broilers. Sheldon Baty won reserve and also senior showmanship. Josiah Coplen won the junior showmanship award in poultry.

Rabbit competition consisted of single fryers, pens of three fryers, does and bucks. Grace Tidwell

See **STOCK SHOW**, Page 10

Pink Ladies donate \$10K to new clinic

Facility slates grand opening next weekend

By Hanaba Munn Welch

The Knox County News-Courier

Knox County Hospital Clinic will open for business Feb. 4 but an even bigger crowd is expected to show up one day early.

The doors will open Feb. 3 for an early afternoon showing of the facility slated for 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

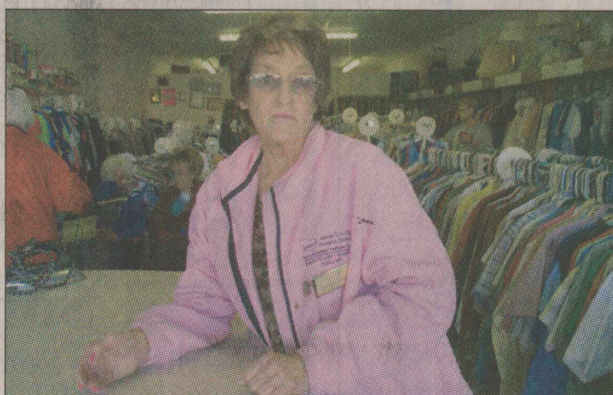
Hosting the event will be the Knox County Hospital Auxiliary, a.k.a. the Pink Ladies. They'll prepare Pink Lady Punch and cookies for about 200, but their help with the project goes beyond

refreshments and adding their splash of pink to the occasion. The auxiliary gave \$10,000 to allow the hospital district to buy three examination tables, two suction pumps and furniture for the new clinic, a new building just constructed across the street from the Knox County Hospital. Stephen Kuehler requested assistance from the support organization at a Jan. 16 meeting.

"We donated \$10,000 to use however we wanted," said Glenda Huff, auxiliary president.

The Pink Ladies raise money year-round with a shop on South Central Avenue just down the street from the fire station. Filled with used clothing and other merchandise, the store is a suitable shopping spot for anyone with a limited income or for bargain-hunters in general.

"It helps lots of people," said Huff. "It helps the community. If a kid needs a coat and they don't

See **PINK LADIES**, Page 10

Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier

In the pink, Barbara Huff, president of the Knox County Hospital Auxiliary, wears her pink auxiliary jacket in the Pink Ladies Shop in downtown Knox City. The store sells not only clothing but also an array of merchandise, a beneficial way for anyone in the region to recycle things too good to discard. Profits from the business benefit the Knox County Hospital.

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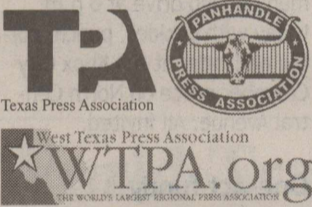
It is the mission of this newspaper to promote the rights of individualism in the American Declaration of Independence. The right of life, liberty and ownership of property are the cornerstone of freedom. Government's sole purpose is to enhance our liberty and freedom. Therefore, we hold every elected and appointed agent of government accountable to that standard.

DEADLINES

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

\$30 a year in the county
 \$35 a year outside the county



Letters to the Editor

State championship instills life lessons

I'd like to express my sincere appreciation to the coaching staff of Munday ISD. What an extraordinary football season we have had, culminating in another state championship. I have now had three grandsons who have had the opportunity to be on a state championship team and experience the pride and fulfillment that has come along with the ride.

More importantly, though my appreciation goes much deeper, Coach Corcoran and his staff have made such a valuable contribution to many young men's lives, several of whom would not have finished high school had it not been for the athletic program. Not only has this coaching staff taught basic core values, but also the benefit of seeing a strong work ethic result in such a successful way. What a life lesson!

Many thanks to you all.

RONNIE CUDE

Munday

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Knox County News-Courier welcomes letters from readers on topics of local, state, national and international importance. Email letters are preferred to thepostcitydispatch@gmail.com. All letters must include a first and last name, street address (no post office boxes), daytime phone number. Letters sent via U.S. mail may be sent to P.O. Box 426, Post, TX 79356.)

Knox County aging services

MONDAY JANUARY 28TH
 BEEF TIPS/NOODLES
 MIXED VEGETABLES
 WHOLE WHEAT ROLL
 WINTER FRUIT CUP

TUESDAY JANUARY 29TH
 CHICKEN POT PIE
 SEASONED CORN
 TOSSED SALAD
 WHOLE WHEAT ROLL
 AMBROSIA

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 30TH
 GLAZED MEAT LOAF
 RED BLISS POTATOES
 GREEN BEANS
 BREADSTICK
 COUNTRY APPLE CRISP

THURSDAY JANUARY 31ST
 OVEN FRIED CHICKEN

BOW TIE PASTA
 BROCCOLI/RAISIN SALAD
 FRUIT COCKTAIL

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 1ST
 SLOPPY JOE ON A BUN
 COUNTRY POTATO SALAD
 CARROTS/ZUCHINI
 CREAMY FRUIT SQUARE

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Deaths

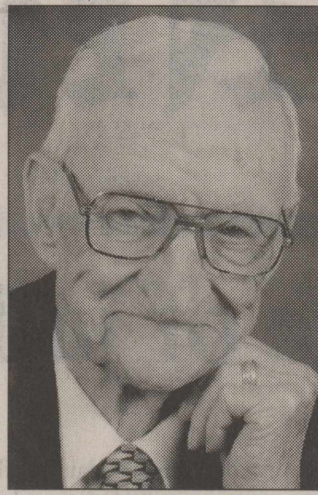
Alphonse Kuehler

Alphonse Kuehler passed away Thursday, January 17, 2013, in Wichita Falls, TX at the age of 92. Alphonse was born August 25, 1920 in Knox County Texas to Joseph and Catherine Kuehler. He and Mary Loran were married August 6, 1944 in Scottfield, Ill. Mary preceded him in death in 2003.

Alphonse was a Army Air Corp Communication Specialist in the Air Force and served in WWII. After leaving the service, he returned to Rhineland, Texas where he lived and farmed the land on which he was born and raised. He was an active member of Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Rhineland, Texas.

He enjoyed his garden, especially the corn and okra which he proudly shared with family and friends.

He was a loving father, grandfather, and great-



ALPHONSE KUEHLER

grandfather, always thinking of his family first.

Alphonse was also preceded in death by one daughter, Bernadette in 1954.

Survivors include: one son, Marion and wife Gayle of Wichita Falls, TX; five daughters, Suzan Thompson of San Diego, California, Mary Landrum, Debo-

rah Anderson, and Beth and husband Ricky Arnold all of Wichita Falls, TX, and Lou Ann Brookshire of The Colony, Texas; one sister, Adelaide Roznovsky of Fort Worth, Texas; twelve grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren, and many loving nieces and nephews.

Rosary will be held at 6 PM Sunday, January 20, 2013 at McCauley-Smith Funeral Home in Munday Tx. Mass will be Monday, January 21, 2013 at 11 AM at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Rhineland, TX. Interment will follow at Saint Joseph's Cemetery under the direction of McCauley-Smith Funeral Home of Munday, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Renovation Fund, Rhineland, Texas.

John B. Chilcoat

KNOX CITY — John B. Chilcoat, 95, of Knox City, Texas, died Tuesday, January 8, 2013 in the Knox County Hospital in Knox City, Texas. Services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, January 12, 2013 at the Benjamin First Baptist Church in Benjamin with Dr. Troy Culpepper officiating. Burial will be in the Truscott Cemetery under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Homes of Knox City, Texas.

John, the only son with nine sisters, was born December 1, 1917 in Gilliland, Texas to John and Martha Chilcoat. He married Frances Jones on September 18, 1945 in Crowell, Texas and she remained the love of his life for 67 years. John was a member of the Benjamin First Baptist Church and served as song leader and

Deacon for many years. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Force during WWII where he served as an instructor, gunner, and radio operator on the B-17.

John was an oilfield pumper for Marothon Oil for 36 years. He loved to sing, hunt, fish, and be with family. He was a wonderful husband, father, and PaPa John. He was the kindest, most generous and unselfish man there ever was or will be and loved by so many.

He is preceded in death by his parents, John and Martha Chilcoat; 6 sisters, Betty Killingsworth, Ladelle Abbott, Ethel Mae Ratliff, Connell Houston, Mayre Jo Chilcoat, and Estelle McLain.

John is survived by his wife, Frances Chilcoat of Knox City, Texas; one son,

Ronnie Chilcoat and wife Maria of Knox City, Texas; one daughter, Gayle Morgan and Charlie Pankhurst of Munday, Texas; 3 sisters, Chrys Fannin and husband Wendell, and Dorothy Thomason, all of Amarillo, Texas, and Gaye Nell Barclay of Napa, California; 5 grandchildren, Elaina and Joey Mathis, Jayson and Rhonda Morgan, Tony Morgan, Lisa and Chip Smith, and Mike and Misty Chilcoat; 11 great-grandchildren, Cody Reece, Cory Mathis, Keegan Morgan, Colin Morgan, Kelsey Morgan, Joshua Potts, Jason Morgan, Jerrica Morgan, Tyler Chilcoat, Riley Smith, and Lane Smith.

Visitation for family and friends will be held at the funeral home on Friday evening, January 11 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Annual barbecue fundraiser planned for Brazos museum

By Mary Jane Young
 For the News-Courier

Sunday, Feb. 3 will be a big day for many Knox County residents and friends from surrounding counties as they attend the annual barbecue and fundraiser for the Wichita Brazos Museum from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Benjamin Memorial Building.

At the meal there will be the usual brisket, sausage, turkey, deviled eggs, pinto beans, potato salad, coleslaw, and pies — all home-

made by Knox County supporters — even homemade barbecue sauce.

The silent auction tables will be set up by 11 a.m. for people to place their bids. The auction has included everything from a postage stamp to a small appliance to antiques. There is always something there that you must have. There were 130 items to bid on last year. Bidding will close at 1:30 p.m.

Door prizes will be given away throughout the meal. There were over 90 prizes given away last year, ranging from a \$50 bill to gift certificates from area businesses, and many "Oh Boy, Look What I Got" items.

Tickets will be sold for a beautiful quilt, "Rose Wreath," which is being pieced by Mary Cartwright, and quilted later. It is layers of appliquéd roses, in three shades of pink in the form of a wreath. It will be given away Nov. 11 at the Veterans Day celebration.

The Museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for visitors to view this year's new exhibit. The "Knox County Wildlife Exhibit" is provided by Munday taxidermist Ronnie Urbanczyk. The deer, bobcats, the squirrels playing ball, and many other animals and birds found in Knox County are a beautiful site to see.

NOT THE DIGITS YOU WANNA GET WHEN YOU GO OUT

Getting arrested and convicted in Texas for D.W.I. can cost you up to \$17,000. So, before you go out collecting digits, line up a P.A.S.S. (Person Appointed to Stay Sober) who you can call for a safe ride home. Because, if you're pulled over for D.W.I., your socializing days are numbered.

SAVE A LIFE
 Texas Department of Transportation

SAVE A LIFE. DON'T DRIVE HOME BUZZED. BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING.

AD 1000 U.S. Department of Transportation

DRINKING WATER. POUR OVER THE FACTS.

The fact is, there's more to your tap water than filling your glass. A short new report from your water supplier will tell you where your water comes from and what's in it. Look for the report, and read it. It will fill you full of facts.

EPA DRINKING WATER. KNOW WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU.
 Call your water supplier or the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. Or visit www.epa.gov/safewater/

FBC
First Baptist Church
 Munday, Texas

220 South 5th Ave.
 Munday, TX 76731
 P: 940-422-4559

Pastor Shane Kendrix

Service Times:
Sunday
 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
 Worship: 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday
 Awanas, Pre-K to 6th grade:
 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
 Youth: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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Flirting with success

It's a funny thing about us Southerners. If a Yankee criticizes us, we haughtily disregard it, muttering over their ignorance.

But on the occasion a Yankee compliments us, we happily embrace it and declare we have found an enlightened Yankee.

Such was the case with me when a reporter from a Yankee newspaper called to interview me on the fine art of flirtation.

"Why did you call me?" I asked.

"Because everyone knows that Southern women are the best flirts," she replied simply.

I love enlightened Yankees. They are a joy to my soul.

That conversation led to an article that led me to writing a book about flirtation as practiced and patented by Southerners, especially our women. It is simply this: You can be a good storyteller without being a good flirt. But you cannot be a great flirt without being a terrific storyteller.

Storytelling is important to Southern people.

It is deep in the marrow of our bones, passed down from generations of Scotch, Irish and Scotch-Irish. At the start of the Civil War, around 75 percent of the South was Celtic. This is critical to understanding how a passionate

penchant for storytelling was passed down through generations over the years.

When the poor Celts arrived in this country — many of the Scotch-Irish were indentured slaves brought across the Atlantic and dumped unceremoniously around the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania — they brought nothing. Nothing, that is, except three skills from their native land: whiskey making, fiddle playing and storytelling. My people, pure Scotch-Irish they were, participated in all three.

Georgia-born writer Flannery O'Connor was once asked why Southerners wrote so much about freaks in their stories. "Because," she replied in her typical no-nonsense way, "We are still able to recognize them."

It's the same with storytelling. To tell a good story, you must first be able to recognize a good story. The best storytellers find entertaining drama in ordinary events and common occurrences such as misplaced keys, misbehaving kids and misunderstood mothers-in-law.

To say the least, Southern women are dramatic. Our hair isn't the only thing we like big. We like our stories to be grand, infusing them with overwrought drama that includes lots of expressions and embellishments.

My friend, Miss Virgie, a former Mississippi belle, was telling the story of being evacuated from her hillside home in Carson City, Nev., during a raging wild fire that took out many homes in her

neighborhood.

"The smoke was so thick I couldn't see to drive out of my driveway. I was just feeling my way along. It was terrible," she moaned. "Then, when I got out of the driveway, I was so close to the flames they licked my cheek and burned the tiny facial hairs away! I was charred!"

Her husband, Bill, who had been in the car in front of her, started chuckling. "Oh, it was not. You were not that close to the fire."

With a strong sense of urgency, she sat up straight, her blue eyes wide as platters. "Bill! I was, too! I am quite certain I had at least second-degree burns!"

Of course, Miss Virgie was doing what she does best when she tells a story — she was embellishing. But it sure made for a dog-gone good story, much better than if she had not been "charred" and suffered "at least second-degree burns."

That's the way a Southern woman flirts best. She tells stories and holds her audience captive in the palm of her sweet little hand.

Who cares if we embellish to make the story bigger? No one seems to care if we tease our hair to make it bigger.

And, as far as we Southern women are concerned, embellishing is just as important as teasing.

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

Benjamin News

With the holidays over and the weather settling down a little, the news is pretty scarce as far as "comings and goings" go. But there are some things to report that I hope will be of interest to my readers.

Several families in the area have been saddened by the loss of loved ones this week. Andy Hicks of Knox City passed away Saturday morning at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene following surgery a few days earlier. He was the son of Gail and Ann Hicks. Gail is a former full-time employee of the museum here (in the maintenance department), and is pretty well known here in Benjamin.

Sonny Crawford of Munday passed away Friday after being in failing health for several months. His funeral is tomorrow (Monday) at Munday. Also, Alphonse Kuehler, who lived in the Rhineland community died on Thursday. His funeral is tomorrow also at Rhineland. My sincere sympathy goes out to these families.

Museum Dinner Slated

The big fund raiser of the year for the local museum will be on Feb. 3 (Super Bowl Sunday) beginning at 11 a.m. and serving until 1:30 p.m. Brisket, sausage, beans, potato salad and all the trimmings, homemade pies and tea will make up the menu. Take-outs will be available also. There will be a silent auction, so everyone plan to be in Benjamin on that day for a great meal and lots of visiting and help with the expenses of operating the museum. As a side note, donations of pies and deviled eggs will again be asked for, so when you get the call, please respond positively and help make this another successful event.

Here 'n' there

We received word Friday that former resident Buddy Crenshaw, who lives in El Paso, suffered a stroke earlier in the week and is in an El Paso hospital. No definite word on just how severe it was, but do know his speech was affected. And also, we learned that Buddy's son, Guy, who is a coach in Canyon, has been diagnosed with cancer and will be going to M.D. Anderson the last of the month

to see what doctors there think would be his best course of treatment. He is 48 years old. Please keep these friends in your prayers.

Judy and Randolph spent several days last week at their home in Alvin tending to some business and checking things out. They returned home Saturday.

Gloria West was in Abilene on Tuesday to see a doctor about her recurring bouts of dizziness. She was relieved to learn that some therapy would be the best treatment for it. Not sure yet if she will have that therapy in Knox City or go back to Abilene. She said those "dizzy spells" were getting closer together and very annoying, so maybe this will help that problem.

I had a brief visit with Doris Marion Duke last week. She said her mom, Polly, has some good days — some not so good. On the day I talked to her she said doctors thought she might need some blood to strengthen her but decided to try medication first. I was glad to get that report as I had not heard from Polly in quite some time.

Charles and Linda Griffith visited their daughter Amy Tyson and family in Clovis, N.M., last week and went with them to Albuquerque to the State Choir performance. Their granddaughter Abby is a member of the New Mexico High Schools Mixed State Choir. Abby is a senior at Clovis High School and has been an active choir member for several years.

I visited briefly recently with Dennis Duke and asked him if he was enjoying retirement. (He retired around the first of January from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, where he had been employed for several years.) He said he really didn't know yet, as he was busy with lots of chores at home that he had sort of let slide for a while. He's always out and about doing constructive things in the community and at his church. But at best, the routine is different, and I just bet he will learn to like the change pretty well.

Please remember to call me if you have news. Everyone likes to read about what's going on in and around Benjamin.

Gladene Green is a longtime Benjamin resident and correspondent.

The 501

It's not easy being green

In the world of prejudices against ethnicities, someone once said it's easier to hate a whole group of people than one you get to know. I'll buy that.

In a similar way, it's harder to kill an animal you know than one you don't, if seeing a daily

coyote from a distance counts as getting to know him. It's time now for our coyote to trek across the north pasture toward the early morning sun. I just looked. I don't see him.

In the city, our backyard dove is more predictable. For one thing, my husband, Hugh, has gotten into the habit of feeding her pecans. Bear in mind, he's a dove hunter. Once when we were driving down a country road, he voiced shotgun bursts. I was dumbfounded and asked what was going on. Hugh said he'd seen some dove, as if that should explain everything. (This from a man of few words and serious demeanor.) Soon after that, we went dove hunting, and I saw him rip the heads off the birds he'd shot as naturally as if he were brushing his teeth.

Now he's got a pet dove. For one thing, you can't shoot the dove that live in your back yard when you're in the middle of a city. Maybe the birds have figured that out. We've got plenty.

So how does Hugh know

which one he's feeding? She's got a mangled foot. Maybe she was hatched that way, or maybe a cat almost nabbed her and she escaped with just a maiming. Cats aren't supposed to roam free in the city. Tell the cats.

How does a dove eat pecans? They must be cracked. There you have it — Hugh, the great dove hunter, cracking and giving away daily all the pecans we gathered in the fall.

Sometimes things work out. Our pecans aren't very good.

When Hugh doesn't get crackin' on time, the dove sits on the fence and makes guttural noises — the opposite of cooing, apparently. I've not heard the noises.

Indeed, animals do have distinct vocabularies. If you've ever listened to cows, you know when a mama is calling her calf. If you know your dog, you learn his barks. We once had a dog with a snake bark — whooo, whooo. Seriously.

But when you think about it, doves shouldn't naturally have any coos that translate "feed me now." They're supposed to find their own vittles, aren't they? Maybe she's just using the same words she would to scold her husband, if it's true dove mate for life.


After her morning feasts, we're left with a sizeable spread of clean shell fragments. I've heard that some new methods of fracking for natural gas, no doubt devised under pressure from the green environmental camp, use walnut shells. Why not pecan?

What a story. Man feeds pecans to handicapped dove and recycles shells for safe fracking.

Packaged right, it could incorporate this concept: It's hard to be prejudiced against the green people when you have become one.

Hanaba Munn Welch is a contributor and columnist for The Post Dispatch.

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Words cannot express the sincere gratitude for all the food, cards, prayers and kindness given to us during the loss of our father, Francis Victor Redder. We would especially like to thank Uncle Rhiney, Uncle Billy and Aunt Jeanene for their loving care and support of not only our father but the entire family.

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We would like to thank you for all the acts of kindness shown to us during the loss of our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Frances Cypert.

Sue & Rick Liles & Family
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Randy & Sharon Cypert & Family

Students in the news Planning meeting slated for prescribed burn group

Dillard named to dean's list at Notre Dame

Robert Dillard Jr. of Munday has been named to the dean's list in the University of Notre Dame's College of Science for outstanding scholarship during the fall 2012 semester. Students who achieve dean's honors at Notre Dame represent the top 30 percent of students in their college.

Special to the Dispatch

There will be a meeting from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 13 in Aspermont at the Stonewall County Activity Center (directly west of the courthouse) to officially form the Southern Rolling Plains Prescribed Burn Association.

If interested in becoming a member, please plan to attend. The meeting will begin with a brief overview of what a prescribed burn association is, with featured guest speaker Butch Taylor, the man behind Texas' first PBA, the Edwards Plateau PBA. Afterward, there will be a brief discussion about insurance coverages available to individuals and associations. The majority of the day, however, will be spent on the nuts and bolts of our PBA including establishing a first draft of bylaws and nominating officers.

This PBA will be modeled after other existing PBAs in Texas 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 I-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. 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.

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. 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.

For information about the formation of this PBA, or if you cannot attend the meeting but would like to become a member or would like to be included on regular PBA updates, contact Derrick Holdstock with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at Derrick.Holdstock@tpwd.state.tx.us or 806-217-2911.

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Knox City Greyhounds & Lady Hounds



Greyhounds garner medals at UIL invitational

By Caleb Hudgens
For the News-Courier

HASKELL — Five Knox City High School students competed in 10 UIL events Saturday, winning six medals and one ribbon at the ninth annual Haskell Pow Wow invitational meet.

“The Pow Wow was tough this year,” contest director Kendra Bevel said. “There were past state-level competitors from 17 area A and AA schools. Not a cake walk.”

The size and caliber of the tournament can be daunting.

“It was our first UIL meet this year, and I was nervous at first,” sophomore Andrea Lynn said. “But once the competition started, I thought back to what we had done in practice. It wasn’t so hard after all.”

Lynn and sophomore Marlie Steele represented the journalism team — competing in four contests that challenge students to demonstrate their writing

abilities in different journalistic styles: editorial, feature, news and headline writing.

Lynn placed third in both headline and editorial writing, and fifth in feature writing.

Junior Tyler Clark and sophomores M’Kayla Ericson and Jessica Wilburn represented the speech team, which each earned medals in interpretive and extemporaneous speaking events.

“I think the more we work and practice, the better we’ll get,” Ericson said. “By the time district comes in March, I think we will be unstoppable.”

Ericson took second in prose and third in informative speaking, and Wilburn won second in persuasive speaking and third in prose.

“Although this was our first UIL tournament this year for most of the events, we’ve been competing in our speaking events since October,” Wilburn said. “I can’t help but expect a lot at district.”



Photo special to the News-Courier
Proud UIL participants displaying their awards after a great competition.

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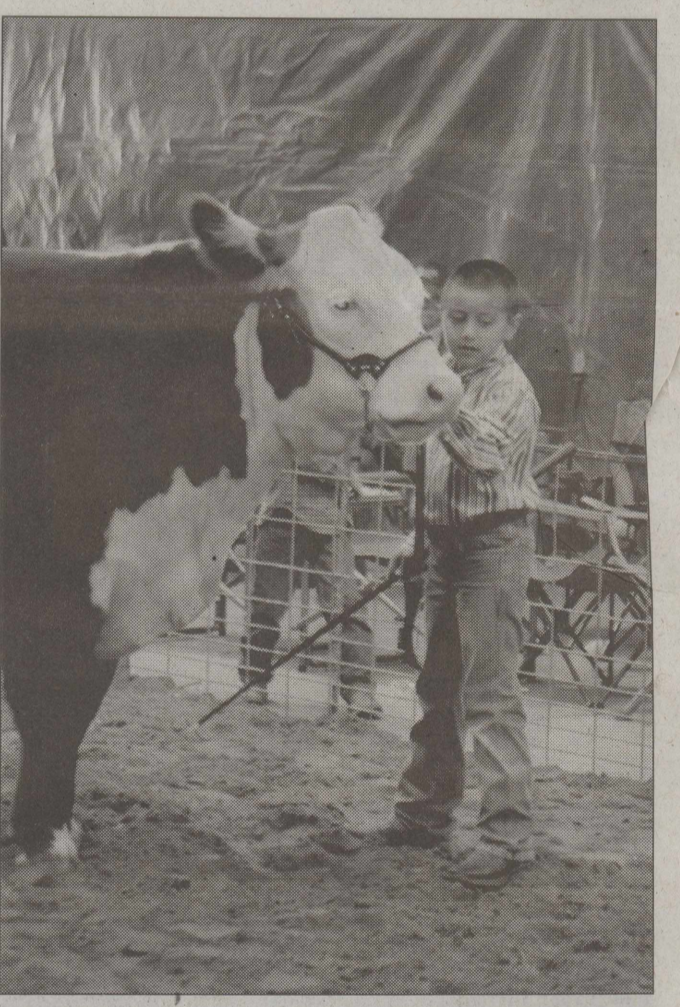
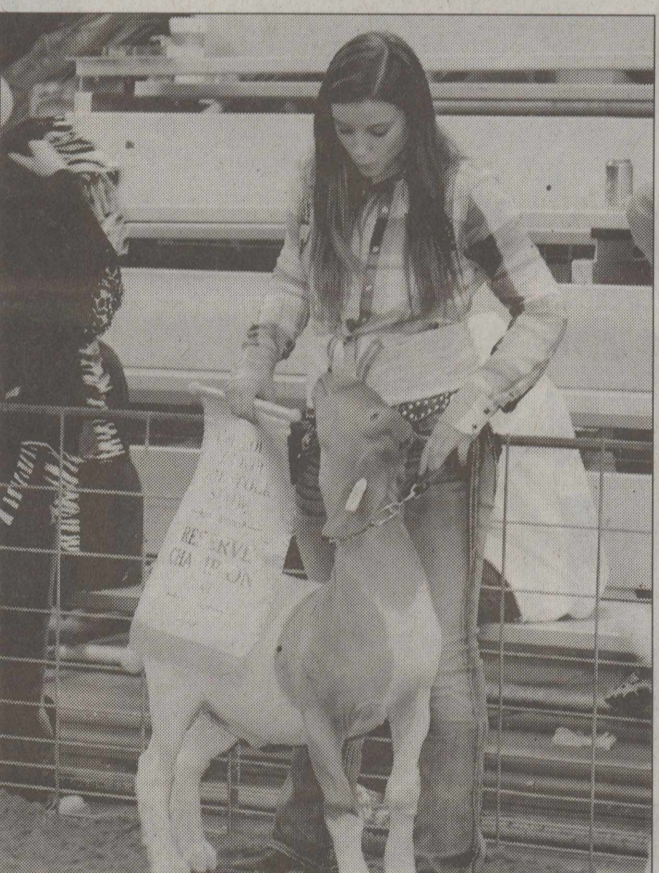
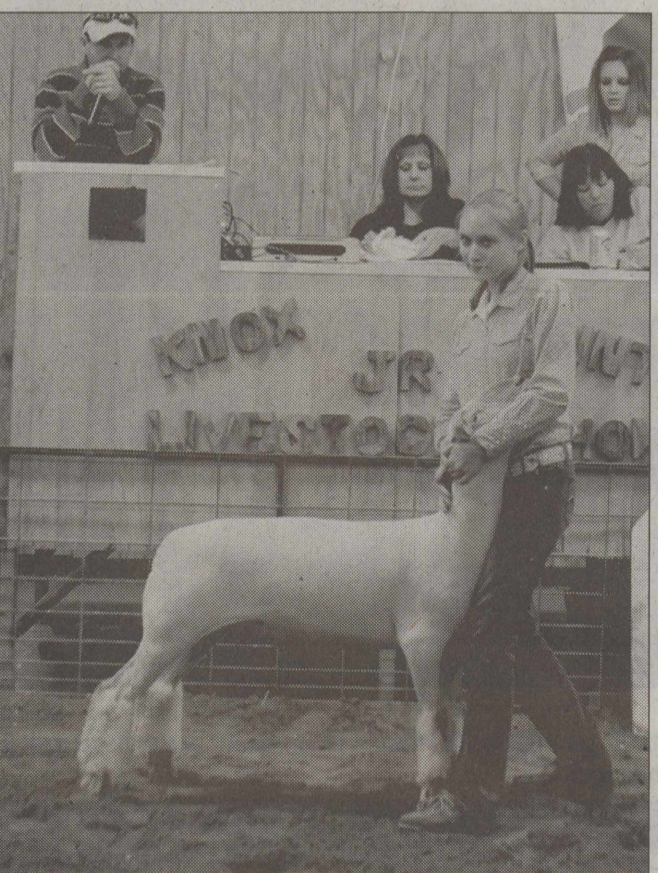
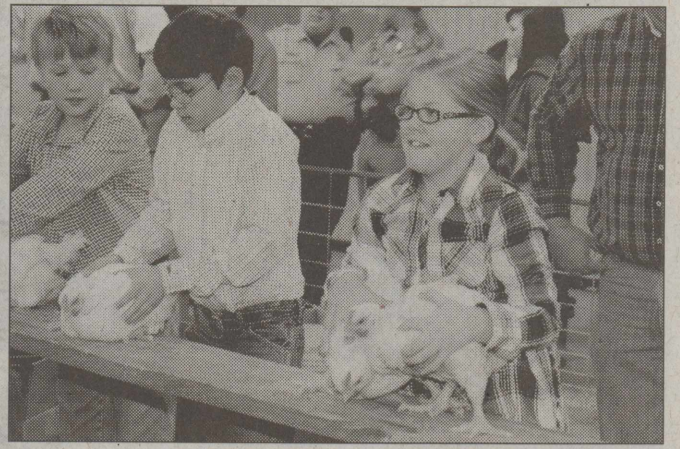
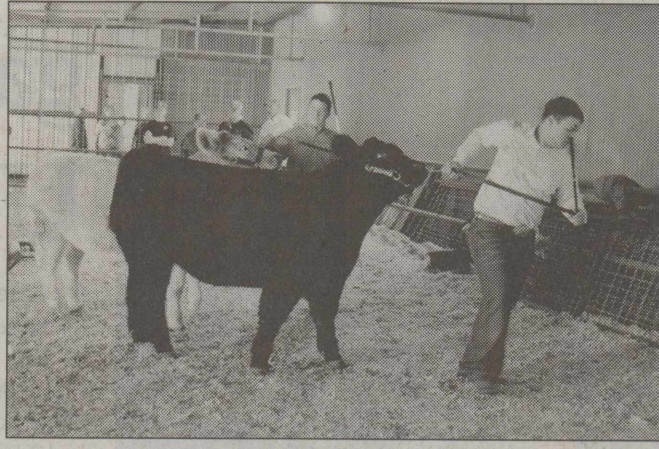
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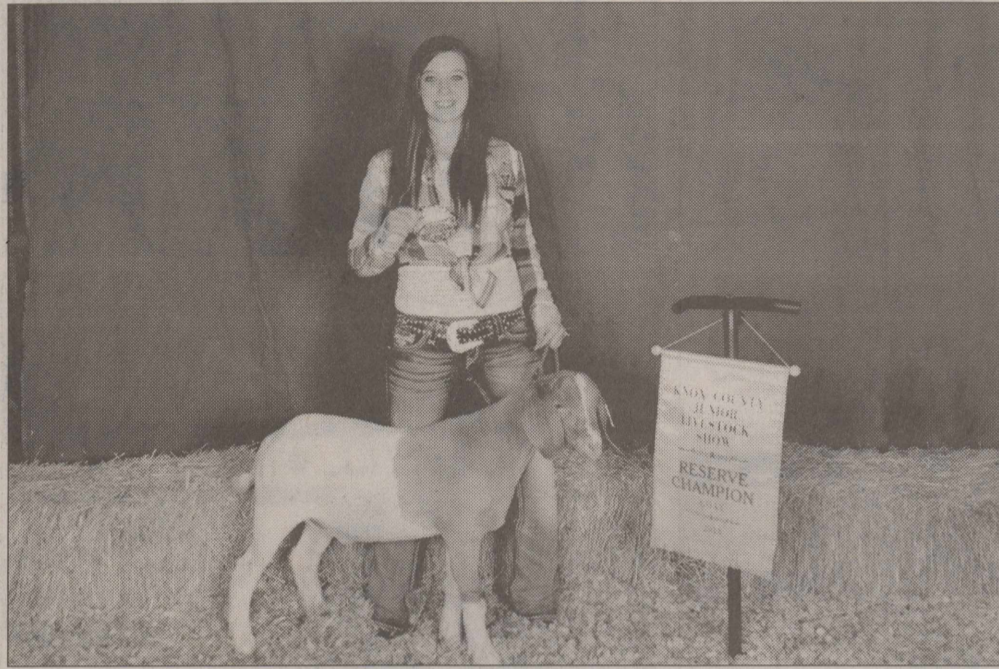
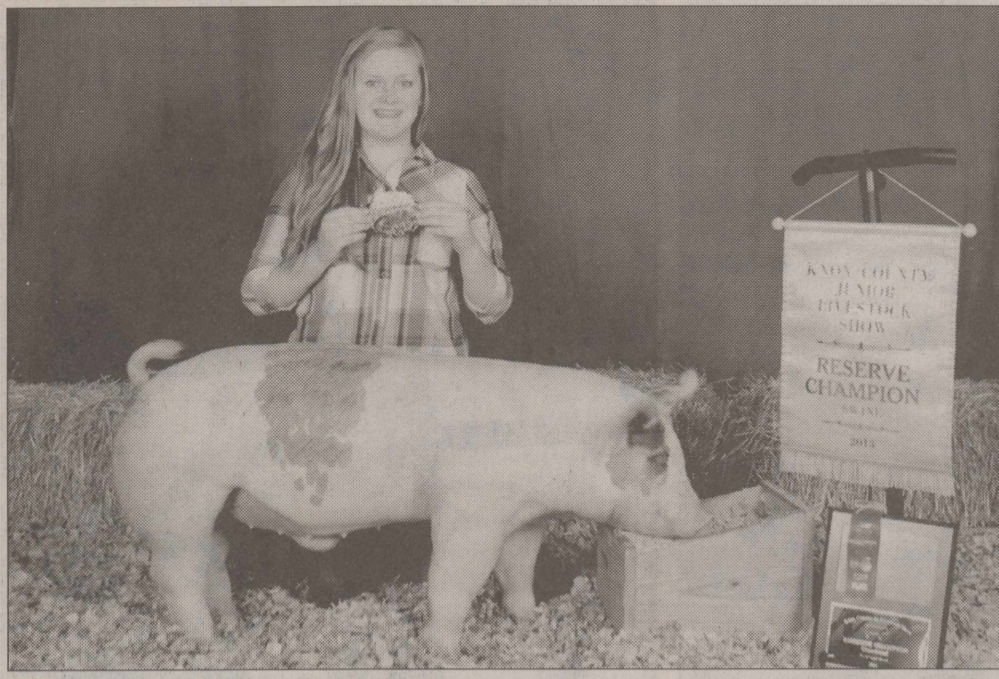
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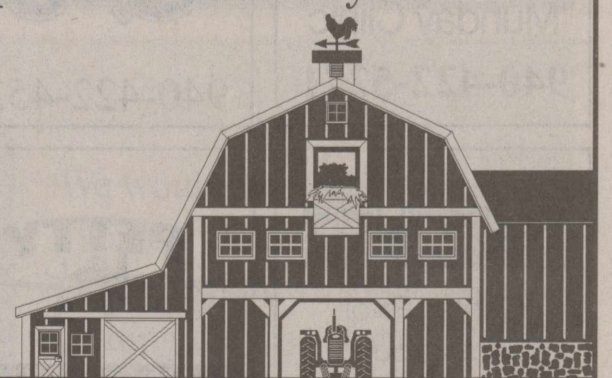
Knox County Livestock Show



Good luck Youth Livestock Show participants!

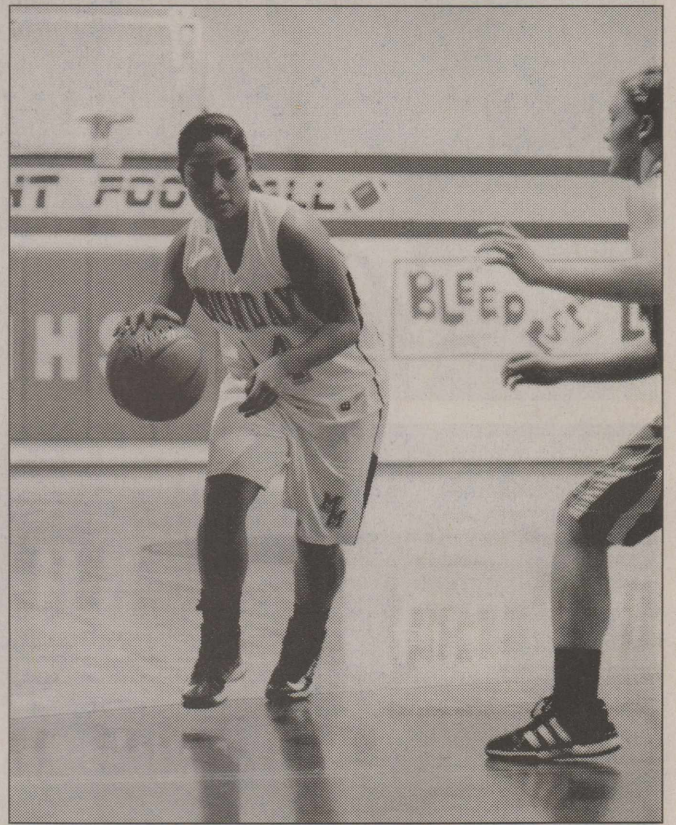
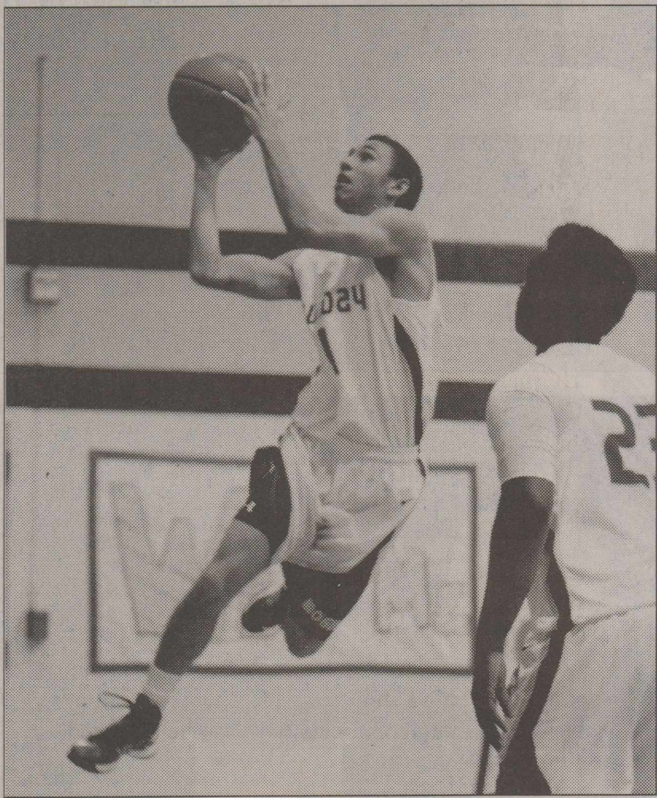
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- (3.) 506 N. HINTON, BLKS 1-3 ORIG BENJAMIN

Bids should be mailed to PO Box 166, Benjamin, Texas 79505, or submitted in sealed envelope no later than February 13, 2013 at noon. Responses will be opened on February 13 at the Regular School Board Meeting at which award selection will be made and notification to selections will follow, Thursday, February 14. (940-459-2231).

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PUBLIC HEARING

Grant Performance and Closeout
City of Munday
Contract No. 711529

The City of Munday will hold a public hearing at 6:30 PM, February 12, 2013, at the City Hall, for the purpose of reviewing its performance on a recently completed TxCDBG grant, Contract No. 711529. All citizens, particularly low and moderate income residents, are invited and encouraged to attend. Individuals with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact the City Hall at 940/422-4331 to arrange for assistance. Written comments will also be accepted at the City Hall prior to or during the meeting.

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SENATE PANEL
From Page 1

Many gun bills are filed

More than a dozen state lawmakers have filed legislation pertaining to firearms.

The bills deal with who, what, when, where and how a handgun can be carried, licensing procedures, permit fees, renewals and more.

One of the bills, SB 182 by Sen. Brian Birdwell, R-Waco, sets forth conditions under which a concealed handgun license holder may "carry" on land and buildings owned or leased by an institution of higher education.

In other news, a rally at the state Capitol on Jan. 19 against President Obama's recent gun control proposals drew several hundred people.

Year ends with job gains

December was the fourth straight month the unemployment rate in Texas has declined, the Texas Workforce Commission reported Jan. 18.

Texas' unemployment rate fell to 6.1 percent in December, down from 6.2 percent in November and from 7.4 percent a year ago, the agency's Chairman Andres Alcantar said. Also, private sector employers in Texas added 257,400 jobs since December 2011 for an annual growth rate of 2.9 percent.

"In December, we saw annual growth in 10 major industries, for an overall annual growth of 2.5 percent in Texas," Alcantar said. "With those positive strides and 11,800 private sector jobs added in the past month, 2012 was a strong year for Texas and my hope is that the Texas economy will build on that success in 2013."

Tom Pauken, the agency's commissioner representing employers, said, "Texas is leading the way in helping to make the United States energy independent. Our robust energy sector not only is creating good paying jobs for many Texans in that industry but also is spurring job growth in many other industries."

Travis letter to head home

William Barret Travis's "Victory or Death" letter written Feb. 24, 1836, will be returned to the Alamo on Feb. 22 for a grand celebration at Alamo Plaza.

This will be the first time the letter — which resides at the Texas State Library and Archives in Austin — has been at the Alamo since it left with a courier on horseback under the cover of darkness during the famous 13-day siege in 1836, Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson said. Visitors will be asked to be silent and respectful when viewing the document "from a safe distance" and no flash photography will be allowed.

Alamo visitors will be able to view the letter Feb. 23 through March 7.

STOCK SHOW
From Page 1

showed the grand champion fryer, and Grace Howeth showed the reserve winner. Justin Tidwell and Krista Rodriguez, showing single fryers, won junior and senior showmanship, respectively.

For pens of three, Grace Howeth's trio won grand champion honors, and Josiah Coplen won reserve.

In breed competition, a doe exhibited by Grace Tidwell won best opposite sex, and a buck exhibited by Justin Tidwell won best of show.

Kristen Kuehler swept the market lamb competition, winning grand and reserve and junior showmanship.

Goat competition was stiffer with several exhibitors competing in four market goat classes. John Shaver's Class 4 market goat won grand champion, and Jordyn Eaton's Class 3 goat won reserve. Showmanship awards went to Parker Finley, who won senior showmanship with a Class 2 market goat, and to Brady Finley, who won junior showmanship with the second-place Class 3 market goat.

Grand and reserve and other honors aside, exhibitors and their animals placed as follows:

POULTRY SHOW

Broilers

Class 1

- 1 Lyndon Baty
- 2 Sheldon Baty
- 3 Chance Baty
- 4 McKayla Coplen
- 5 Josiah Coplen

Class 2

- 1 Sheldon Baty
- 2 Chance Baty
- 3 Lyndon Baty
- 4 Josiah Coplen
- 5 McKayla Coplen

- 2 Tyllyne Eaton
- 3 Brogan White
- 4 Kelsey Vasquez

DUROC

Lightweight

- 1 Kayla Hunter
- 2 Alexia Jimenez
- 3 Chris Richardson
- 4 Dustin Ledesma

Mediumweight

- 1 Katelyn Baker
- 2 Callie Cude
- 3 Jaylon Roberson
- 4 LaQuita Roberson

Heavyweight

- 1 Kendall Thompson
- 2 Jordan Ruiz
- 3 Taylor Wilson
- 4 Matthew Jimenez
- 5 Tori Thompson
- 6 Elissa Sepeda

HAMPSHIRE

Lightweight

- 1 Kristen Kuehler
- 2 Kayla Hunter
- 3 Kolbey Brown
- 4 Matthew Jimenez
- 5 Melanie Ruiz
- 6 Brenley Waters

Heavyweight

- 1 Shannon Reeves
- 2 Chase Wilson
- 3 Tanna Moeller

SPOT

Lightweight

- 1 Skylin Ledesma
- 2 Jordan Ruiz
- 3 Tyllyne Eaton
- 4 Melissa Rogers

Heavyweight

- 1 Kristen Kuehler
- 2 Chelsey Castorena
- 3 Dawson Eades
- 4 Chelsey Castorena

YORKSHIRE

- 1 Shannon Reeves
- 2 Tanna Moeller
- 3 Kolbey Brown
- 4 Will Patterson

OTHER PURE BREED

- 1 Kristen Kuehler
- 2 Elli Oustad
- 3 Melanie Ruiz
- 4 Madison Thompson

CROSS

Lightweight

- 1 Kristen Kuehler
- 2 Alexia Jimenez
- 3 Tanna Moeller
- 4 Jordyn Eaton
- 5 LaQuita Roberson
- 6 Belle Ledesma
- 7 Kinsey Benson

Mediumweight

- 1 Kolbey Brown
- 2 Kendall Thompson
- 3 Reylee Ledesma
- 4 McKayla Coplen
- 5 Kinsey Benson
- 6 Trey Ledesma
- 7 Cassandra Ledesma

Light Heavyweight

- 1 Shannon Reeves
- 2 Tyllyne Eaton
- 3 Brenley Waters
- 4 Tanna Moeller
- 5 William Patterson
- 6 William Patterson
- 7 Sydney Thompson
- 8 Kinsey Benson
- 9 Callie Cude
- 10 Dustin Ledesma

Heavyweight

- 1 Madison Thompson
- 2 Kendall Thompson
- 3 Taylor Wilson
- 4 Tori Thompson
- 5 Ryder Dillard
- 6 Skylin Ledesma
- 7 Jordyn Eaton
- 8 Reylee Ledesma
- 9 Kaetlin Ledesma

STEER SHOW

Lightweight

- 1 Logan Groves
- 2 Madison Thompson
- 3 Kendall Thompson
- 4 Logan Groves

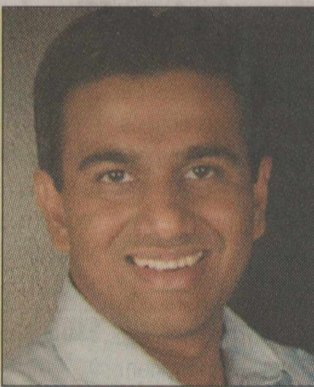
Heavyweight

- 1 Alexia Jimenez
- 3 Shannon Reeves
- 4 Matthew Jimenez

World Trade Center survivor to speak at First Baptist Church

Special to the News-Courier

First Baptist Church is pleased to host Sujo John. Sujo will be here Sunday, Feb. 17 to share his testimony about September 11, 2001 at our 11:00 A.M and 6:00PM services.



SUJO JOHN

Sujo John was on the 81st floor of Tower 1 when the first airliner exploded into flames just above his office. Sujo, whose pregnant wife's office was in Tower 2, will recount the details of the incredible events he witnessed during his narrow escape from death. His inspiring story has been covered in the New York Times, The B.B.C. and the London Times, The 700 Club, TBN, Billy Graham Specials and other national and international media. Sujo has spoken nation-

wide and around the world to thousands since September 11, 2001. The City of New York had asked him to speak at the dedication of the memorial at Ground Zero on September 11, 2011.

Please come and hear the amazing testimony of Sujo John. If you have questions please call First Baptist Church at 422-4559.

PINK LADIES
From Page 1

have the money to get one, they can come down here and we give them one."

Nor does the shop charge for anything furnished to families that have lost their possessions in house fires,

Huff said.

Huff likes helping at the shop.

"It gets you out among people," she said.

The Pink Ladies Shop, in business since 1981 and now at its third location, depends on the community for the goods it needs to raise money for the hospital.

"We are so fortunate to

have such admirable facilities in our sparsely populated area," said Billie Walker, ladies auxiliary reporter, referring to the hospital complex. Walker would like to see the community continue to donate goods to the Pink Ladies Shop to keep the dollars flowing for the good cause. Her message for Knox County residents:

"Clean out your closets, kitchen cabinets and knick-knack shelves so we can replenish our checking account for the next request for help."

Last year the Ladies Auxiliary gave \$45,000 to the hospital.

Hours for the Pink Ladies Shop are 10 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Monday and Friday, and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday.

JAIL SPACE
From Page 1

County too. Also jailed was one person arrested on warrants from Fannin County and Denton County.

Knox City Police Chief Caleb Hodges declined Tuesday to comment on any problems he's encountered regarding the availability of the county jail, although he had mentioned some of his concerns last week in his regular report to the Knox City Council. As reported in last week's News-Courier, Hodges cited an incident when the county turned down a request to jail a person already in police custody.

By the same token, Hodges, when asked by a council member if there was a problem with the county, was not accusatory.

"There is no issue," he said. "I have no leg to stand on. That's his jail."

Sheriff Homstad, who manages the jail operation, didn't return calls on the jail topic Monday or Tuesday, and Munday Police Chief Chris Mendoza didn't respond by phone to a request for a comment on Tuesday. In Munday and Knox City, both city managers indicated questions about the jail situation could best be handled by law enforcement.

Knox County Judge Travis Floyd spoke frankly about the jail in a phone interview Tuesday, and sheriffs from three other counties — Baylor, Childress and Cottle — were willing to talk about their own experiences with jails.

Floyd confirmed the Knox County Jail makes money.

"It is a source of revenue," he said. "It does bring in a little bit of money. Not a lot."

Without the exact figures at hand, he put the amount at about \$25,000 a year.

"It helps maintain the jail,"

he said.

In Floyd's opinion, Homstad manages the 13-bed jail well.

"The sheriff has done a real good job on it," Floyd said. "The sheriff has a lot of discretion. If we start running into a space problem, then he can give them double time (double credit for time served) and get them out of there. He watches for things like that."

Floyd's answer to criticism that the jail doesn't have room for people arrested by city officers is that the county doesn't like to use the jail for people arrested for Class C misdemeanors — an offense that doesn't carry a jail penalty per se but that can necessitate holding the person arrested for up to 48 hours.

"They try to arrest people for a Class C," Floyd said. "A Class C misdemeanor is not a jailable offense, mainly. A lot of time, those Class C misdemeanors are city-issued. The city gets all the revenue; the county bears the cost."

Nevertheless, Floyd believes the county works well with municipal authorities.

"We work well together with Munday and Knox City," he said. "We sort of have an understanding."

As for Class C misdemeanor arrests, different law enforcement entities apparently handle the offenses differently.

Childress Sheriff Mike Pigg, interviewed by phone Tuesday, said the Vernon Police Department sends its Class C detainees to Childress to the new 96-bed jail operated by Childress County. In fact, Childress transports Vernon's Class C offenders, upping the standard \$35 per-day charge to \$38 for the extra service. The Wilbarger County Jail, under both the previous sheriff and the current one, has a take-no-Class C-prisoners policy, according to Pigg, even though the county operates a 40-plus bed facility on the west edge of Vernon.

Pigg welcomes the extra inmates, and he has space for more, he said.

Baylor County Sheriff Bob Elliott, who uses jails in both Knox County and Jack County, doesn't consider Class C misdemeanors to be offenses that warrant jail stays, he said Tuesday by phone. But he often needs a jail for a variety of offenders — some whom he knows will be jailed for extended amounts of time. If he expects a jail stay to be lengthy, he generally places the inmate in Jack County rather than Knox, he said.

"We don't want to tie them up," he said, referring to the smaller Knox County Jail. "The sheriff and I have worked well together. If he says bring them on over, then he has room for them. We try not to crowd him out over there. ... We always call before we take them over there."

As for Jack County, the jail is larger, but it doesn't operate at full capacity.

"They have a 100-something bed facility," Elliott said. "They're using about 40 beds."

A problem in Jack County obviously is the difficulty of finding people to work in the jail when oilfield pay is considerably higher — the downside of the Barnett shale boom that has dramatically increased oilfield activity in Jack and nearby counties.

"They have a hard time keeping employees," Elliott said, noting that he himself could make considerably more in the oilfield than working as Baylor County Sheriff.

"The last time I checked, I was the lowest paid sheriff in the state of Texas," Elliott said.

Cottle County Sheriff Rickey Lawrence, like Elliott, doesn't have his own county jail. New to his job, he's determined to save Cottle County money by doing what he can to get prisoners handled as speedily as possible by the courts, one

more entity in the scheme of things.

Lawrence said he's found David Hajek, 50th District attorney, to be cooperative. "We've pretty much cleaned ours out," Lawrence said, indicating that he was able to help Hajek by getting case files to him to speed up lagging cases.

"We don't want them (inmates) laying there three or four months when we can get them out," Lawrence said.

Plea bargains aren't necessarily the way Lawrence likes to see cases handled, but he acknowledged that accepting pleas are generally the most expedient and least costly way to deal with offenders.

"It's not up to me," he said. Indeed, the cost of justice, perhaps as much as any other factor, seems to dictate as much as anything else how cases and inmates are handled.

For instance, in Knox County, a new jail or an expanded version of the existing one could allay concerns about jail space. But neither project is likely to happen.

Judge Floyd doesn't want anything to cause the county to have to shut down the current jail operation.

"Our old jail is grandfathered," Floyd said. "We have jail inspections real often. Sometimes they'll catch a flaw or something, and we'll have to correct it."

Floyd knows that Knox County isn't in position to make changes to a jail that currently exists thanks to certain waivers and he believes a new jail would not likely be a money-maker, citing projects in the region that have failed to meet revenue expectations.

"If we start trying to add facilities or anything like that, then we'll have to meet all standards," he said, citing a virtually impossible challenge for the existing building.

OUT OF THE ASHES
of the World Trade Center

One man's survival on that day of terror...
A story of hope and faith in Jesus Christ

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