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THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2013

KCNEWSCOURIER.COM

75 CENTS

Brine Lake Project Still Under Scrutiny

By Hanaba Welch
The News-Courier

In a regular session of commissioners court Monday, an update on a proposal to develop Truscott Brine Lake to generate electricity sparked speculation and raised questions.

The agenda covered other topics, from an audit to reports from the Texas Department of Transportation and other entities, but the Brine Lake project, as proposed by Good Earth Mechanics of New Hamp-

shire, generated the most interest.

Miles Dabovich, district extension administrator for the Texas A&M AgriLife, unfamiliar with the relatively unknown process of creating electricity from saltwater, asked for more information. Judge Travis Floyd gave a thumbnail explanation of how salt water in shallow ponds naturally builds up heat that can be used to power electricity generating plants, all without the need to replenish the salt.

Floyd talked mostly about his Jan. 24 trip to Waco to meet with George Nitschke of Good Earth and with the Brazos River Authority.

"The Red River Authority is the one that handles the Brine Lake project," Floyd said.

Good Earth believes getting the Brazos River Authority to buy into the project is also important since the salty Brazos could also lend itself to the same sort of project, Floyd said.

"When the Truscott

Brine Lake project goes, it's just going to be a matter of time until the Brazos River part of it goes," Floyd said, remaining positive about the overall project despite obstacles that have slowed plans.

Floyd blamed politics for getting in the way.

"People in the air force and other parts of government have to throw a wrench in it," he said. "We have to retool - take care of their concerns and then go at it again."

One concern is that the

payback period will be too long and that Good Earth is a sole provider, unavoidable since other companies are not yet involved.

"The technology is not commercially available," Floyd said. "This is the first of its kind. It's going to be taken care of at some point, if Good Earth Mechanics doesn't give up."

Floyd indicated that Sen. John Cornyn's office is becoming involved in a

See LAKE, 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.

Baked Potato Supper

Knox City Elementary PTO Baked Potato Supper Thursday Feb. 7th, 5-7 pm at the school cafeteria. Meal includes: baked potato, ham, cheese, traditional toppings, salad and dessert. Purchase tickets from elementary students!

One-Act fundy

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

KCVG grant

The Knox County Visioning Group (KCVG) is looking for individuals who have an interest in pursuing a trade in Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC). The KCVG is rolling out a grant for \$1500. This grant is available to a Knox County senior in high school or a Knox County resident who is already out of high school and wishes to pursue this training. The grant will require the student to return to Knox County for one year and work in an HVAC field.

Quilt Show

The Knox County Cotton Pickin Quilt Show and Cookin Show will be held Saturday, Feb. 23, at the Knox Prairie Events Center in Goree (old Goree School Bldg.) The event is from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Lunch will be from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Cotton Pickin Cafe (the cafeteria).

Hee Haw Benjamin

The Benjamin Parent-Teacher Organization is holding "Hee Haw Benjamin Style" at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 23 at Benjamin School. A dance afterward will feature the Buster Redwine Band. Redwine, an ex-student, is an accomplished Western Swing fiddle player. Tickets to the dance will be \$10. Admission to Hee Haw will be \$5. The P-TO wants to raise money through the event and via an appeal to ex-students to help the school with funding. "Our goal for that Saturday night is \$10,000," said Janice Tolleson, who is helping promote the event. "We're going to do t-shirts."

Hee-Haw T-shirts

Support our school Hee-Haw event by purchasing a T-Shirt at BJ Country Store. For more information call 940-459-2009 or stop by the store in Benjamin. Sizes are youth XS to Med; adult SM to 3X. \$15 each. All proceeds go to the Benjamin School.

KC Basketball

The Knox City varsity boys play-off against Pducah is Tuesday, Feb. 19, in Guthrie at 7:30 p.m.

Corrections

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

News on the go



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Water woes, trash concern Munday officials

By Wayne Hodgkin
The News-Courier

Munday City Council covered a lengthy agenda in regular session Tuesday, spending much of the two and one-half hour meeting talking about various water issues.

Measure to clean up trash and to demolish abandoned derelict buildings also were points of discussion.

Also, applications are now available for anyone who would like to run for a city office. Terms are expiring for Mayor Robert Bowen and council members Ryan Cottingham and Trey Singleton, all of whom may choose to run again. The deadline for completing an application is March 1.

Rick Ake, city manager, alerted the council that tighter water restrictions are likely to go into place in 60 to 90 days unless enough rain falls to put water into Millers Creek Reservoir, the source of water for Munday and other area municipalities.

A water leak at the golf course resulted in a sharp increase in the amount of water used during the last month -- an increase from the 15,000 to 18,000 gallons normally used to 48,000 gallons, Ake reported.

Charges for water and sewer and garbage services at the nursing home, under the direction of the hospital district since Dec. 10, have been a matter of concern to the hospital district, Ake said.

"We misread the meter in January," he said. "They were questioning me very hard because we only sent them a bill for 35,000 gallons of water."

The next month's bill was greater, resulting in a discussion of water use and charges for other city services.

"We didn't agree to bill the garbage at cost," Ake said. "Only the water."

Regarding amounts normally used, Ake said the hospital district should not have been surprised at the number of gallons.

"I gave the people at the EDC (Economic Development Corporation) all the history - usages and stuff," Ake said. "The hospital district said they never saw anything like that, that it was never talked about."

Water also found its way into the discussion of Ake's proposed budget for the coming year. When the city enforces water restrictions, the city makes less money from the sale of water.

"The overall trend for the budget ... we have lowered income," Ake said. "Water is the biggest thing. Sales tax could be a problem. The budget for water collections that was set out in the original budget was \$347,000. We're going to push hard if we get \$275,000."

Ake told the council that the city planned to file charges against 11 people for theft of services for water amounting to \$9,000.

"The ones that we're filing on will be the people where it happened in the last year and a half," Ake said.

Regarding derelict buildings, Ake reported that a new rule will allow the city to dispose of nuisance and abandoned buildings without following procedures previously required.

"We can probably start within the next two to three months taking care of these abandoned buildings," he said. "We can get rid of these things without having to go through TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality). We don't have to get an engineering firm to sanctify the process."

Keep Munday Beautiful has agreed to partner with the city to clean up the area around the city lake, Ake said.

"We put a gate up on it yesterday," he said. "It is a mess out there. People have continued to dump trash."

In other business, the council agreed to cap the amount of money contributed by the city toward employee health insurance at \$450 per employee per month, to authorize Ake to begin negotiations to possibly acquire property that borders the city yard, to organize a meeting for all entities that collect and utilize sales tax collected by the city to improve the business climate in Munday.

"We can't draw manufacturing in," Charles Grisham

See CONCERNS, Page 10

Munday Star Signs With Tech



Janet Dillard for The Knox County News-Courier

Dee Paul, a standout quarterback and defensive back for the State Champion Munday Moguls, signed a Letter of Intent to play football for Texas Tech University in Lubbock. Paul led MHS to the school's third state title and was recently named Dave Campbell's Texas Football Offensive Player of the Year. He is also a unanimous first team all-state selection. Paul is expected to play defensive back for the Red Raiders. Front, from left, David and Connie Dockins, grandparents, Dee Paul, Angel Paul, mother; back row, Coach Ronny Lowrance, LaTheresa Dockins, sister, and Mogul Head Coach and Athletic Director Patrick Corcoran.

Area Sales Tax Receipts Climb

By Hanaba Welch
The News-Courier

Christmas can't be measured in dollars and cents - except when it comes to retail sales and the resulting revenue the Yuletide season produces for government coffers. The latest figures from the state comptroller tell a mixed story for Knox County and across the area for municipalities large and small.

Note: February sales tax receipts reflect December sales. Year-to-date figures represent November and December sales.

Both Munday and Knox City receipts show increases in tax collected this year as compared to 2012. The year-to-date total for Knox City is up 13.7 percent from 2012, and the February total is up 7.56 percent from last February. For Munday, the increase is less, with the year-to-date total up 7.77 percent from last year and the February total up 3.77 percent.

Amounts collected were \$26,148.44, February, and \$51,102.73, year-to-date, for Knox City and \$18,219.83, February, and \$32,384.88, year-to-date, for Munday.

Benjamin, Goree and O'Brien show the greatest fluctuations in taxes collected.

Both Benjamin and Goree receipts are down. In Goree, the year-to-date

total was down 38.3 percent and the February total was down 38.34 percent compared to last year's totals. Benjamin showed less decrease -- 9.0 percent down, February and year-to-date, respectively.

O'Brien year-to-date figures reflect higher November-December sales in 2012 than the year before -- up by 21.88 percent -- but the February total alone reflects a worse December in 2012 than the year before, down by 4.12 percent.

Sales tax figures from

other area cities are both up and down.

Both Abilene and Wichita Falls collected less sales tax in November and December in 2012 than in 2011. Abilene percentages of decline were 17.78 percent, year-to-date, and 13.92 percent for February, meaning less sales tax collected in both November and December 2012 than the year before. Wichita Falls showed smaller decreases - down 2.16 percent down and 3.31 percent down, respectively.

See SALES TAX, Page 10

Tale of two cities

Population-wise, Munday is slightly larger than Knox City, with higher per capita and household incomes, but Knox City retail sales produce markedly more tax revenue than retail sales in Munday.

The website www.city-data.com reports Knox City's 2011 population as 1,142 compared to 1,305 for Munday.

The estimated per capita income in 2009 in Knox City was \$17,781 compared to \$22,941 in Munday, and the estimated median household income in Munday in 2009 was \$32,958, compared to \$22,393 in Knox City.

Based solely on population and income differences, Munday could be expected to bring in more sales tax revenue. It does not.

"It's basically the types of businesses that we have," said Rick Ake, Munday city manager. "Our two biggest businesses sales-wise are tractor dealers. Ninety-five percent of their business is tax-exempt (agricultural sales)."

Referring to Knox City's involvement in the oilfield business, Ake noted that the oilfield is booming.

"That makes a difference," he said.

Knox City also has more convenience stores, Ake said.

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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



Celebrations Lewis, Beene to Wed



Todd and Missy Lewis of Haskell announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Emily Lewis, to Blake Beene, son of Jack and Carolyn Beene of Ft. Towson, Oklahoma.

The couple will exchange wedding vows at 3 p.m., March 23, 2013 at The Rock Barn in Henrietta.

Miss Lewis is a 2007 graduate of Knox City High School. She graduated from Vernon College of Cosmetology as a licensed Cosmetologist,

and is currently working as a hair stylist at Texas Tans in Knox City.

Beene is a 2005 graduate from Valliant High School in Oklahoma and is completing his service of six years in the United States Army. He is preparing to go back to college in Wichita Falls at Midwestern State University in the summer.

Their parents are pleased to announce such a blessed day in this couple's new life together.

Deaths

Sandra Gwenette Allen-Archie

Sandra Gwenette Allen-Archie was born on June 21, 1957 in Knox City to Raymond and Willie Allen.

Growing up in Goree, Sandra was raised in a Christian household. She attended Goree Public Schools, a graduate of Goree High School, Class of 1986. Off to a promising start, she attended Clarendon College for General Studies and then National Education Center, Fort Worth, where she studied Medical Assisting. Upon graduation she was employed as a lab assistant at the National Education Center.

Sandra served on the Usher Board, and in the choir for many years under the leadership, Rev. Carl P. Small. All who knew her experienced first-hand Sandra's infectious personality, love of laughter, fierce loyalty and dedication to family. We shall miss the warm and loving personality of Sandra.

She met and married Windsor Archie on May 17, 1992, and to this union



SANDRA GWENETTE ALLEN-ARCHIE

were added two beautiful children, a son A. J., and daughter, Ashleigh Jenae Archie. They were married 13 years.

On February 8, 2013, at seven-thirty o'clock in the morning, Sandra Gwenette Allen-Archie, became absent from the body to be present with the Lord. She is preceded in death by her son A.J.

Memories cherished - Sandra is survived by her parents, Raymond and Willie Allen of Munday; extended

parents, Napoleon and Trish Johnson of Fort Worth; one daughter, Ashleigh Jenae Archie; brothers: Freddie Allen of Wichita, Jeffrey Jordan (Tonya) of Dallas, Anthony Stinett (Erma) of Frisco; sisters: Ruby Allen Collier (Lawrence), Wilma Allen Hill (J.C.), Clara Allen, Leticia Allen, of Munday, Lisha Johnson of Fort Worth, Dr. Lynea Laws-Jacobs, of Fairburn, Ga., Bertha Spells, of Munday, Charlotte Jordan, of Dallas.

Special Friends: Gwen Swearington, Elaine Broussard of Mansfield, Christina Landaverde, Dr. Phyllis Laws-Dukes of Mansfield.

Cousin Isabella Cobbs - who was there to encourage, and assist Sandra through the trial and testing period of her illness.

And a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and friends. Sandra's family and friends will always be touched and will miss her and her loving memory will continue to live forever.

Benjamin, Texas
HEE HAW

Benjamin School Gym
February 23rd
7:00 p.m.
Adults \$5
Students \$3

Bring your lawn chair, blanket or sit in the bleachers as members of the community present their version of Kornfield County!

Then
DANCE
to the

Buster Redwine Band
Benjamin Ex-Students Building
9 pm - 1 am
\$10
Children 12 and under free
\$2 cooler charge (no bottles)

Community sponsored event
All proceeds benefit Benjamin School

The Paperboy

I have to tip my hat to my wife. Judging by the majority of my male friends, she is like many of the wives around. What they do on a



CHRIS BLACKBURN

day-to-day basis is impressive and blows my productivity out of the water. Sharon, my better half, joined me at work months ago. We have since closed our clothing store, Blackburn's, which she operated for 11 years. We have two sons, Jackson, 9, and Sutton Hawk, 7.

My sister-in-law, Sarah, is a single mother raising

two teenage sons, Dakota, a sophomore in high school, and Jake, a freshman. She is also the primary caregiver of two granddaughters, London, 3, and Paris, 8 months.

My wife and I are fortunate to help with our great nieces. Lately, we've had a strong dose of the baby girls as Sarah has been ill.

For the past week, we've had the girls pretty much full-time. My nephews have been staying with us and with other family and friends.

I was a single man for over 30 years so I was never familiar with the "big" family. Wow! The noise just never stops does it?

Paris, the baby, is fairly spoiled. She thinks she's going to get held so she insists on demanding it. I'm so tough I can go five minutes before

those big brown eyes weaken me.

London, 3, won't be outdone. She sings, dances, stomps, yells and commands the stage. When she's in gear, there is not a shy bone in her body. It may be time to get Disney on the horn.

Sutton Hawk is a 4'8, 80 pound first grader. He's a guy's guy who wants to be Tim Tebow or Johnny Football. He insists on throwing the ball in the house and has the loudest voice I've ever heard. I've tried to tell him he's destined for the offensive line and he says he's cool with that as long as he can push people around.

Jackson, 9, is quiet and is either playing video games, reading, watching television or learning. He's a human sponge. He's also the best big brother in the world!

Jake, a freshman, is a good looking young man. Jake is pretty quiet and he needs to face the fact that if he wants to excel in baseball, he needs to wear his glasses when he plays. Jake is not afraid to work or get his hands dirty.

Dakota, a sophomore, is becoming a man. He's beginning to realize how important an education is and he's coming into his own across the board. He's also a wonderful big brother and a helpful nephew.

So there you have the cast of my real life drama. At least this week's version of it.

Of course the person who makes it hum is Sharon. She's the brains of the operation, I'm the backbone. (I'm also the toy and get in trouble as much as some of the children)

For weeks I've been racking my brain about what to do for Sharon for Valentine's Day. I thought of a candlelight dinner, a trip to her favorite restaurant or maybe even a night on the town in a nearby city.

But the fact is that night may just end up like the rest of the week... loud and crazy. If that's the case, I'll try and make it up to her as soon as I can.

In the meantime, we've got a house full of Valentines and that's okay by me. I've always felt very blessed to have the family I have and those feelings are stronger than ever. The good Lord has a way of broadening your shoulders for the load. You just have to let him.

Remember your special people this week. They're worth it!

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

Presidents' Day Sale
SAVE 25% off
one GIFT item!
Friday-Monday, February 15-18
Limit one discount per family. Limit one coupon per purchase.
Discount taken off regular price. Some restrictions apply.
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**Cotton Pickin' Quilt
& Cooking Show**

**Knox Prairie Events Center
(Old Goree School), Goree, TX**
Saturday, February 23, 9am-3pm
Chow served from 11am-1pm

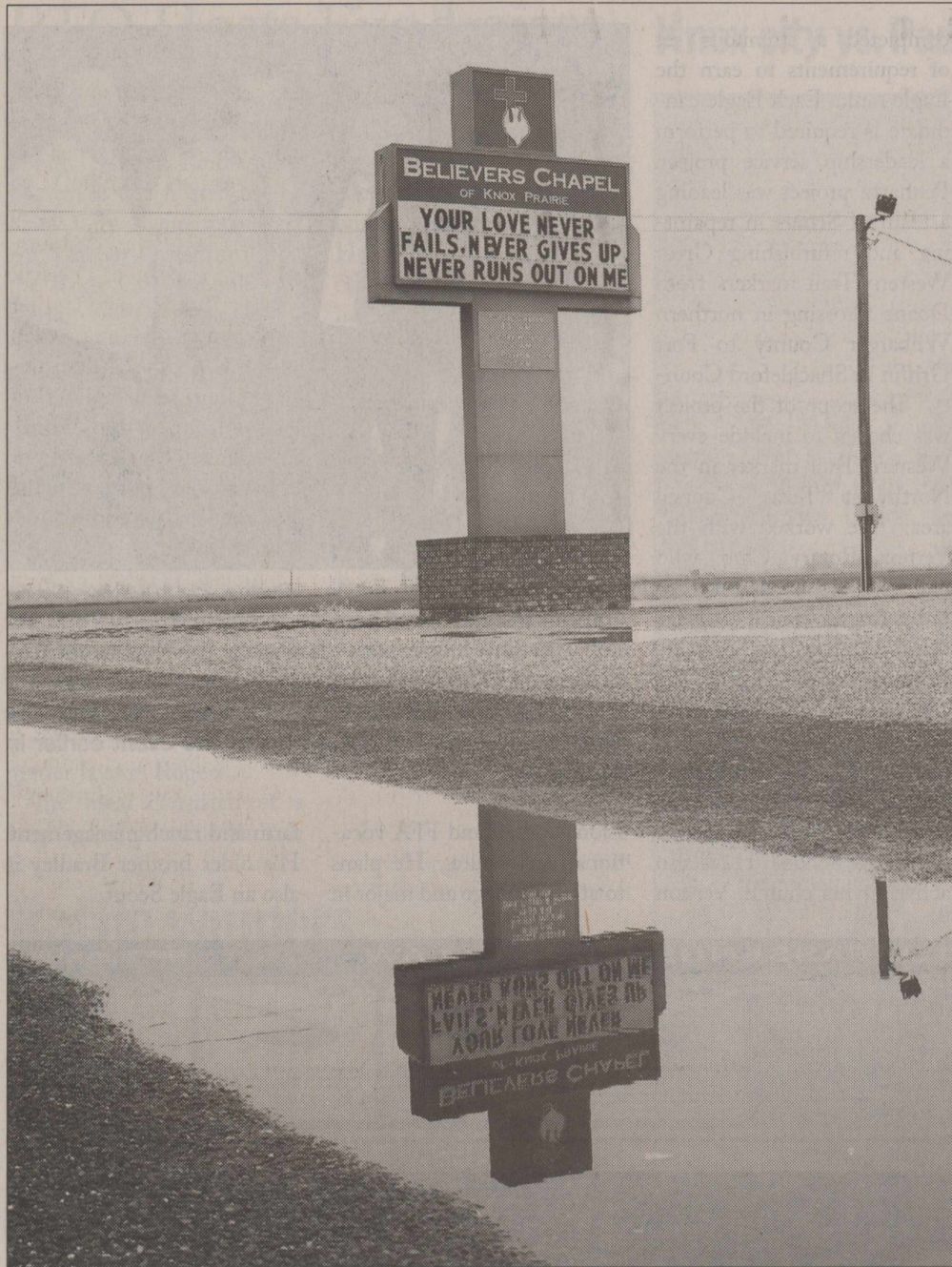
Cooking demos by Lorrie Coop, CEA-FCS will be preparing diabetic snacks.

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Power of prayer



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier

The Believers Chapel sign reflects Tuesday morning in water standing alongside State 222 west of Munday. An answer to prayer, rainfall amounts in Knox County Tuesday initially ranged from .40 inch to .70 inch, and Munday reported amounts varying from .20 inch to .50 inch. For January, Knox County received 1.21 inches of precipitation compared to 1.04 in January 2011. The scripture on the tall church sign, taken from I Cor. 13, the "love" chapter of the New Testament, enforces the positive sentiments of Valentine's Day.

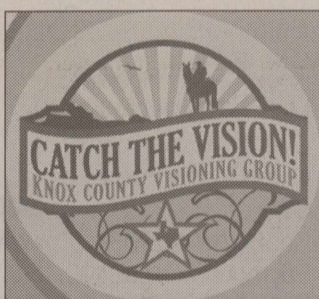
Knox County Visioning Group Rolls out Grant for \$1500

The Knox County Visioning Group (KCVG) is looking for individuals who have an interest in pursuing a trade in Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC).

The KCVG is rolling out a grant for \$1500. This grant is available to a Knox County senior in high school or a Knox County resident who is already out of high school and wishes to pursue this training. The grant will require the student to return to Knox County for one year and work in an HVAC field.

Knox County will experience a loss of professionals in the HVAC area in the future. The KCVG is taking a proactive approach to this problem by encouraging individuals to get this training. This proactive approach will help replenish the talent and skills to Knox County, along with helping an individual who is interested in this line of work.

Applications can be picked up at the high school counselor's office. The deadline to apply is May 1, 2013. For more information, please call 940-459-4121.



The grant will not pay for the full HVAC program, but it will help offset costs.

More information on schools and costs associated with this degree can be found at TSTC's website: <http://www.westtexas.tstc.edu/> or at Vernon College's website: <http://www.vernoncollege.edu/>.

A larger list of schools offering this training in Texas can be found here: <http://www.braintrack.com/colleges-by-career/hvac-mechanics/state/tx>

TRANZON auction
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The 501 Learning to nap the right way

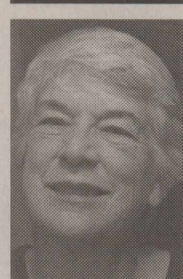
The art of napping escapes me. I'd like to learn how, but nobody's giving lessons. Too bad. Napping's supposed to be good for you. In health circles today, it's like a virtue. But I suspect nappers are born, not made.

"Napper," by the way, isn't exactly a word. It's British slang for a person's head. But what else would you call someone who naps but a napper? Forget the British.

My mother was a wannabe napper. At my so-called naptime, she'd hope I'd nap so she could too. But even when she read "Hiawatha," the lilting cadences of Longfellow didn't lull me. No way. I feared I'd miss something.

For sure I wasn't going to close my eyes if she was reading about Mickey Mouse and Goofy, carefully omitting Goofy's expletive, "Gawrsh!" The by-word might not have bothered her so much if Goofey hadn't butchered the pronunciation. Sometimes, when she was on the verge of dozing herself, my mother would slip and read "Gawrsh" and catch herself and snap back to full consciousness. At other times I'd intone "Read, Mommy, read" to keep her awake. Those were great naptimes, naps or not.

My father liked the occasional daytime snooze. He'd lie on the floor in his overalls and lace-up Redwings and snooze before lunch. He generally napped when lunch was late. When you're plowing without a cell phone, you don't know lunch will be late.



HANABA MUNN WELCH

At school, naptime was part of the first-grade curriculum. None of us dozed at the appointed time. Try sleeping when trapped in a school desk. We all obediently put our heads down and closed our eyes. One kid actually did go to sleep one day, unless he was just faking it to get attention. "Timmy went to sleep!" we exclaimed.

In retrospect, our teacher was probably the one who needed the break.

Now I find myself back to a schedule with a naptime - my husband's daily midday sofa snooze. Lucky him. Amazingly, perhaps thanks to a football injury, he sometimes keeps one eye open a bit, which used to scare his kids, or so they say. I find it a bit disconcerting too, sort of like that eye on the dollar bill. But he really is asleep. And then, like all good power nappers, he wakes up, recharged from the brief siesta. Me, I'd be down for the count, lucky to wake in time for supper. Waking up is the hard part.

Have I put you to sleep yet? If not, maybe one more vignette from the past will inspire you:

Two cowboys were stretched out napping under a roadside tree, their heads propped against their saddles and their hats pulled over their eyes. Their unencumbered horses were no doubt nearby, grazing on whatever they could find in the drought of the '50s. Except I remember only the cowboys and my mother remarking matter-of-factly that that's how cowboys took naps.

Wouldn't those two guys make great characters for a children's naptime story? Works for me.

Zzzzzz.

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

THANK YOU

Thank you for the support and interest shown by participating in our Knox County Museum Fund Raiser held on February 3, 2013. The delicious meal was a compliment to our Knox County Cooks. Thanks to everyone who donated door prizes and silent auction items. Thanks to the many volunteers for their donations of time and labor. We also thank those who contributed monetary donations, and the interest shown for the Wichita Brazos Museum and Cultural Center to preserve Knox County history.

THANK YOU

FRIENDS OF KNOX COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 WICHITA BRAZOS MUSEUM and CULTURAL CENTER

NOTICE OF SALE

STATE OF TEXAS
 COUNTY OF KNOX

By virtue of orders of sale issued out of the 50TH Judicial District Courts of Knox County, Texas, by the Clerk of the Court on the 11TH day of OCTOBER, 2012, and in the following numbered and styled suits and to me directed and delivered, I, as Sheriff of Knox County, did on the 12TH day of DECEMBER, 2012, levy upon and will, on the first Tuesday in MARCH, 2013, the same being the 5TH day of such month at the South door of the Knox County Courthouse, in the City of Benjamin, Texas, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., beginning at 10:00 a.m. proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all the right, title and interest of the defendants in the following suits in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of the defendants in each respective suit, to wit:

Suit No.: 9254

Style: KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS. MATTHEW BAXTER ET AL

Judgment: \$ 15,307.77 (plus interest & costs)

Property: A 100' X 150' tract of land, more or less, out of Block 46, Davis Addition, City of Knox City, Knox County, Texas, as more particularly described in Volume 276 at Page 133 of the Official Public Records of Knox County, Texas;

Suit No.: 9061

Style: KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS. LARRY D STRICKLAND ET AL

Judgment: \$ 3,755.74 (plus interest & costs)

Property: Lot 5, Block 33, Davis Addition, City of Knox City, Knox County, Texas being that property more particularly described in Volume 304, Page 1031 of the Deed Records, Knox County, Texas;

Suit No.: 8934

Style: KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS. ROBERT KAY HENSON ET AL

Judgment: \$ 1,650.46 (plus interest & costs)

Property: All of Lots 5 & 6, Block 21, Original Townsite of the City of Goree, Knox County, Texas being that property more particularly described in Volume 293, Page 423 of the Official Public Records, Knox County, Texas Geo # R000003513

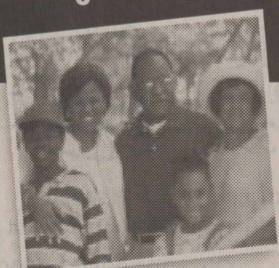
All the property sold will be subject to the owner's right of redemption. The redemption period is two years for homestead, minerals and agricultural use property and six months for all other property. Purchasers shall receive a Sheriff's Deed that is without warranty. Bidders should satisfy themselves concerning title and location of the property and improvements on the property prior to sale.

Signed: *Dean W. Homstad* 1/18/2013

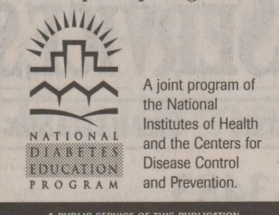
Dean W. Homstad, Sheriff
 Knox County, Texas

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Knox County Aging Services Pennartz Achieves Eagle Scout Rank

Menus for Feb. 18th- Feb. 22nd

Monday February 18th Closed For President's Day	Baked Ham/Pineapple Lima Beans Seasoned Corn Whole Wheat Roll Chocolate Chip Cookies
Tuesday February 19th Polish Sausage/Cabbage Pinto Beans Cornbread Peaches	Friday February 22nd Cheeseburgers Potato Wedges Tomato Wedge Salad Fruit Medley
Wednesday February 20th Chicken Tenders/Gravy Garlic Mashed Potatoes Spinach Whole Wheat Roll Mandarin Oranges	Come eat with us and support your aging center program.
Thursday February 21st	Please call in your orders by 10 a.m. To 657-3618 Orders cant be taken after 10 a.m. And need to be Picked up after 11 a.m.

Special to the News-Courier

Anthony Lynn Pennartz, 17 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Pennartz of Harold and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Pennartz of Rhineland, became the newest Eagle Scout in the Greenbelt District of the Boy Scouts of America. He was given the award at a special Northwest Texas Council 100th Anniversary Eagle Court of Honor at the First Christian Church of Wichita Falls.

The Eagle Scout Award is the highest rank that can be obtained in the BSA Scouting program. The first Eagle Scout in the United States was recognized in 1902. The ceremony was attended by some 60 Eagle Scout recipients from throughout the twelve county Northwest Texas Council.

Pennartz has been involved in Scouting since age six. He earned 27 merit badges and

completed a strenuous set of requirements to earn the Eagle rank. Each Eagle candidate is required to perform a leadership service project. Pennartz' project was leading a team of Scouts in repainting and refurbishing Great Western Trail markers from Doan's Crossing in northern Wilbarger County to Fort Griffin in Shackelford County. The scope of the project was chosen to include every Western Trail marker in the Northwest Texas Council area. He worked with the Vernon Rotary Club, who had been responsible for coordinating a project to place Great Western Trail markers from Mexico to Canada. The 100 mile length of the project featured some of the first markers placed by the Vernon Rotary Club.

Pennartz is a Junior at Vernon High School. He is also active in his church, Vernon



Photo special to the News-Courier
Anthony Pennartz and parents Teresa and Jerry Pennartz visit with Jim Hughes, coordinator for the Northwest Texas Council 100th Anniversary Eagle Scout Court of Honor at First Christian Church of Wichita Falls. Pennartz was awarded Scouting's highest rank at the event earlier in December.

Lion football and FFA vocational agriculture. He plans to attend college and major in farm and ranch management. His older brother Bradley is also an Eagle Scout.

Moore earns spot on President's Honor Roll

Alyssa Moore, freshman at South Plains College in Levelland, earned a place on the President's Honor Roll for the fall 2012 semester. The distinction is reserved for students who have 4.0 grade point averages. Moore is a 2012 graduate of Munday High

School. Her parents are Bob and Bernadette Moore of Rhineland.

If other college students from Knox County have earned academic honors, the information can be reported to the News-Courier, 940 422 5350 or kcnewscourier@gmail.com.

NEW TEXAS CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY LAW

NEW TEXAS LAW
Effective 9/1/2012
A child up to 9 years old, unless a taller than 4 feet 9 inches, must ride in a child safety seat.

Most children between ages 4 to 8 will need a booster seat to be safe and comply with the law. Safety experts recommend that all children under age 13 ride in the backseat. Adults and children must be buckled up whether they are in the front or back seat.

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1. Make sure all children in your vehicle are properly buckled. Use a child safety seat appropriate for their age, weight and height.

2. Start by comparing that your child's height to the manufacturer's instructions.

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From birth to age 2, or until the child reaches the upper weight or height limit of the seat. At a minimum, keep your child until age 1 until 20 lbs.

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From age 2 to age 4, or until the child reaches the upper weight or height limit of the seat.

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Knox City Elementary PTO Hosts Fundraiser

Over 300 supporters recently attended a Baked Potato Supper fund raiser. The event was hosted by the Knox City Elementary Parent Teacher Organization at the Knox City Schools cafeteria.

A competition was held between students to sell tickets. Any student who sold at least 5 tickets had their name entered to win a \$20 gift card to the Book Fair coming up in March. The student who sold the most tickets overall would be awarded a Razor Scooter with helmet.

The winner of the \$20 gift card was third grader Tanner Posey. The winner of the Razor Scooter was second grader Jaydon Rogers.

The meal consisted of a large baked potato with ham

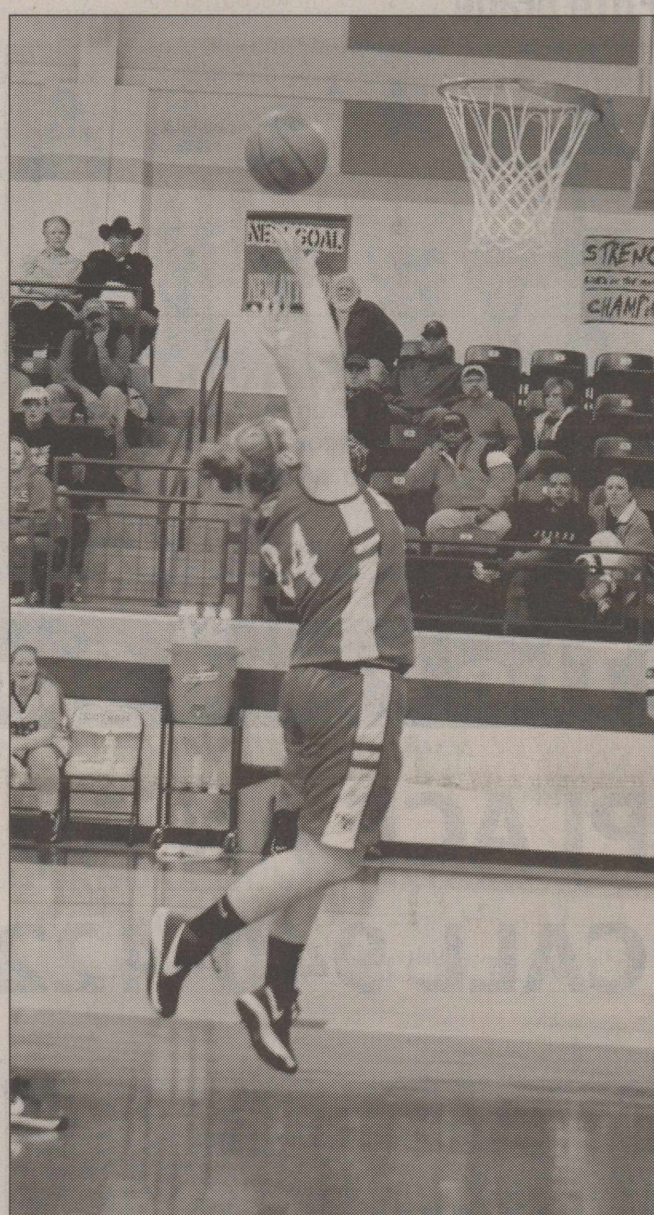
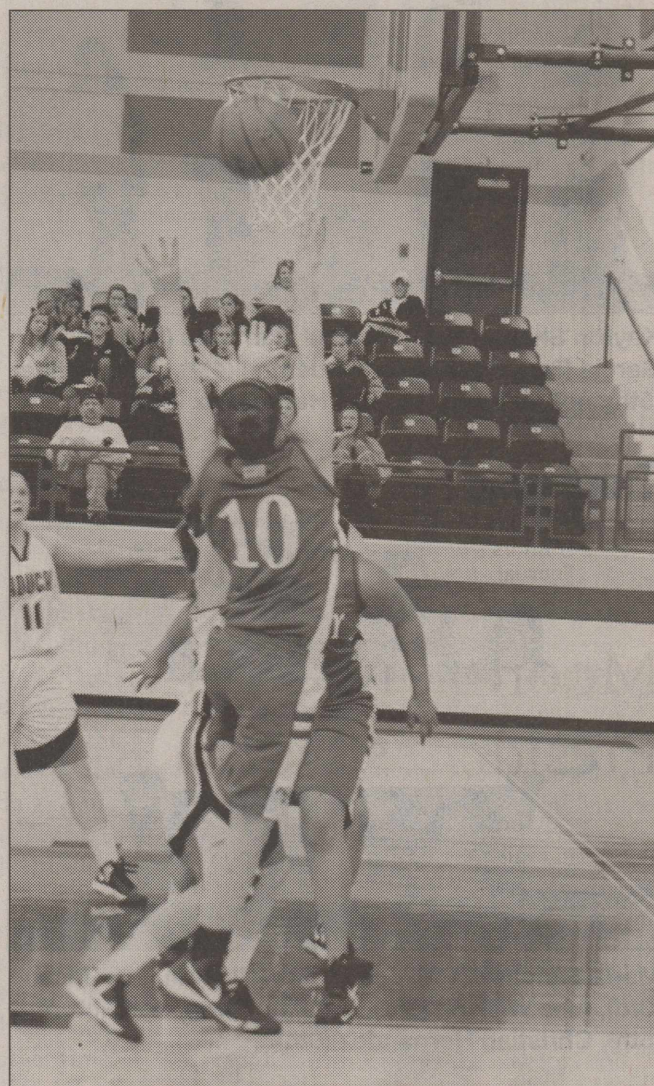
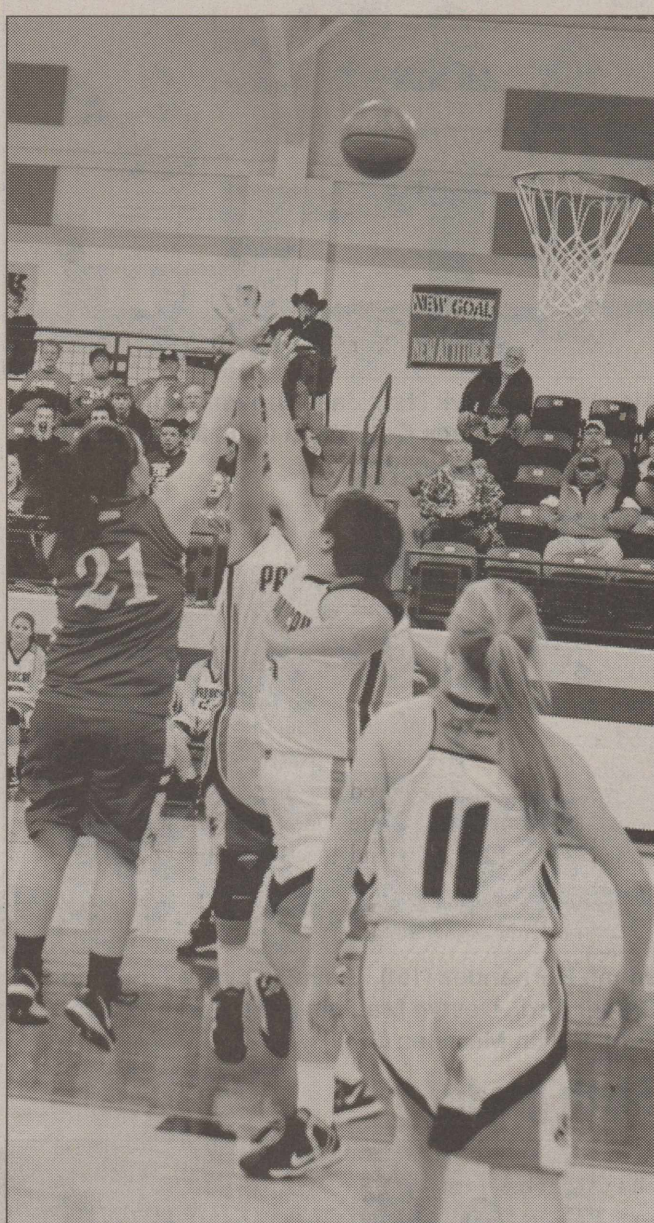
and a salad on the side. Diners could also choose additional toppings such as broccoli, cheddar cheese, sour cream, butter and ranch dressing. Homemade desserts rounded off the meal to more than 300 hungry supporters!

The Knox City Elementary PTO would like to thank the parents and staff for the cash donations as well as the desserts. They would like to also thank all of those who volunteered to help out during the evening meal which included Food Service Staff, parents, grandparents and KCE staff.

Proceeds from this fund raiser will provide materials, equipment or enrichment opportunities for the students of Knox City Elementary.

Lady Houndettes

Knox city vs. Paducah



Raffle winners

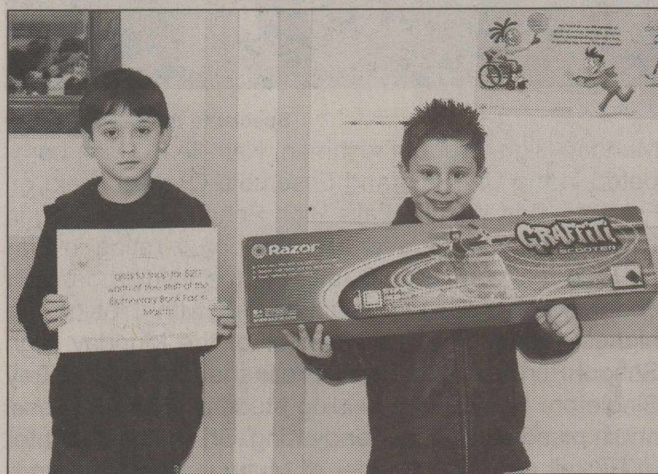
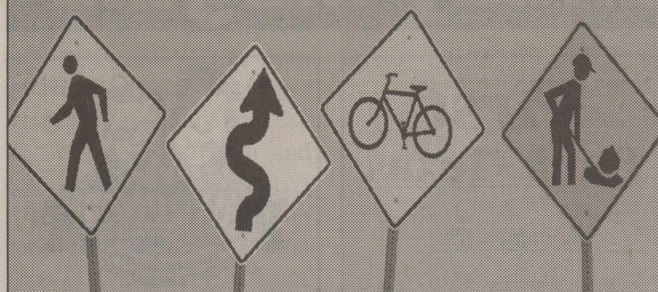


Photo special to the News-Courier

From left are Tanner Posey, third grade son of Joey Posey and grandson of Roy and Frances Posey, and Jaydon Rogers, second grade son of Lance and Kathi Rogers.

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MES poster winners

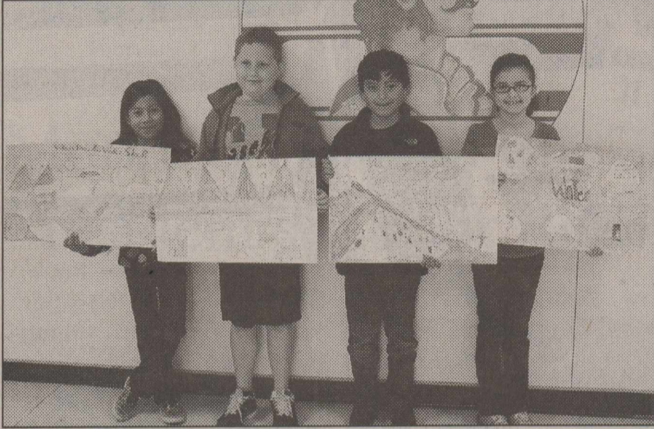
Kristi Bufkin/ Special to the News-Courier

First grade



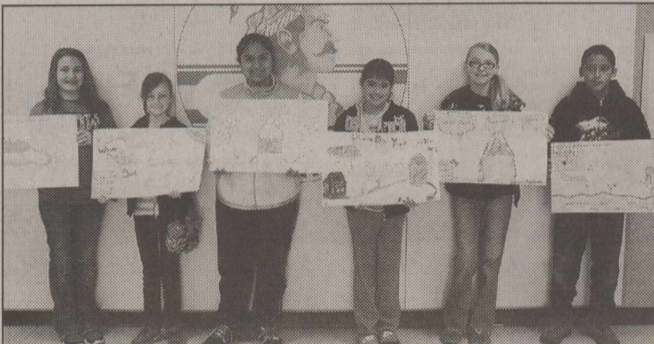
Kayton Shahan (1st), Melissa Carmona (2nd), Isaac Garcia (3rd), Raehanna Hardeman (4th), Julie Rangel (5th); not pictured, Nicolas Hernandez (6th).

Third grade



Maria Sanchez (1st), Justin Tidwell (2nd), Joe Jasso (3rd), Allie Willison (3rd), Catalina Perry, not pictured (5th), Christian Hernandez (6th).

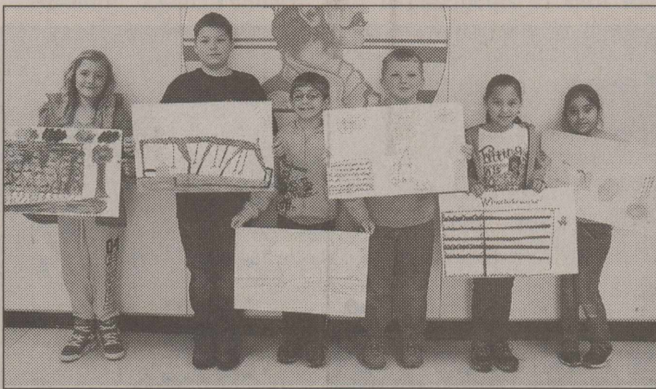
Fifth grade



Sydney Thompson (1st), Evan Hunter (2nd), Isabella Nunez (3rd), Madelyn Mendoza (4th), Emily Cottingham (5th), Ricardo Carranza (6th).

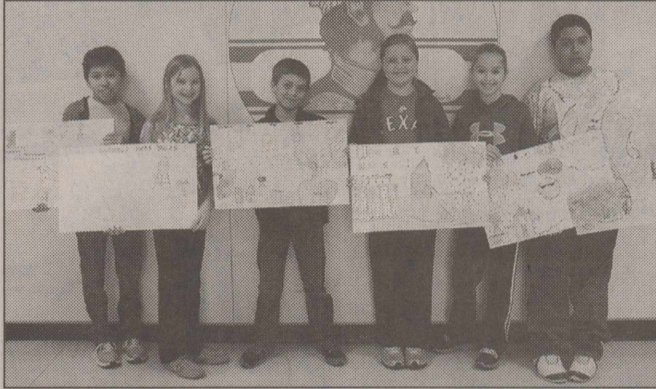
Munday Elementary participated in the Wichita Brazos Soil and Water Conservation Poster Contest. Awards were given to the top six places in each grade. The top three of each grade will be judged at the county contest.

Second grade



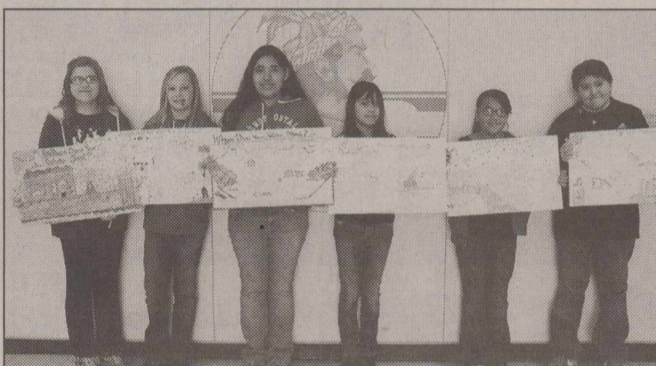
Aleeya Urbanczyk (1st), Jase Brown (2nd), Connor Moore (3rd), Dustin Cottinham (4th), Micah Estrada (5th), Emma Hilario (6th)

Fourth grade



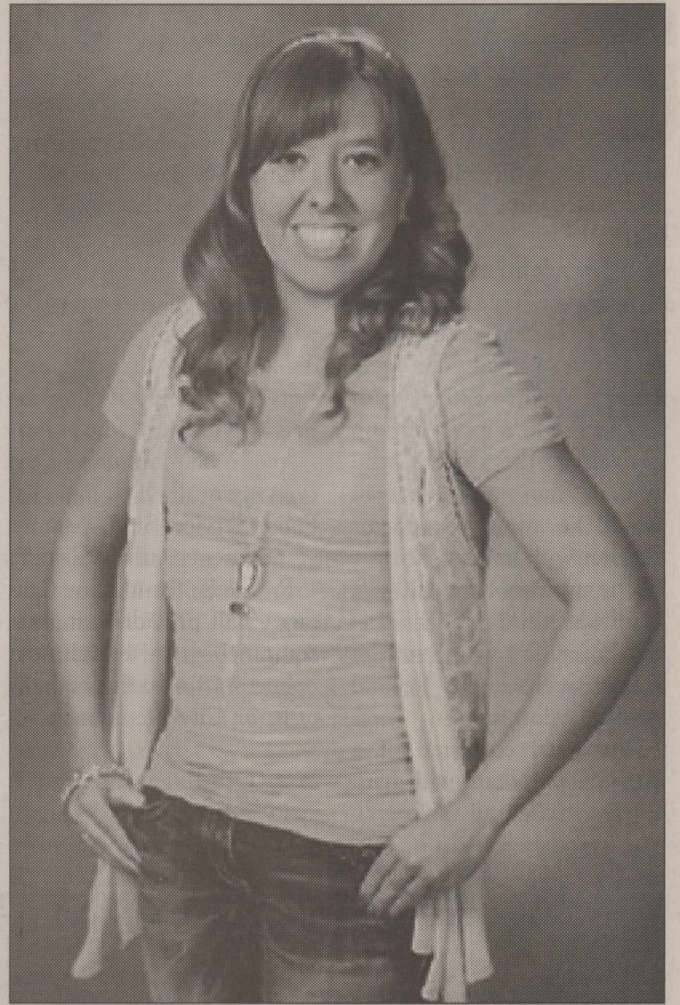
Jonah Hernandez (1st), Claire Redwine (2nd), Kelton Carver (3rd), Destyn Mauldin (4th), Carlie Willison (5th), Kelvin Martinez (6th).

Sixth grade



Emily Scott (1st), McKenna Zeissel (2nd), Zoe Cedillo (3rd), Marissa Padilla (4th), Larissa Manning (5th), Josh Hernandez (6th).

Redder ranks division 1 in UIL competition



Special to the News-Courier
Munday High School Freshman, Kamille Redder, competed in the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest held on February 9 at Wichita Falls High School. Competing in two events. Kamille scored a Division 1 rating in Piano Solo and a Division 2 rating in the twirling contest. Judging is based on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the highest rating. She is a member of the Munday High School Purple Cloud Band under the direction of Trey Singleton. Kamille is a twirling student of Misti Zeissel and a piano student of Sandy King. She is the daughter of Rickey and Amy Redder of Munday and the granddaughter of Rhiney Redder of Munday and Joyce Greenwood of Goree.

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Brazos Valley Care Home is now accepting applications for Certified Nurse Aides. Please apply in person at 605 S. Ave F, Knox City

FOR SALE

Cemetery plots for sale in Knox City cemetery. Please call 214-537-7987 (0228)

LEGAL NOTICE

Public notice of hearing to discuss Academic excellence indicator system 2011-2012 Report

Notice is hereby given that a hearing to discuss the academic excellence indicator system report for the 2011-2012 school year for munday consolidated independent school district will be held Monday, February 18, 2013, at 6:00 p.M. In the board room of the administration building located at 811 west d street, munday, texas.

HELP WANTED

Knox County is taking applications for a full time Director for the Knox County Aging Center. The primary duties of the position are the hands-on management of the meals available to the residents of Knox County. The applicant must be able to direct, coordinate and plan the day-to-day operations of the center, possess the following: computer skills, organizational skills, communicate effectively both orally and written. Applicants must be friendly, self-sufficient and capable of working well with others. The job offers insurance benefits and retirement. Applications may be picked up at the Knox County Judge's office, the Knox County Treasurer's office, or the Knox County Clerk's office between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. Applications deadline is February 22, 2013. Knox County is an equal opportunity employer.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JOHN ED WILDE, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JOHN ED WILDE were issued on January 31, 2013, in Cause No. 2563, pending in the County Court of Knox County, Texas, to: GARY WILDE.

The address of the Independent Executor is:

GARY WILDE
P. O. Box 254
Munday, Texas 76371

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED February 8, 2013.

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State Bar No. 03434000

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940) 422-5544 (fax)

ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE

NOTICE OF DEADLINE TO FILE APPLICATION FOR PLACE ON THE BALLOT (AVISO DE FECHA LIMITE PARA PRESENTAR SOLICITUDES PARA UN LUGAR EN LUGAR EN LA BOLETA)

Notice is hereby given that applications for 2 places on city council and Mayor on the Board of Alderman on the City of Munday Regular Election ballot may be filed during the following time:

Aviso es por este medio ya que pueden presentarse solicitudes de 2 plazas en el Ayuntamiento y el alcalde en la Junta de Regidor en la boleta electoral de la ciudad de Munday elección Regular durante el tiempo siguiente:

Filing Dates and Times:
Ending Date is March 1, 2013
Office Hours: 8:00am to 5:00pm

Fechas y Horario para Entregar Solicitudes
Acabar con fecha 01 de marzo de 2013
Horario de oficina: 8:00am a 5:00pm

Physical address for filing applications in person for place on the ballot: (Dirección física para la presentación de solicitudes en persona en el lugar en la boleta electoral)

City of Munday
121 E. Main
Munday, Texas 76371

Address to mail applications for place on the ballot (if filing by mail): Dirección a las aplicaciones de correo para el lugar en la boleta (si presentan una declaración por correo):

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LEGAL NOTICE

BENJAMIN ISD BID NOTICE

3 School Properties Benjamin ISD is inviting sealed bids on three properties, January 23, 2013-February 13, 2013:

- 301 N. Hinton, Benjamin LEGAL: BLK 31, LOTS S/2 OF 5 & ALL 6 ORIG
- 304 N. CHURCH ST., BLK. 29 LTS 1 & 2 ORIG BENJAMIN
- 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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AUCTIONS

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Practicing their lines behind microphones Monday night in Benjamin for a Benjamin-style rendition of the popular former television series "Hee Haw" are, from left, Sheila Kuehler, Ashley Brandt, Dick Dickinson and Greg Oliver. Standing in the background, script in hand, is Mallorie Sparkman. Watching is Brande Estrada, director of the event and secretary-treasurer of the Benjamin Parent-Teacher Organization, sponsoring organization for the fundraiser.

Laughing And Dancing Slated For Benjamin

"Hee Haw" practice drew some guffaws Monday night as participants rehearsed their lines for a fundraiser next Saturday, Feb. 23, at Benjamin School to benefit the school.

A take-off on the old television comedy show "Hee Haw," set in fictional Kornfield Kounty, the evening of humor in Benjamin will come from a line-up of local performers, all aiming to be as corny as the television stars but with plenty of jokes customized to fit Knox Kounty. A dance will end

the evening at the Benjamin Ex-Students Building.

Ambitious fundraisers are the rule in Benjamin, where the school falls short of full state funding because of an average daily attendance below 90 students in grades K through 12.

"If we can get our attendance up to 90, it makes \$300,000 difference," said Brande Estrada of O'Brien, secretary-treasurer of the Benjamin Parent Teacher Organization and the mother of two Benjamin students -- Grace Estrada, 10, and

Electra Estrada, 5.

But the ADA is hovering below the magic number, somewhere in the upper 80s, Estrada said.

"The school is not closing," Estrada said, dispelling a rumor. "There's just not enough money in the general fund for extracurricular activities."

Hence the event next Saturday night and the appeal to alumni and friends for support -- not just to buy a \$5 ticket to Hee Haw Benjamin Style or a \$15 Hee Haw T-shirt at B-J Country Store (available in kids' and adults sizes) but also to spend \$10 for the dance afterward or buy a ticket for a drawing for a photograph by photographer Weiman Meinzer, himself a Benjamin ex.

The signed Meinzer print on canvas is valued at over \$1,000, Estrada said.

More information about the photograph and ways to support the school is viewable under the "Clubs and Organizations" tab on the Benjamin School website under the letter "P" for PTO -- www.benjaminisd.net.

LAKE

From Page 1

positive way and he also reiterated that Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls is interested in purchasing electrical power produced by the lake to meet its requirements for utilizing prescribed amounts of energy produced from renewable resources. The project makes good sense and fits the current American agenda to pursue green energy sources, Floyd said.

"They're trying to clean up the rivers," he said. "Another thing, it's going to create jobs. Another thing, it's going to create electricity."

A byproduct of the process will be fresh water, Charles Griffith, Precinct 2 commissioner, pointed out.

"There's going to be about a thousand gallons a minute that's going to be fresh water," Floyd said. "I wish we had a pipeline."

"What are they going to do with that fresh water?" asked Johnny Birkenfeld, Precinct 4 commissioner.

"I think there's ways of getting it from them," Floyd said.

Natural features of the Truscott Brine Lake, particularly the clay soil, make it the logical place for Good Earth to launch its project.

"The ponds won't have to have liners," said Janet Reed, Floyd's administrative assistant.

"There's no underground aquifers to be contaminated," Griffith said.

Floyd said he assured Cornyn's office that the proposal from Good Earth Mechanics has community support.

In other business, the report of an audit by Jerry Lowe, CPA, included no discoveries of malfeasance but produced a suggestion that employees not be allowed to use a county credit card for personal use even when such expenses are reimbursed.

"Employees used the county credit card to

charge personal expenses and then later reimbursed the county for it," Lowe's representative said. "We just thought it would be a good suggestion to make a policy. As auditors we try to think what could go wrong. It's not an audit for fraud."

In the same vein, during the consideration of accounts payable, bills, financial statements and the budget for 2012 and 2013, Floyd expressed his opinion that all receipts should include descriptions of the goods or services purchased -- not just the amounts.

Dabovich, in his comments regarding the extension service, included compliments for Lorrie Coop for her safety programs for both children and adults.

"She's working with some grant money to get people car seats, the proper ones to match their children," Dabovich said.

Dabovich also talked about the way the extension service is helping the state meet needs for a qualified workforce.

"Not every single child is going to a four-year institution," he said. Companies are looking for people to work. It's important that we start developing a youth workforce."

Dabovich expressed his appreciation for the county's support of extension work.

"Extension is in 254 counties in the state," he said. "We wouldn't be in any of them if it weren't for the commissioners courts. I think this program in Knox County is going to continue to be a good one."

Both Gene Ward and Barbara Seal spoke on behalf of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

Ward described upcoming sealcoat projects that will involve Spur 375 at Goree, some of State 6 north of Benjamin, FM 1042 and FM 2701, plus work pending in Knox City.

Seal reported that TxDOT's sidewalk project in Knox City is nearly com-

plete. She also mentioned that not all speed limit signs have been changed yet from 70 mph to 75 mph and that motorists must still obey the posted limits in all cases.

"Just a reminder," she said. "That's ongoing."

Seal closed with comments on safety, particular regarding cellphone texting and driving.

"One thing that's becoming epidemic is texting and driving," she said.

She reported current statistics.

"Nearly one in four crashes involved driver distraction in Texas," she said. "The burden of talking on a cell phone, even if it's hands-free, it saps the brain of 39 percent of energy you would ordinarily devote to safe driving. It's the same as .08 alcohol. ... It's very important to TxDOT that we maintain a safe system."

Lina Trevino reported on cases handled by her office, from DWI offenses to possession of marijuana and thefts by check.

"People who get charges filed (for hot checks) ignore notices," Trevino said. "We do get a pretty good amount of returned checks that come through our office but they never get filed."

Payments can be arranged to help people avoid being charged with theft by check, she said.

Trevino also noted that the state is increasingly suspending drivers licenses now for offenses besides driving while intoxicated, the offense commonly associated with licenses suspensions.

In other business, commissioners approved Tara Cottingham and Pam Duke to serve on the Knox County Child Welfare Board, heard a Texas Association of Counties risk control report and a report from Jeri Coplen, community development director.

Coplen mentioned that this summer's music camp slated to be held in Goree has an opening for a cook to prepare three meals a day for about 40 students.

Other routine business included reports from the tax office and the office of the justice of the peace, where revenue is up some and expected to rise more during March.

SALES TAX

From Page 1

Haskell also showed a decrease - down 10.35 percent year-to-date and down 22.79 percent from last year's February report, a markedly worse Christmas season in 2012 than 2011.

By contrast, Seymour figures indicated a healthier retail economy there - up 13.56 percent year-to-date and 19.89 percent for February.

Crowell sales tax February receipts almost doubled this year, reflecting a very strong December - up 85.26 percent and no doubt tied to a construction boom in Foard County. The year-to-date increase for Crowell was 58.17 percent.

CONCERNS

From Page 1

said. "We don't have employees and housing."

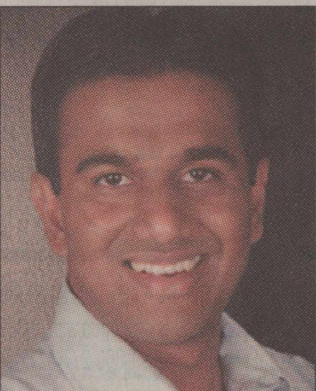
Ake didn't offer any solutions to declining revenue from sales tax and a weakening local economy, but he suggested that the community should guard against complacency.

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 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-



SUJO JOHN

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.

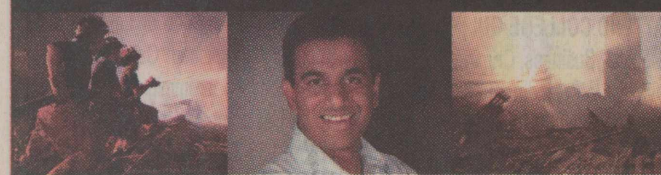
Please come and hear the amazing testimony of Sujo John. If you have questions please call First Baptist Church at 422-4559.



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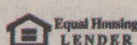
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