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THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2013

KCNEWSCOURIER.COM

75 CENTS

Rural families petition for water access

By Caleb Hudgens
The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — A water pipeline that could serve more than 120 families throughout eastern Knox and northern Haskell counties is awaiting final approval from federal authorities.

Officials with the Knox County Rural Water Supply Corp. have recently submitted a grant application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Agency that would help fund the near half-million-dollar project.

With the environmental-impact study completed and approved, local officials are awaiting word on whether federal dollars will be available to help fund the project.

David Albus, president of the local nonprofit business incorporated in 2011, said that word could come in late July or early August.

"The engineers' and environmental studies have

already been submitted to the (Environmental Protection Agency)," Albus said. "With the studies finalized, we're just waiting to hear back from the grant application."

If approved, the proposed pipeline would tie on to the Millers Creek supply line east of Knox City at County Road 4419, head north to the Cemetery Road, west to Highway 222 and the Old 6666 location and South to service some of northern Haskell County.

"This is prime time for government assistance because of the drought," said Brittany Coker, who serves as the company's secretary. "It's gotten a lot more serious with the water around here."

The corporation's application type must specifically cite drought-related issues as a reason to construct the pipeline.

"We're up for a half millions dollar grant," Albus said. "The stipulation of the grant money is that we must show this project is drought related."

For the better part of about two years, families throughout the area that would benefit from this project have embarked on a letter-writing campaign to seek the help of state and federal authorities.

Many of those residents, including the Cokers, have been paying to haul water to their homes because they say the water — what little there remains — is not suitable to drink.

"We were sharing a well with our neighbors, but with our family we knew the water wouldn't last," Coker said. "So we started hauling water in. Then I thought, 'We live in a nice home, and we should have good drinking water. We shouldn't have to haul.'"

With more than 164 applications to the local corporation for meters, residents are feeling the drought first hand.

"If this grant doesn't go through, we would try to find another. We will re-apply and re-apply, or look at it from another angle to get water," Coker said. "Something's got to be done. It's that desperate."

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.

Adventure Days

The third annual Knox County Adventure Days will be Saturday with a kickoff 5K/10K run at 9 a.m. at Truscott Brine Lake. Other planned events include the Amazing Grace Race, Photography Scavenger Hunt and tours of Knox County featuring Truscott, Todd Lake Farms, and H&R Organic Farms. Volunteers and participants may contact Jimi Coplan at 940-459-4121.

Street dance

The fourth annual Circle Bar Ranch street dance and barbecue will be June 29 at the Truscott Community Center. Tickets for the barbecue meal cost \$10, and plates will be served from 6 to 8 p.m. The dance will begin at 8 p.m. and is free. All are welcome. Headlining entertainment by Johnny Rogers. Bring your own lawn chair and BYOB. All proceeds benefit the community center fund. For information, contact Eugenie Daniels at 940-655-8065.

Summer reading

Join the Munday City-County Library for this year's summer reading program, "Dig Into Reading." The library will host a weekly story time with activities and snacks from 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays, June 26 through July 17. This is a free program provided for children. For information, call the library at 940-422-4877.

FUNdays in Munday

Trade Days will be from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 29 at the Munday Events Center. Vendor spaces are still available, electric \$17 and non-electric \$12. Reserve your space now, call the Munday Chamber of Commerce at 422-4540.

Class reunion

The Knox City High School Class of 1978 invites all alumni and the community to a class reunion from 5 to 11 p.m. July 6 at the Community Center. A golf tournament is planned, as well as a barbecue and dance with live music. All proceeds benefit the group's scholarship fund for high school seniors. Enter the golf tournament by RSVP'ing to Jimmy Don Moore at 813-629-1331. Cost is \$100 for the two-person scramble. Tickets to the barbecue and dance cost \$10; contact Michelle Stanfield at 940-256-0318 or Patti Lain Currie at 325-721-3001 for information.

Corrections

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

News on the go



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KC man sentenced in death of grandson

By Wayne Hodgin
The News-Courier

BENJAMIN — A Knox City man will serve the better part of the next decade behind bars for his role in the death of his 5-year-old grandson five years ago.

Allen Dean Rhodes, 58, was sentenced to the maximum 24 months in a state correctional facility after pleading guilty to one charge of criminally negligent homicide Nov. 28.

In addition, Rhodes also was sentenced to 10 years, half the maximum, in a state correctional facility after pleading guilty to delivery of a controlled substance — a charge that, law enforcement officials say, led to his grandson's death.

The sentences, to be run concurrently, were handed down May 7 in 50th District Court by Judge William H. Heatly.

Law enforcement officials say Rhodes and his wife, Janice — who also was indicted in the case of their grandson's death but who was never formally charged — were the legal guardians of the child, Trevor Austin Tears.

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

The cause of death officially was "acute combine drug intoxication."

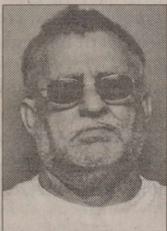
According to reports, Rhodes was prescribed a number of drugs, including morphine pills, for a back injury.

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

While being investigated in his grandson's death, Rhodes was arrested last September after attempting to sell 12 suspected morphine tablets in a controlled buy, according to reports from the Knox County Sheriff's Office.

Rhodes initially pleaded not guilty in the death case Nov. 7, but changed that plea during a court appearance Nov. 28.

At last report, Rhodes was being held in the Knox County jail in Benjamin while awaiting transport to a state correctional facility.



Allen Rhodes

Scholarship



Ryder Cude of Goree has won the \$20,000 San Antonio Livestock Exposition Scholarship. Cude, a member of Knox 4-H, plans to attend Texas Tech University.



Shannon Reeves of Munday has won the \$18,000 Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Scholarship. Reeves, a member of Knox 4-H, plans to attend Clarendon College.

State 4-H awards local seniors with huge scholarships

By Wayne Hodgin
The Knox County News-Courier

Two graduating Munday High School seniors are the recipients of two of the largest-ever scholarships presented by the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program.

Last week, Ryder Cude of Goree received a \$20,000 scholarship sponsored by the San Antonio Livestock Show Association as it was presented through the Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Program.

In addition, Shannon Reeves of Munday won an \$18,000 scholarship sponsored by the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo.

The awards were presented during the 4-H State

Roundup on June 10-14 at the Texas A&M University campus at College Station.

The Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation awarded more than \$2.2 million in scholarships to more than 200 4-H members from throughout the state at this year's event.

Scholarship funds were provided by organizations and individuals across the state to help 4-H members attend the college or other institute of higher learning of their choosing, said Texas 4-H foundation officials.

"The Foundation strives to make getting an education easier for our young people," said Marcus Hill, 4-H Foundation board president. "We want to give 4-Hers the confidence to go forth and get an

See SENIORS, Page 8

Restaurant a dream for local resident

By Caleb Hudgens
The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — Billy Lerma has been stewing on opening a new restaurant since 2001.

Every day since then, Lerma said he had been pestering his neighbor Billy Young on taking over the establishment he had been running on Highway 6 coming into Knox City from the south.

"Almost every day I would ask him, 'When are you going to let me take over?'" Lerma said. "Fi-

nally he told me he was through."

Lerma recently opened D's Café, a dine-in and carry-out eatery serving up Mexican food during the week and barbecue plates on Saturday and Sunday.

"The first day my wife didn't want to go home," Lerma said. "She started cleaning everything, and I went to light the (barbecue) pit out front, then people started showing up so we just stayed open."



D's Café owner Billy Lerma and his biggest helper and granddaughter Chelsey Lerma show off the new grill at the end of a closing shift Tuesday. The restaurant features Mexican food during the week and barbecue on Saturday and Sunday. Caleb Hudgens/The Knox County News-Courier

See DREAM, Page 8

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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 the 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

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\$35 a year outside the county



Special Session Update Perry releases final decisions on bills

By Ed Sterling
For The News-Courier

AUSTIN — June 16 was the deadline for the governor to veto or approve legislation passed in the regular session of the 83rd Texas Legislature.

Gov. Rick Perry beat the deadline by two days, releasing a list of vetoed and approved bills on June 14. Just a few among the 24 bills Perry prevented from becoming laws by strokes of his pen were:

- HB 217 — prohibiting school districts from selling beverages with added sweeteners, milk with more than one percent fat or juices less than 100 percent juice.

- HB 950 — providing uniformity between state and federal anti-discrimination laws so that employees and employers have consistent laws governing employment relations.

- HB 2836 — requiring all statewide standardized tests to be determined valid by an entity independent of the Texas Education Agency or the State Board of Education.

- HB 3063 — giving state-sponsored competitive advantage to some Texas communities over others in attracting aerospace industry businesses.

- SB 15 — adding to the management responsibilities of boards of regents of institutions of higher education and would expand the training requirements of individual regents.

- SB 17 — providing for a free-of-charge, state-provided school safety-training program for certain employees of a school district or charter school that does not have a peace officer or security personnel assigned full-time to the campus.

A few from the list of bills Perry put his signature of approval on include:

- HB 8 — revising statutes relating to protective orders issued for victims of human trafficking and the offense of human trafficking;

- SB 21 — requiring mandatory drug screening as a condition for the receipt of unemployment benefits;

- HB 308 — allowing public school students and staff to use traditional holiday greetings and display religious scenes and symbols on school property.

However, SB 1, the state's general appropriations bill for fiscal years 2014-2015, suffered a number of line-item vetoes by the governor. One of those vetoes was of the budget for the state's Austin-based Public Integrity Unit, a state agency tasked with investigating ethics complaints lodged against public officials.

In explaining his veto, Perry wrote, "Despite the otherwise good work the Public Integrity Unit's employees, I cannot in good conscience support continued state funding

for an office with statewide jurisdiction at a time when the person charged with ultimate responsibility of that unit has lost the public's confidence. This unit is in no other way held accountable to state taxpayers, except through the state budgetary process. I therefore object to and disapprove of this appropriation."

In April, Travis County District Attorney Rosemary Lehberg, chief of the Public Integrity Unit, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated. After serving a short jail sentence, she was released. Some lawmakers pressured Lehberg to resign, but she chose to remain in office.

Redistricting bills move

The Texas Senate, in special session June 13, approved the four major redistricting bills Gov. Perry originally called state lawmakers to pass in the current special session of the Legislature.

Senate bills 1, 3 and 4, as tentatively approved by the Senate, would preserve the federal court-drawn maps of the state's U.S. Congressional districts and Texas House districts. Those three bills were passed on split votes with 16 Republicans voting aye and 11 Democrats voting nay. SB 2, relating to the redistricting maps of state Senate districts, was approved on a unanimous vote.

All four bills move to the House, where that body's Select Committee on Redistricting will take up and consider its own set of bills relating to the districts as redrawn in 2012 by a San Antonio federal court.

Differences in the House and Senate versions of the bills would have to be worked out in a conference committee.

Perry adds to session call

On June 10 Gov. Perry added items relating to the funding of transportation infrastructure projects to the special session call, and June 11 he expanded the call to include two more items: legislation relating to the regulation of abortion procedures, providers and facilities; and legislation relating to establishing a mandatory sentence of life with parole for a capital felony committed by a 17-year-old offender.

Revenue goes up again

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs on June 12 reported that state sales tax revenue in May was \$2.26 billion, up 7.9 percent compared to May 2012.

She attributed the increase to collections from the information services and construction sectors, and said, "restaurants also showed notable growth" and "oil and natural gas-related activity remains a major source of strength."

Educators laud reduction in testing

By Wayne Hodgins
The News-Courier

Educators across the state breathed a sigh of relief last week as the governor signed into law a bill that will reduce the number of standardized tests students take in order to graduate.

House Bill 5 not only reduces the number of end-of-course tests from 15 to five, but also is one of the first steps state legislators and education officials are taking to ramp up curriculum that better prepares students for the workforce rather than a path focused exclusively on higher education.

Cliff Gilmore, superintendent of schools for Aspermont ISD, noted the move also would save about 40 days of testing, giving teachers more time to teach.

"This is a great first step to better prepare our students to succeed in a workforce that is becoming more skills-focused than it has been in prior years," Gilmore said. "It's nice to see our elected leaders realize that all students aren't necessarily college material."

Opponents of the measure pointed to results that show a closing of the achievement gap among white, black and Hispanic students. One of those opponents included Rep. Mark Strama, D-Austin, who was one of two lawmakers to vote against it when it initially passed the House.

"I understand the political pressure and the unpopularity of standardized testing in Texas schools," Strama said. "But I also want to make sure all of us understand the role testing has played in Texas public education over the last 20 years."

After months of committee hearings and contentious behind-the-scenes negotiations, Strama, however, like many others concerned with the quality of education, had changed his mind because the bill does not completely eliminate standardized testing.

"As we increase student achievement, especially among poor students, more of them take the SAT," Strama said. "We've made a lot of progress over the last 20 years. That progress wasn't because we're spending more per pupil than other states. I would argue that the problem with testing in Texas is the stakes we attached to those tests, which created a culture of testing rather than learning."

The five assessments under HB 5 include Algebra 1, English 1, English 2, biology and U.S. history. Students must pass all five of these end-of-course exams to be eligible to graduate from a Texas public high school.

HB 5 also eliminates the both the cumulative score component of the end-of-course exams as well as the requirement the exams count as 15 percent of a student's final grade in each tested subject area.

AISD's Gilmore on Tuesday afternoon was working his way through a 19-page document outlining the new graduation requirements. He said the plan continues to acknowledge a path for higher education while offering a greater variety of curriculum options.

"This legislation will be successful because it provides students with a better opportunity to meet their potential — whether they decide to go directly into the workforce or go onto higher learning at a community college or a traditional university," Gilmore said.

Knox County Aging Services

Menus for June 23-27

Monday:
Glazed meatloaf, red-bliss potatoes, mixed veggies, bread stick, peach cup

Tuesday:
Chicken salad sandwich, tomato, lettuce, macaroni salad, carrot sticks, cake

Wednesday:
Polish sausage, cabbage, pinto beans, cornbread, peaches

Thursday:
Chicken fajitas, chuckwagon corn, Spanish rice, fruit cocktail

Friday:
Barbecue chicken sandwich, tater tots, carrots and zucchini, ambrosia



Weather may have caused Ariz. man's death on I-20

The News-Courier

ABILENE — An Arizona man was killed in a one-vehicle crash on Interstate-20 in Nolan County on Monday evening.

The crash occurred a few minutes before 9 p.m. in the westbound lane near mile marker 237, said Senior Trooper Sparky Dean, spokesman for the Texas Department of Public Safety's Abilene region.

Mensur Osmic, 54, of Phoenix, was driving a 1999 Freightliner tractor-trailer when he failed to negotiate a curve, struck a guardrail and concrete retaining wall.

He was pronounced dead at the scene by County Judge Tim Fambrough.

The body was taken to McCoy's Funeral Home in Sweetwater.

The weather was raining and the roadway was wet.

This crash is being investigated by Trooper Nathan Armstrong.

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The 501 Connecting with Shakespeare

Shakespeare eludes me. One of these days, given enough days, maybe I'll revisit The Bard and take a carefree approach to understanding his work. Heretofore, I've taken him seriously. We've yet to connect.

Oh sure, I know a few quotes. "Out, out damn spot" comes to mind — a racy thing to say when I was in high school. I didn't say it. Or maybe I did. Also memorable is "Double, bubble, toil and trouble; fire burn and caldron bubble." Something like that. Gripping prose.



HANABA MUNN WELCH

My favorite goes something like this: "To thine own self be true, and it follows as night upon day, thou canst not be false to any man." It's the kind of quotation you can tell yourself you understand. But when I ponder it, honestly, I'm not sure what it means. Maybe that's the point. If I admit I don't understand what he was saying, I find myself being honest with you,

too. Hmmm.

If I've lost you, I don't blame you. Shakespeare has that effect on me, too, unless sung by Elvis. Remember "Are You Lonesome Tonight?" Elvis is crooning; then comes the monologue: "You know someone said that the world's a stage and each must play a part."

It's not Shakespeare verbatim, but it paraphrases lines from "As You Like It." Shakespeare: "All the world's a stage, and all men and women merely players; they have their exits and their entrances; And one man in his time plays many parts." Sounds good, but, as long as we're being honest, I have theological issues with the concept.

Allow me to paraphrase Shakespeare to fit my own philosophy: All the world's a laboratory, and all men and women are overseers of experiments. They finish them and start them. And one man or woman in his or her time performs many experiments.

Shakespeare no doubt based his views on his own experiences. Don't we all? If



you've ever tried farming, you share my perspective.

The experiment this week was guar planting. If you've never heard of guar, don't worry about it. The stuff grows mainly in India and likes dry weather. It's a bean much smaller than an English pea. Guar is a key ingredient in ice cream and drilling mud, among other things. Hence the demand.

Guar can be planted with a grain drill. If you have a really old worn-out drill, the whole process can turn into — borrowing from Shakespeare — a Comedy of Errors, especially if you attempt to modify the drill with duct tape and pieces of Coke cans.

Did Shakespeare know anything about farming?

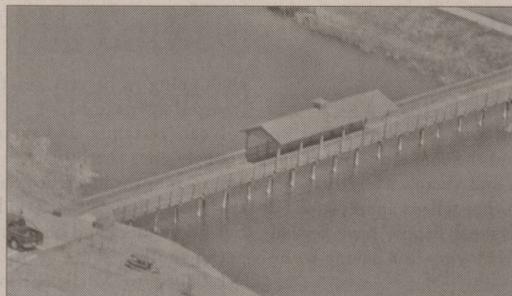
INTERNET PAUSE.

In his Stratford life, Shakespeare was a grain seller! In a drawing of his original funerary monument in his hometown church, he appears to be holding a sack of grain. Over time, the sack has become a tasseled cushion, and he's acquired a quill pen.

People who don't even believe Shakespeare wrote Shakespeare would say he was primarily a grain dealer.

Maybe he and I can connect after all.

Hanaba Munn Welch is a columnist and contributor for Blackburn Media Group newspapers.



The rustic bridge over Fair Park lake in Childress will be the site of the 1st RanchFest on June 29.

RanchFest to be held June 29 in Childress

CHILDRESS — RanchFest 2013. It's the buzz in Childress and across West Texas and Southwest Oklahoma.

Childress' first Red Dirt concert, hosted by Childress Theatre Company, will be staged lakeside in historic Fair Park Saturday, June 29, from 4 p.m. to midnight.

Proceeds from the family-friendly event are dedicated to the restoration of The Palace Theater in downtown Childress.

The party will have all the facets of a country music festival — first and foremost, the entertainers. Coming to Childress for your entertainment are Charla Corn, Zach Edwards, Thrift Store Cowboys, and Trent Willmon, all dynamic stars on the contemporary country music scene.

Event hosts guarantee there will be dancing in the park to the "WOW!" sounds of these exciting bands. Attendees are invited to bring yard chairs and "rear back" in the 7-acre park for hours of entertainment.

The stage will sit on the north side of the park, adjacent to the covered bridge that stretches across the century-old lake where Col. Charles Goodnight watered his herds, decades before the park was created.

There will be a variety of food and soft drink vendors, as well as a first aid station, excellent security, and convenient parking at Bobcat stadium.

No outside food or drink will be allowed.

Attendees will be issued bracelets and will be free to come and go throughout the evening.

Advance tickets, at \$25, can be purchased locally in Childress at the Chamber of Commerce office, at Preston Insurance & from Kay House at Farm Bureau. At the gate, tickets will be \$30.

Tickets can be purchased online from EasyTix, www.myeasytix.com, and by phone at EasyTix, 1-877-840-0457.

Information about The Palace and RanchFest 2013 can be viewed on their Facebook page "RanchFest 2013" and on The Palace website, www.rememberthepalace.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE

A sealed bid was received on the following property:

Parcel number #3513
Account 00300-00020-00490-000000, further described as being, **Blk 21, Lots 5 & 6 orig Goree, Knox City, Knox County, Texas.** The Knox County Appraisal District, acting as trustee for the taxing units is offering this property for sealed bid to all interested parties. Sealed bids may be sent to Knox County Appraisal District, PO Box 47, Benjamin, Texas 79505, along with a cashiers check or money order for the amount of the sealed bid. Please put the **parcel number** on the outside of the envelope of the sealed bid. The taxing units, owners of the property, reserve the right to reject all bids. If your bid is rejected, your cashiers check or money order will be returned. Sealed bids will be opened and considered at least quarterly. For further information please contact the Knox County Appraisal District at the above address or phone: 940-459-3891.

A sealed bid was received on the following property:

Parcel number #5671
Account 00300-00020-00460-000000, further described as being, **Blk 20, Lots 11 & 12 orig Goree, Knox City, Knox County, Texas.** The Knox County Appraisal District, acting as trustee for the taxing units is offering this property for sealed bid to all interested parties. Sealed bids may be sent to Knox County Appraisal District, PO Box 47, Benjamin, Texas 79505, along with a cashiers check or money order for the amount of the sealed bid. Please put the **parcel number** on the outside of the envelope of the sealed bid. The taxing units, owners of the property, reserve the right to reject all bids. If your bid is rejected, your cashiers check or money order will be returned. Sealed bids will be opened and considered at least quarterly. For further information please contact the Knox County Appraisal District at the above address or phone: 940-459-3891.

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KNOX COUNTY ADVENTURE DAYS

JUNE 22, 2013

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:00 5K & 10K FUN WALK / RUN - TRUSCOTT BRINE LAKE (HWY 6)
 Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., race starts at 9:00 a.m. Online registration available at active.com or call 940-459-4121.

10:00 PHOTOGRAPHY SCAVENGER HUNT - BENJAMIN
 Open to all ages. Younger participants will stay around the courthouse. Older participants will need a driver to take them around the county. The winning team gets \$50.

10:00 BUS TOUR OF OLD TRUSCOTT
 Hop aboard the air-conditioned bus at the Benjamin Courthouse and see some unique places in Truscott.

11:30 - 1:00 HAMBURGER LUNCH - BENJAMIN

1:00 AMAZING GRACE RACE - BENJAMIN
 The race will take you around the county. You must be able to drive or have someone to drive you. Participants work in groups of two. The race is open to all ages. Winning team gets \$100.

2:00 BUS TOUR OF TODD LEAKE SHRUB FARM & H&R ORGANIC FARM
 Tour these amazing and unique farms located right here in Knox County. Purchases will be allowed. Catch the bus at the Benjamin Courthouse.

FBC First Baptist Church
 Munday, Texas

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

Service Times:

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

Wednesday
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 Youth: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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Thanks for reading The News-Courier!

Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

Another Monday is here, and it is a pleasant one as we hear thunder in the distance and the sound of rain on our roofs. Just hope it continues, and there's a pretty good chance that it will. Every drop that falls is appreciated.

News is scarce this week. I guess people have settled down since school is out and enjoying not having to be on the go constantly.

It was a busy weekend over here with the annual Ranch Rodeo going on. Pickups, trailers, and lots of cowboys were everywhere. A crowd of spectators was here for the Friday, Saturday and Saturday night events. It's a good project that brings in money for scholarships, arena repair and any other area where it is needed.

Those in charge of organizing and getting it all together do a good job each year and are to be commended for their efforts. A dance, featuring BHS graduate Buster Redwine and his band put the topping on a good weekend Saturday night.

About Our Ill

Barbara Ryder has been in the Knox County Hospital since Monday following knee surgery a couple of weeks ago. Her husband, Donnie, said if things go as planned, she should be home today to continue recuperation. Of course, she will still have therapy for a while, but being at home I'm sure will help her so much.

The latest word I have had on Doug Brown is that he is still in an induced coma, and, although making some progress, his condition is still very serious.

Tammy Lyles had heard from him last night through a friend (who had heard), and it seems things are still pretty bad. Please continue to remember him and his family in prayer.

Tammy also told me her mom, Jan Carver, got a good report last week when she went to the doctor. He told her she could start putting part of her weight on her leg, but

she's going to be very careful as she doesn't want things "messed up" again.

I can certainly understand that. She's been through enough since she broke her leg last Thanksgiving. That's several months in a wheelchair, and I'm sure she's ready to set it aside and get back on her feet as quickly as possible, but I do understand her not wanting to rush it and maybe get in another "jam."

I talked to Michele Brown today, and she said her daughter Emily has her sight back in the eye where she had lost a big percent of it earlier. The cause of the sight loss was an inflamed optic nerve, but doctors are not sure what caused that.

They go to an ophthalmologist tomorrow (Tuesday) in Abilene with results of MRIs, blood tests, and other tests, and hopefully will get a diagnosis. They have ruled out Lyme disease and diabetes but are looking at several other causes.

Emily is 13 and has had some other health issues this past year, and she's about ready for some good news. We pray things won't be too bad and whatever the problem is will be easily taken care of.

Here 'N There

Judy and Randolph Barnett were in Wolforth during the weekend to visit sons Jeff and Jim Bob Conner and their families. A big part of the time was having to do with the grandchildren. They attended granddaughter Madlyn's softball game in Levelland on Friday night and on Saturday went to granddaughter Jaylee's fourth birthday party. It was held at Joyful Noise, a preschool, and the guests wore costumes of different characters. Judy said it was a lot of fun, and the greatest thrill was seeing all the kids having so much fun.

She also told me that grandson Charlie had received an outstanding student award at Levelland, where he goes to school. This is the second year for him to receive such an honor, and, of course, she and Randy are very proud

grandparents.

Madlyn, Charlie, and Jaylee are Jim Bob and Jennie Beth's children, and they have a sister, Callie Beth, who is just a few months old, but she will begin to be involved in things before you know it.

Recent guests of Dillon Benson and Arial Gideon and Addison were Arial's parents, Oscar and Shannon Gideon and Ian and Isabell of Safford, Ariz. They also visited Oscar's dad, Weldon. Also visiting Weldon recently was his son Mike, who lives in Bryan.

Cody Propps, student at Tarleton University in Stephenville, was here for the weekend. He said he would go back today as he's taking some summer classes and also is working. He's over the livestock department at a foster home, and says he really enjoys his work. Think he has another job (or more), and he does stay busy. It was good to see him.

Shaylee Propps of Graham was here for the weekend also, enjoying the rodeo and visiting with friends and family.

Stacia Antilley was a weekend guest of her parents, Jan and Fred Carver. Stacia and Gary live in Wingate.

I have learned of the death of Betty Hibdon, the mother of former resident, Randy Hibdon. She passed away Thursday morning early in the Munday Nursing Center. She was taken to Lone Wolf, Okla., for funeral services and burial. My sympathy to Randy, Dorothy, and their family, as well as the rest of Betty's family.

Although it's a few weeks late, following is a listing of the students in Benjamin School who had a 90 or above average for the school year as well as those who were neither tardy or absent for the year. It's a pretty good percent of the total students enrolled, and I think that speaks highly of the school and the teachers. I congratulate them all.

Gladene Green is the longtime Benjamin correspondent for the Knox County News-Courier.

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Nellis begins tenure as Texas Tech president

Special to the Dispatch

LUBBOCK — Monday marked the first day of Duane Nellis' tenure as the 16th president of Texas Tech University.

Nellis, who was officially named president March 22, comes to Texas Tech from the University of Idaho, where he served as president beginning in 2009. He previously served as provost and senior vice president at Kansas State University and dean of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences at West Virginia University.

"Today I met with my executive team, and we went over my priorities for the coming year," Nellis said. "Since I was named the sole candidate, I've been gathering as much information as I can as I prepare to provide leadership, as we work collectively to move the institution forward."

Nellis spent the day meeting with university leadership and members of the Lubbock community. He also met incoming students and their parents who are here for Red Raider orientation.

On Tuesday, Nellis left for Washington, D.C., where he is attending the national university presidents' meeting as part of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities.

While there, he also plans to visit the Texas Tech facility, meet with area alumni and key congressmen, as well as Texas Tech's current congressional and White House interns.

Nellis said he is anxious to visit with Texas Tech administrators and faculty, and to begin working on key initiatives.

"It is very important I get out into the colleges and into the different units within the university to meet with the deans, the faculty and staff, and to see some of their key facilities and interact with them," Nellis said.

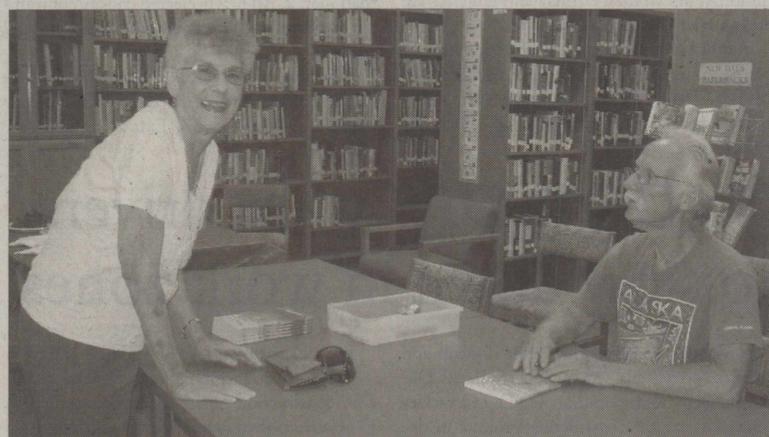
Nellis and his wife, Ruthie, have met many members of the Lubbock community, and he said they are looking forward to getting acquainted with the area and with the rest of Texas as they look forward to visiting several Texas cities in the upcoming months.

"What I'm looking forward to the most is when the students get back in the fall," Nellis said. "There's something special about the fall semester when all the students are back. I've made my career being at universities because of the students and the excitement that comes with interacting with them."

Also on Monday, Lawrence Schovanec, who served as the interim president beginning in July 2012, began his term as interim provost.



Special to the News-Courier
Duane Nellis began his tenure as the 16th president of Texas Tech University on Monday. He comes to the Hub City from the University of Idaho, where he had served as president since 2009.



Patti Walker/The Stonewall Courier
Barbara Nauert awaits her copy of "Fall Dogs" to be signed by local author Dan Rosenberg during a June 11 signing at the Stonewall County Library.

Area author signs copies of latest book

By Patti Walker
Special to the News-Courier

The Stonewall County Library hosted a book signing for local author Dan Rosenberg on June 11.

Rosenberg has recently published a novel entitled "Fall Dogs," which is set in Alaska.

Rosenberg and his wife, Susan, have lived in Aspermont since 2003 and operate The Pony Espresso.

Prior to moving here, for 27 years they lived in Alaska, where Dan worked as a salmon hatchery manager for the Metlakatla Indian

Community and then the Alaska Department of Fish and Game until his retirement in 1996.

The experience of living in Alaska gave Rosenberg the inspiration for his novel.

During the book signing, Rosenberg said the title of his book refers to salmon that return to freshwater to spawn in the fall. Alaskans refer to these salmon as fall dogs. In Rosenberg's tale of Alaska, two young men come to Prince of Wales Island: one, a whaler who in 1849 was shipwrecked on the island's southern rocky shore, and one who arrived by ferry

in the summer of 1975 to search for his place in the grand scheme of things.

The two men's lives were forever changed by the adventure awaiting them. Although they lived in different eras, the two men's lives — whether by fate or chance — were forever changed by an adventure that inexplicably links them together.

Using the Alaskan wilderness as a backdrop, Rosenberg's novel is rich in mystical folklore and native history.

Copies are available for purchase at The Pony Espresso.

KC Class of 78 plans all-class reunion

The Knox County News-Courier

The Knox City Exes Scholarship Fund and the 1978 Class of Knox City High School will host a class reunion July 6.

All KCHS classes, past students and the whole community are invited to attend. In conjunction with the reunion, there will also be a golf tournament.

The reunion event will begin at 5 p.m. at the new Knox City Community Building. Billy Lerma will provide the barbecue, and The Heather Roberts Band will be playing live music. There will be a silent auction with lots of good prizes, a raffle and lots more fun and socializing.

All proceeds will be earmarked for college scholarships for a few 2014 Knox City High School graduates.

Organizer Jimmy Don Moore, Class of 1976, said in future years the goal is to work with other KCHS classes as they have their reunions and raise even more scholarship money for KCHS graduating students.

"We have been getting lots of support, and everybody is getting ready to

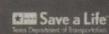
have a blast while also trying to do some good for the kiddos in the community," Moore said. "A bunch of us grads from out of town are going to be in Knox City on July 3 and make a long weekend out of catching up with our old high school friends."

The two-person scramble golf tournament will begin 9 a.m. July 6 at the Knox City Country Club. Entry fee is \$100 per team. Contact Tommy Mangis (KCHS, 1978) at 940-256-2114 to enter your team. There are only three golf openings at press time.

To get your tickets to the BYOB reunion event please contact Michelle Stanfield at 940-256-0318. Tickets cost \$10 in advance and at the gate and include a barbecue dinner and admission to the dance. Take-out plates will be available.

"As most KCHS grads will tell you, there is something special about Knox City and the sense of humor we all have when we get together," Moore said. "It's just like we've been seeing each other every day."

NEW TEXAS CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY LAW



NEW TEXAS LAW
Effective 9/1/2009
A child up to 8 years old, unless taller than 4 feet 9 inches, must ride in a child safety seat.

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Agriculture News Rains help, but drought maintains its stubborn hold

By Robert Burns

COLLEGE STATION — Is Texas still in a drought? It depends upon where you are and whom you talk to, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor and reports from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agents across the state.

Despite rains — substantial in some cases — drought still had a hold on much of Texas. According to the June 4, U.S. Drought Monitor, more than 87 percent of the state was still suffering from moderate, severe, extreme or exceptional drought. (For an explanation of the drought categories see <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/classify.htm>.)

The areas with the worse drought conditions remained the Panhandle, parts of the South Plains, South and the Southwest regions.

Many parts of the state received rain since the monitor's June 4 report, and more recent reports from AgriLife Extension county agents reflect the effects of the added moisture. But the rain was by no means equally distributed. In the Panhandle, for example, agents reported the rain in some counties measured in inches, while others got no more than a sprinkle.

For example, J.D. Ragland, AgriLife Extension agent for Randall County, Amarillo, reported there was "no significant accumulation."

"Even irrigated corn and cotton are beginning to suffer, and no dryland will be planted until some kind of rainfall occurs," he said.

The day after high temperatures of 106 degrees were recorded on June 4, Lubbock County was visited by a line of severe thunderstorms and extremely high, damaging winds, reported Mark Brown, AgriLife Extension agent. The storms brought as much as 2 inches of rain, which helped crops, but winds as high as 84 mph damaged structures, toppled trees and overturned many center pivots.

In East Texas, the thunderstorms were more benign, bringing only rain and greening up grass and promoting hay growth, reported Chad Guley, AgriLife Extension agent for Smith County, Tyler.

In much of West Texas, rains did little more than settle the dust, as Norman Fryar, AgriLife Extension agent in Pecos County, reported.

Many South Texas counties reported rain since June 4, but as George Gonzales, AgriLife Extension agent for Webb County in Laredo, reported, with highs in the 100- to 103-degree range all week long, evaporation rates were very high.

More information on the current Texas drought and wildfire alerts can be found on the AgriLife Extension Agricultural Drought Task Force website at <http://agrilife.tamu.edu/drought/>.

AgriLife Extension district reporters compiled the following summaries for the week of June 4-10:

Panhandle: Most of the region remained hot and windy. By the end of the reporting period, most areas had received some moisture — from a trace to as much as 4 inches. Hail accompanied the rain in some cases. Soil-moisture levels continued to be mostly poor to very poor. Crops under irrigation were progressing. Early planted corn was in the four- to six-leaf stage, though some later plantings were just emerging. Grain sorghum was still being planted, with some of the earliest plantings at the two- to four-leaf stage. Generally, the winter wheat crop was in very poor condition. Cotton was coming along, with most fields just emerging, though some earlier-planted fields were at the three- to four-leaf stage. Rangeland and pastures continued to be in very poor to poor condition.

Rolling Plains: The northern and western parts of the region received rain, from 1.5 to 5 inches in some counties. In the areas that received rain, cotton farmers were planting at a rapid pace. Some fields were too wet to get into, but producers were not complaining. Rivers ran for a few days and livestock watering ponds filled back up. Pastures were beginning to improve after the rains, and ranchers were moving cattle to greener pastures. The rainfall couldn't have come at a better time as winter wheat had been grazed off. Grain sorghum emerged and appeared to be in fair condition. Producers were planting peanuts. Jack County reported that all pecan grafting was done, and pest control was in full swing. Cattlemen in some areas were still supplementing hay, and buying coastal Bermuda grass and wheat for summer use.

South Plains: Most counties received rain, with reports ranging from 0.2 inch to 3 inches. Many received hail with the rain, but damage reports were not yet in. Lubbock County also reported damaging winds up to 84 mph on June 5. Producers were trying to finish planting, but were fighting blowing dirt storms that followed the rains. There was enough moisture in some cases to germinate cottonseed in dryland fields, but available sub-soil moisture was not enough to sustain a crop. Hockley County corn looked good with little insect pressure. Producers began harvesting irrigated winter wheat. Pasture and rangeland greened up where there was rain, and stock-water tanks were catching water. Livestock was mostly in fair to good condition.

Southwest: Recent rains and favorable weather improved the condition of livestock, rangeland and row crops throughout the region. Although rain totals varied, generally there was enough to provide ample soil moisture for grass and crop growth. Wheat and oats were still being harvested. Some of the later peaches that survived the freezes were ripening. With temperatures climbing, more precipitation was needed to maintain soil-moisture levels and further promote drought recovery.

Nominations open for local FSA committee

Special to the News-Courier

Nominations for the Knox County board of the USDA's Farm Service Agency began this past week and will continue through Aug. 1.

Elected county committee members serve a three-year term and are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster, conservation, commodity and price support programs, as well as other important federal farm program issues. County committees are comprised of three to 11 members.

"County Committees are unique to FSA and are instrumental in all aspects of federal farm program implementation at the local level," said Nancy Birkenfeld, executive director of the local FSA office.

Producers may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Organizations that represent minority and women farmers and ranchers are encouraged to nominate candidates.

Nominees must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area in which the person is a candidate.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and more information about county committee elections are available online at fsa.usda.gov/elections.

"It is important that county committees are comprised of members who fairly represent the diverse demographics of production agriculture for their community," Birkenfeld said. "All producers, including women, minority and beginning farmers and ranchers are encouraged to participate in the nomination and election process."

Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1.

FSA will mail ballots to eligible voters beginning Nov. 4. The ballots are due back in the local county office by mail or in person no later than Dec. 2. All newly elected county committee members and alternates will take office Jan. 1.

For more information about county committees, please contact the Knox County FSA office at 940-658-3537, Ext. 2, or visit fsa.usda.gov.

TXDOT, DPS warn drivers to slow down in work zones

Navigating construction can be difficult and risky for drivers and workers. As the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) tackles one of its largest construction projects in department history — expanding or improving more than 100 miles of I-35 across the state — educating the public on the necessity of driving safely through work zones is a top priority.

"Interstate 35 is the Main Street of Texas, serving as a major artery for not only motorists, but for the businesses that make our great state the economic powerhouse it is," said John Barton, TXDOT's deputy executive director. "Unfortunately, the reality is we are beginning to see many crashes in work zones threatening our front line teams who risk their lives daily to keep Texas moving. To better protect them, we're ramping up our educational efforts to encourage Texans to use extreme caution when driving through work zones."

Also at great risk are drivers. In 2011, there were 14,670 crashes in roadway construction and maintenance zones in Texas, resulting in 116 fatalities, the majority of which were motorists. Currently, TXDOT has 20 active work zones along I-35 encompassing 109.6 miles from north to south Texas — the most the agency has ever had on the state's main corridor. While these work zones indicate great progress for our state, they also call for enhanced enforcement from the

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). "DPS will be increasing enforcement in specific construction zones to encourage drivers to observe posted speed limits," said Highway Patrol Major Casey Goetz. "Fines double when workers are present in construction zones. Motorists need to do their part and adjust their driving habits in work zones to help reduce the risk of crashes. Careless actions by a few end up costing everyone."

According to AAA Texas, 7.1 million people in the state will travel by automobile this holiday season — a 2 percent increase over last year. And, as more than 1,000 citizens move to Texas daily, TXDOT will continue to work with law enforcement to protect all Texans and ensure all roadways remain safe and reliable.

To learn more about work zone safety, watch Maintenance Crews — Working for Texas, or visit the TXDOT YouTube channel and search for "Working for Texas." More information about work zones can also be found at www.txdot.gov.

The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, rail and public transportation across the state. Find out more at www.txdot.gov. Fan us on Facebook, www.facebook.com/txdot; and follow us on Twitter, www.twitter.com/txdot.

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The Idle American Tagged: To be or not to be

When push came to shove during the Great Depression, the masses were unable to shove back. Instead, they relied on creativity to "make do."

Thanks to patterned sacks containing livestock feed — as well as kitchen flour — many wardrobes depended greatly on foot-powered Singer sewing machines.

Mostly, women turned out the "make do" garments willingly worn by adults and children alike.

There were shirts and dresses — and other garments — including underclothing. Yes, for guys the seamstresses turned out what were commonly called "flour sack drawers."

Please don't equate such to compromised hygiene — except during cotton-picking season. Then, the practice of Saturday baths — usually in No. 3 washtubs — was suspended, but not without ritual.

On a farm nearby, a dozen children — all farm workers — were parentally advised that sweaty cotton-picking temperatures rendered bathing pointless.

"We're going to have changes of underwear, though," the farmer instructed. "John, you change with Robert; Mary, you change with Martha," and so on.

I occasionally wished for "store-bought" items. In retrospect, I should have been grateful for a talented and committed mom who never saw a flour sack she didn't envision on a cutting board. (She also cut my hair — as well as the manes of many other male relatives — with hand clippers. I was in college before experiencing my first "shop-bought" haircut.)

My wife remembers her first purchased dress, worn proudly to her eighth-grade honors program.

We were legion, "make do" folks proud to let labels hang out, happy to offer proof that some of our apparel wasn't homemade.

With this in mind, I find it curious that Hanes, a major company that turns out men's undergarments, has launched an ad campaign promoting its "tagless underwear."

The Federal Trade Commission has decreed — with many chapters and verses — that most manufactured garments must be "tagged" or otherwise labeled with detailed information. If tagless shorts don't get the feds' attention, Hanes may get rid of imprinting next. What'll the FTC do? Maybe join the Internal Revenue Service in a duet of teeth-gnash-

ing. Who knows? Mattresses and pillows may be next. Imagine sleeping through the night without any fear of being hauled off to jail for our relaxed repose on a tagless mattress.

Hanes' campaign is indeed subtle. It suggests the dawning of a bright new day. We may be chafed — rubbed wrong in many of life's circuitous circumstances — but, thanks to Hanes, irritations will be reduced by one.

Ads stress that men now have no worries about irritation by abrasive tags on shorts.

Do you feel like igniting any Roman candles yet? I don't either.

At the risk of providing too much information, I've worn such "store bought" items for more than seven decades. I think they came soon after diaper wear. I was so adorned soon after diapers, about the time "union suits" came along. No, these suits had nothing to do with the Civil War.

I recall no irritations by abrasive tags. In fact, I've always considered such tags helpful, particularly when they were universally sewn in back. This guided me in getting drawers on "front-erds," a common term at the time.

I've also accepted shorts with labels in front, or on sides, and in some cases, on the outside. Remembering which companies use tags which ways is challenging, however.

Mostly, I believe a vast majority of men simply seek comfort. Manufacturers enjoy fruitful profits in turning out garments of all shapes and sizes that conform to men of all shapes and sizes.

And Godspeed to Hanes, if the company's intent is to start a journey to eventually challenge the FTC.

That cog in government's big machine probably deserves the kind of spotlight now shining on various government entities.

My Uncle Mort, 101 this summer, claims to wear homemade shorts to this very day. Aunt Maude confirms that she's turned them out by the hundreds, from an electric sewing machine the past 40 years.

"They're roomy and comfy," Mort bragged, adding a poem he claims provides "words to live by":

It's easy to grin, when your ship comes in, if it's just a small boat or a yacht. But one that's worthwhile is one who can smile when his shorts creep up in a knot.

Don Newbury, former chancellor of Howard Payne University in Brownwood, is an author, humorist and motivational speaker.



DON NEWBURY

The Cattleman Guest-worker program is essential

When I was a kid I worked outside on the ranch from sunup until sundown. When my girls were old enough, they did the same thing. Working right alongside them was a handful of migrant workers who helped us with the hard and physical labor of running a successful cow-calf operation.

These migrant workers weren't just faceless workers. They were family. They spent their days working to support their families back home, and at Thanksgiving and Christmas they would sit down at the dinner table with the rest of us.

Unfortunately, our current immigration program doesn't allow these workers to come here legally. Instead most of them travel here illegally, and in doing so they risk their lives to work and ultimately provide for their family. And employers who desperately need a labor force face charges and steep fines if they employ these workers.

This is a problem that must be fixed. Washington is finally working toward reforming this country's broken immigration system. I am glad to see that in both chambers of Congress, a true fix to our country's guest-worker program is being considered. However, I worry the skewed notion that a practical guest-worker program implies blanket amnesty might set back any progress.

Let's be clear, ranchers don't support blanket amnesty. Amnesty and citizenship should be a separate debate. Let's also be clear these workers aren't taking away American jobs. At our ranch in Falls County — a county with a high unemployment rate — we can't find U.S. citizens who will do the hard work of ranching. We go through five or 10 U.S. employees a year because, when we do find someone, they typically quit within a few weeks. Migrant workers are simply doing the jobs that most Americans refuse to do.

The livestock industry needs a steady, year-round workforce. This is why Texas ranchers support a plan that allows immigrants who want to work in the United States an opportunity to do so.

Both the Senate and the House have different ideas on how to accomplish this. The Senate has taken an all-or-nothing approach to comprehensive immigration reform and, as part of that, has included a guest-worker program. The House is biting off the immigration overhaul in small chunks by introducing smaller, stand-alone bills, including the Agriculture Guestworker Act, introduced by House Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte, R-Va.

I don't know which approach Congress will take to fix the issue, but I do know we must have a practical program where willing workers can come to the United States on a work visa and stay for at least three to five years before they're required to return home. Once they've returned home, they should be able to re-apply for their visa and return to their job. This provides stability to an industry that simply can't afford to continuously turn over new employees.

A program that allows these folks to work here legally also allows them to be accounted for and take part in the economy by paying taxes.

Border security is crucial to any immigration reform, particularly in Texas. While a practical and effective guest-worker program isn't the single cure to securing our border, it will help reduce the flood of illegal immigrants crossing the border. This relief will allow authorities to focus on controlling people crossing illegally.

Whether Congress reforms our entire immigration program or not, they must come up with an effective fix to help provide Texas ranchers with a reliable workforce. This is the right thing to do for our country and those migrant workers wanting to make a better living for their family.

Pete Bonds, first vice president of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, is a lifelong rancher. He and his family operate the Bonds Ranch in Saginaw.



PETE BONDS

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for the consideration of entering into a cooperation agreement with the Munday Housing Authority. The City Council of the City of Knox City at the expiration of 60 days from the first publication of this notice will hold a public meeting on August 20, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 902 E. Main, Knox City, Texas to consider the question of entering into a cooperation agreement with the Munday Housing Authority for the purpose of consolidating the Knox City Housing Authority and Munday Housing Authority. This notice is given pursuant to the Texas Local Government Code, Section 393.010.

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THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF KNOX

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KNOX COUNTY, TEXAS
BY: AM PM
10:05

In the name and by the authority of the State of Texas

NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two days, the same being the 15 day of JULY, 2013, a default judgment may be taken against you."

TO: ANNA WITHERSPOON, ADONELL MASSIE LINK, and R. T. EVANS, Defendants, and THEIR HEIRS, UNKNOWN HEIRS, and LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Original Petition for Appointment of Receiver and Order for Receiver to Execute Mineral Lease at or before ten o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days, the same being the 15 day of JULY, 2013, before the Honorable 50th Judicial District Court of Knox County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Benjamin, Texas.

Plaintiff's petition was filed in said court, by Bobby D. Burnett (Attorney for Plaintiff), whose address is P. O. Drawer 390, Munday, Texas, on the 21st day of May, 2013, in cause numbered 9573 on the docket of said court, and styled, KPK RESOURCES, LLC, PLAINTIFF VS. ANNA WITHERSPOON, ADONELL MASSIE LINK, AND R. T. EVANS, AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS, AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF SUCH PERSONS, DEFENDANTS.

The names of the parties to this cause are as follows:

ANNA WITHERSPOON, ADONELL MASSIE LINK, and R. T. EVANS.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit:

Plaintiff requests the appointment of a receiver of the undivided mineral interests owned by Defendants in:

All of Section No. Seven (7), G. C. & S. F. RR Company Survey, Abstract No. 542, in Knox County, Texas, and Abstract No. 1228 in King County, Texas, and containing 320 acres of land, more or less.

and an order of the Court authorizing and directing the receiver to execute and deliver to Plaintiff an oil, gas and mineral lease covering the undivided mineral interest of Defendants in the real property described above, as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's petition on file in this suit.

The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to the requirements of law, and the mandates thereof, and make due return as the law directs.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

PAGE 1 OF 2

Issued and given under my hand and the Seal of said Court, at office in Benjamin, Texas, this the 30 day of May, 2013.

CLERK OF THE COURT



Annette O'Leary
ANNETTE O'LEARY, District Clerk of Knox County, Texas
Knox County Courthouse
100 West Cedar
Benjamin, Texas 79505

State launches summertime sober-driving campaign

Special to the Dispatch

AUSTIN — Whether attending a backyard barbecue, going to an outdoor concert or enjoying a lazy day on the river, Texans are planning for summer fun. As plans are made, more thought must also go into planning for a sober driver if drinking is involved.

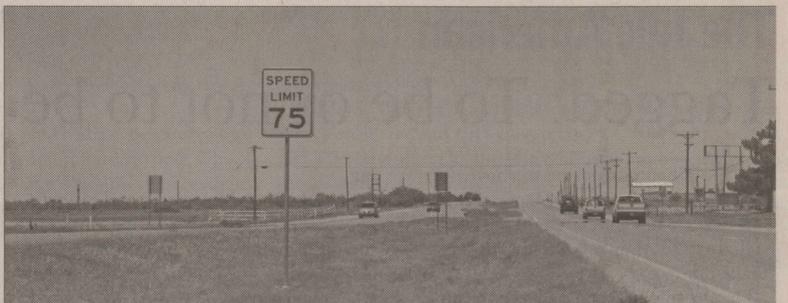
Over the past five summers, alcohol-related fatalities increased by more than 10 percent in Texas. To curb this trend and help reduce drinking and driving, the Texas Department of Transportation is reminding Texans to obtain a Summer P.A.S.S. (Person Appointed to Stay Sober) and make a sober driver an essential part of their summer plans.

"We're reminding people that drinking and driving can land them in jail or worse," said TxDOT Executive Director Phil Wilson. "Don't drink and drive. You can't afford a DWI, and it could very well get you and others killed."

Numerous studies, state transportation officials say, have shown that consuming as little as one drink can impair your ability to safely operate a vehicle.

Between June 1 and Aug. 31 last year, there were 6,576 alcohol-related traffic crashes in Texas, resulting in 2,486 serious injuries and 302 fatalities, according to state transportation officials.

For information about finding a sober ride home, visit soberrides.org.



Anna Gibson/The Post Dispatch

Motorists on U.S. 84 West north of Post are saluted by a new posted speed limit sign of 75 mph. Garza County, along with the 16 other counties within the Texas Department of Transportation's Lubbock District, is finally seeing the increase that has been in effect throughout other portions of the state for the better part of the last year.

Speed change finally seen in Lubbock area

By Wayne Hodgin
The Knox County News-Courier

The drive time to and from Lubbock and its surrounding areas is a little faster now that the speed limit has increased on all state and federal roadways leading into and out of the Hub City.

Dianah Ascencio, spokeswoman for the Lubbock TxDOT region, said workers with the Texas Department of Transportation within the last week have finished installing the new 75 mph speed limit signs throughout the Lubbock District, which also includes Bailey, Castro, Cochran, Crosby, Dawson, Floyd, Gaines, Garza, Hale, Hockley, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Parmer, Swisher, Terry and Yoakum counties.

"The state transportation board met in January and approved the speed limit increase for all state and U.S. highways in the Lubbock District that were already 70 mph. Any road or section of road that was not already at a posted 70 mph remain the same," she said. "The speed limits didn't officially take effect, however, until the signs were installed."

As part of a statewide study conducted by TxDOT engineers, state officials over the last two years had been looking at increasing speeds on all interstates, state highways and farm-to-market roads posted at 70 mph.

"Many of these roads were built to hold up to larger speeds, and, in some cases, motorists are already exceeding the posted speed limits on some long stretches of these highways," Ascencio said.

Ascencio said a study of other highways, including all farm-to-market and ranch roads, has

been completed and also recommended for speed limit increases.

"Our district engineers have completed the required study of all farm-to-market and ranch roads and have submitted their recommendation to the state committee for approval," she said. "The state committee is expected to meet and discuss whether to approve those changes by the end of the year."

State transportation officials in January 2012 signed off on a number of speed increases on interstates throughout the state, including 129 miles along I-27 from Mile Marker 8 a few miles north of Lubbock to Mile Marker 117 just south of Amarillo.

In April 2012, portions of two Central Texas highways were approved for a speed limit hike to 80 mph for 54 miles of roadway in the Austin area.

Legislators passed HB 1353 in 2011 that allowed the department to establish 75 mph speed limits on Texas highways provided speed studies show it could be done safely.

Prior to the 2011 legislation, Texas had 1,445 miles of 75 mph speed limits and 521 miles of 80 mph speed limits on certain state highways. These speed limits were previously restricted to specific rural counties and highways located mostly in West Texas. Texas now has more than 3,000 miles zoned at 75 mph or higher, and 575 miles posted at 80 mph.

Additionally, state transportation official are installing "left lane for passing only" signs on all highways with a speed limit of 75 mph or higher.

SENIORS

From Page 1

education and to support them from the business world."

Jim Reeves, executive director of the Texas 4-H Foundation, said this year's scholarships were funded by about 50 organizational and individual donors.

"The 4-H scholarship endeavor began in 1959 with one \$1,000 scholarship donated by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo," Reeves said. "So it's not surprising that the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo continues to be the largest donor organization among the current 48 scholarship

donors comprising the 4-H Foundation's educational support."

Reeves said for 2013 the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will be providing 70 scholarships of \$18,000 each.

"This year's second-largest organizational donor is the San Antonio Livestock Exposition and rodeo with 13 scholarships of \$20,000 each and 12 scholarships of \$1,000 each, he added.

The largest individual scholarship donor was Richard Wallrath, who provided 35 scholarships of \$10,000 each.

This year's 4-H Roundup hosted more than 4,000 participants. Four-H is the youth program of the Texas

A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

"Four-H Roundup is Texas 4-H's premiere leadership event of the year," said Kyle Merten, AgriLife Extension 4-H and youth development specialist, College Station.

For the past 65 years, contests have been held throughout the counties in each of the 12 AgriLife Extension districts. Winners in about 50 competitive events advance to the state round-up.

Youth who attend this event are able to learn leadership skills, team building, citizenship development and competition skills as well as get the opportunity to network with other youth, Merten said.

give it up," he said. "I've been waiting 12 years to take this one over. I'm excited."

Lerma and his family have been working steady since they opened a couple of weeks ago.

"We're going to stay open

seven days a week for now until we find a day we can rest," Lerma said. "But there has been so many people, I have no clue when that would be."

The restaurant provides an eighth dining option for Knox City residents.

WHEAT

From Page 1

Lerma is no stranger to the restaurant business.

"I had a restaurant 25 years ago and really never wanted to

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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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Knox County Maintenance Position will close on Monday, June 17, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. A completed State of Texas Application for Employment (Rev 01/2012) is required. One year in roadway maintenance or heavy equipment operation required at time of application. Computer skills job simulation required if interviewed. Interested applicants may call 940-937-7190 for complete application information. Mailed applications must be post-marked no later than June 17, 2013. Online application process may be submitted at <http://www.dot.state.tx.us/careers>

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Dixie Divas The 'Rocky' Method: When dreams take flight

It has long been my belief the dreams tucked into our hearts are the compass we're given to find our direction in life.

Children know at an early age what they're called to do. Sadly, too few grow up to follow that calling, because life's demands and sensibilities get in the way.

The key, I have decided, is to grow up brave enough and bold enough to follow our dreams, regardless of how crazy they may seem to others. Strong perseverance and determination will lead to the fulfillment of our passions. Believing that, I'm always looking for stories that underscore my philosophy.



RONDA RICH

I read a story in Vanity Fair magazine that inspired me so much I ripped it out and kept it.

In 1975, Sylvester Stallone, an unknown actor, convinced producers Robert Chartoff and Irwin Winkler to take a look at a movie script he had written about a fighter. It turned out to be a great script, so United Artists offered Stallone, starving and down on his luck, \$250,000 to buy the script and star someone like Burt Reynolds, the hottest movie actor at the time, in it.

Stallone, despite his growling stomach, stood firm. He wanted to star in it himself, and Chartoff and Winkler promised him that chance. The producers bravely guaranteed the production against a small budget, shot it in 28 days and persuaded United Artists to release it in time for the Academy Awards.

Critics panned it, and the producers, standing outside the theater on opening day and bemoaning their luck, thought it was all over. Actor Peter Falk of Columbo fame walked up and said, "Go inside. The audience is standing and cheering."

The public bought what the critics hated and the studio had been wary of.

"Rocky" went on to win Best Picture and two other Academy Awards. Stallone had

refused to settle. He saw it through to the end to get exactly what he dreamed.

And that's another thing I believe — you get what you settle for.

I've known Rich Middlemas for seven or eight years now. It is a friendship that was seeded when he contacted me about a book I had written to inquire if the movie rights were available. He's an important part of my history in a couple of ways, one being that we lunched together in Los Angeles a couple of hours before I met the man I would marry.

We still laugh over that day's conversation when I explained I was meeting "John Pinker" about a movie he was writing. I had completely misunderstood his last name due to a sinus infection that kept me from hearing well over the telephone.

Rich's story inspires me as much as the "Rocky" story. He was born in Atlanta and graduated from the University of Tennessee, another reason we connect: We're both raised in the South. And you know: Southerners stick together, especially in Hollywood. It's a necessity, really.

He loved film and the business of it. Unlike many who dream of going to Hollywood, he didn't want to be an actor. He wanted to produce. His parents, bless their hearts, cheered him on. Shortly after landing there, he was hired as the assistant to the president of MGM (now Sony). Then he was gutsy enough to step out on his own and start looking for work he could option.

One day while online reading the high school recruiting reports for Tennessee, he found a story about a football team in Memphis. He has an eye for a story. So he and two buddies produced a documentary called "Undeclared." I was watching the Academy Awards from bed the night they won the coveted award for Best Documentary. I jumped up and cheered, not for the victory really but for the journey.

I love dreamers who have courage. That's even better than an Academy Award.

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

Usda seeks applications for grants to support small-socially disadvantaged producers

TEMPLE, TEXAS, June 12, 2013 — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that USDA is seeking applications from cooperatives to provide technical assistance to small, socially disadvantaged agricultural producers in rural areas. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) remains focused on carrying out its mission, despite a time of significant budget uncertainty. Today's announcement is one part of the Department's efforts to strengthen the rural economy.

"These grants will jump start small business hiring and help producers in areas facing economic challenges get the tools they need to succeed," Vilsack said. "Small businesses are the engines of job growth and innovation in America."

"One of USDA Rural Development's missions is to provide assistance that will increase the economic conditions of rural communities," said Paco Valentin, USDA Rural Development Texas State Director. "These grants allow eligible applicants to provide technical assistance to small socially disadvantaged agriculture producers in rural areas and in turn, promote job creation and improve their operations."

Funding will be made available through USDA Rural Development's Small, Socially Disadvantaged Producer Grant program (SSDPG). The maximum grant award is \$200,000.

The SSDPG and other USDA business and cooperative development programs have had a significant impact on rural communities. In 2012 alone, they helped almost

10,000 rural small business owners or farmers improve their enterprises. Business and cooperative program funding created or saved an estimated 53,000 rural jobs in 2012.

Eligible applicants include cooperatives, groups of cooperatives, and cooperative development centers where a majority of the governing board or board of directors is comprised of individuals who are members of socially disadvantaged groups. Small, socially disadvantaged producers include farmers, ranchers, loggers, agricultural harvesters, and fishermen that have averaged \$250,000 or less in annual gross sales of agricultural products in the last three years. Producers will be able to conduct market research, product and/or service improvement, feasibility studies, training, and implement business plans.

The application deadline for Small, Socially Disadvantaged Producer Grants is July 15, 2013 for paper applications and July 10, 2013 for electronic applications. For additional information on how to apply, see the June 12 Federal Register, page 35239, or visit http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_SSDPG.html.

President Obama's plan for rural America has brought about historic investment and resulted in stronger rural communities. Under the President's leadership, these investments in housing, community facilities, businesses and infrastructure have empowered rural America to continue leading the way — strengthening America's economy, small towns and rural communities. USDA's investments in rural communities sup-

port the rural way of life that stands as the backbone of our American values. President Obama and Agriculture Secretary Vilsack are committed to a smarter use of Federal resources to foster sustainable economic prosperity and ensure the government is a strong partner for businesses, entrepreneurs and working families in rural communities.

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, has a portfolio of programs designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America.

USDA has made a concerted effort to deliver results for the American people, even as USDA implements sequestration — the across-the-board budget reductions mandated under terms of the Budget Control Act. USDA has already undertaken historic efforts since 2009 to save more than \$828 million in taxpayer funds through targeted, common-sense budget reductions. These reductions have put USDA in a better position to carry out its mission, while implementing sequester budget reductions in a fair manner that causes as little disruption as possible.

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