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# THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2013

KCNEWSCOURIER.COM

75 CENTS

## Sales tax collections up 19 percent in Knox County

By Wayne Hodgin

The Knox County News-Courier

Knox County municipalities collected more than 14 percent more sales tax revenue during the month of June over the same period last year, according to information recently released by the state comptroller's office.

Total collections were \$41,693 compared to \$36,528 in June 2012.

Benjamin collected nearly 18 percent more sales tax than it did in June 2012, from \$1,018 to \$1,201. On the year, the city is posting a near 1.5 per-

cent increase at \$8,261.

The city of Goree saw the most increase — percentage-wise — at a little more than 26 percent. Total collections for Goree were \$2,487 compared to \$1,973 last June. To date, the city has collected \$11,203, down more than 4 percent over the same period last year.

Collections for Munday were \$15,057 compared to \$12,196, more than 23 percent higher than June 2012. To date city collections are up nearly 7 percent from \$96,766 to \$103,538 over the same period last year.

Knox City collections are up more

than 7.5 percent at \$22,947 from \$21,341 in June 2012. Total collections for the year are up more than 28 percent at \$205,442.

Comparing year-to-date allocations collectively, Knox County municipalities have generated more than 19 percent more revenue than in June 2012 at more than \$205,442.

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said state sales tax revenue in June was \$2.17 billion, up 9.1 percent compared to June 2012.

"Growth in sales tax receipts was led by business sectors such as manufac-

turing and construction," Combs said. "Remittances from the oil and natural gas industry remain strong, while sales tax revenue was also notable for restaurants — a consumer sector."

Combs will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts their local sales tax allocations totaling \$578.3 million, up 8.1 percent compared to July 2012.

On the web

Visit the State Comptroller's website at [window.state.tx.us](http://window.state.tx.us) for information.

## 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](mailto:kcnewsCourier@gmail.com).

### Museum fundy

A garage sale benefiting the Rochester Museum will be from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 3 at 208 Carothers Ave. in downtown Rochester. All proceeds will go toward the purchase of a new cooling and heating unit for the museum. To donate items (no clothing, please), contact Linda Short at 325-669-0338.

### Blood drive

The Meek Blood Center at Hendrick Medical Center will conduct a blood drive from 1 to 6 p.m. Aug. 7 at Knox County Hospital. Donors should note that changes have been made to streamline the screening process, and some previous restrictions regarding medical conditions and medications have been lifted. For eligibility questions and other information, call the blood center at 325-670-2880. A free gift is available for donors.

### Alzheimer's Support

The Munday Nursing Center sponsors a support group for Alzheimer's patients, caregivers, family and friends at 12:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month in Fellowship Hall at Munday First United Methodist Church. Bring a sack lunch. Call Ronda Thompson at 940-422-4541.

### Gospel theater

"Saint John & The Televangelist" is staged at 7:30 p.m. each Friday and at 3 p.m. Saturday through Sept. 14 at the Ragtown Gospel Theater north of Post. Tickets are available and show information online at [Ragtown.com](http://Ragtown.com) or call Ragtown Theater at 877-724-8696.

### New exhibit

The OS Museum, 201 E. Main St., Post, offers "The Many Faces of Art" as its 2013 summer exhibit. Viewing hours are 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The exhibit will close Sept. 28. For information, call Marie Neff at 806-495-3570.

### Veterans benefits

Wartime veterans or surviving spouses may be entitled to monthly income from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. For information, contact Marsha Mahurin at West Texas Senior Resources at 806-781-3901 or email [marsha.mahurin@yahoo.com](mailto:marsha.mahurin@yahoo.com).

## Corrections

If you spot an error of fact, contact Editor Wayne Hodgin at [kcnewsCourier@gmail.com](mailto:kcnewsCourier@gmail.com).

## News on the go



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## Sales-tax holiday slated for next weekend

The Knox County News-Courier

Senate Bill 485 sets Aug. 9-11 as the dates of this year's annual Sales Tax Holiday in the state of Texas. As in previous years, the law exempts most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks priced under \$100 from sales and use taxes, which could save shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend.

Subject to certain criteria, all sales of qualifying items made during the holiday period qualify for the exemption, including items sold online, or by telephone or mail. Lay-away plans can be used again this year to take advantage of the sales tax holiday.

The dates for the sales tax holiday are set by the Legislature.

Retailers are not required to collect state and local sales or use tax on most footwear and clothing that are sold for less than \$100 during the holiday. Exemption certificates are not required.

The exemption applies to each eligible item that sells for less than \$100, regardless of how many items are sold on the same invoice to a customer. For example, if a customer purchases two shirts for \$80 each, then both items

qualify for the exemption, even though the customer's total purchase price (\$160) exceeds \$99.99.

The exemption does not apply to the first \$99.99 of an otherwise eligible item that sells for more than \$99.99. For example, if a customer purchases a pair of pants that costs \$110, then sales tax is due on the entire \$110.

The exemption also does not apply to sales of special clothing or footwear the manufacturer primarily designed for athletic activity or protective use and that is not normally worn except when used for the athletic activity or protective use for which the manufacturer designed the article.

For example, golf cleats and football pads are primarily designed for athletic activity or protective use and are not normally worn except for those purposes; they do not qualify for the exemption.

Tennis shoes, jogging suits and swimsuits, however, are commonly worn for purposes other than athletic activity and thus qualify for the exemption.

Tax is due on sales of accessories, including jewelry, handbags, purses, briefcases, luggage, umbrellas, wallets, watches

See **TAX FREE**, Page 8

## Brazos viaduct



Wayne Hodgin/The Knox County News-Courier

The still-passable truss over the Brazos River at State Highway 6 between Knox City and Benjamin will remain in use until after next February when the new bridge is expected to be complete. State transportation officials say despite the recent wet weather and high temperatures, work on the project is on schedule. The old truss will remain standing though closed to motorists, once the new bridge is complete.

## SH 6 bridge work on schedule

By Wayne Hodgin

The Knox County News-Courier

BENJAMIN — Work on the construction of the bridge on State Highway 6 over the Brazos River is on schedule, district transportation officials have recently said.

The contractor, Coppell Construction Co., has completed pouring the bridge deck. Glenn Allbritton, district engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation's office in Munday, said because of recent high temperatures, the contractor

poured the concrete bridge deck at night. The bridge deck is now complete.

The next phase of the project will be to install guardrail.

"This project is going very well, and the contractor is still on target to complete the new bridge in February 2014," Allbritton said.

The \$4.2 million SH 6 Brazos River Bridge project began Dec. 31. The existing truss bridge will remain in place, but will be permanently closed to vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

## Locks of Love

## Donation marks 42 inches for KC woman

By Wayne Hodgin

The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — Leticia Bohannon of Knox City recently donated 11 inches of her hair for the Locks of Love Foundation, bringing her total donations over the years to 42 inches.

Jill Kilgore of Blossom's Boutique in Knox City has been Bohannon's stylist since she began donating her hair to the nonprofit

organization.

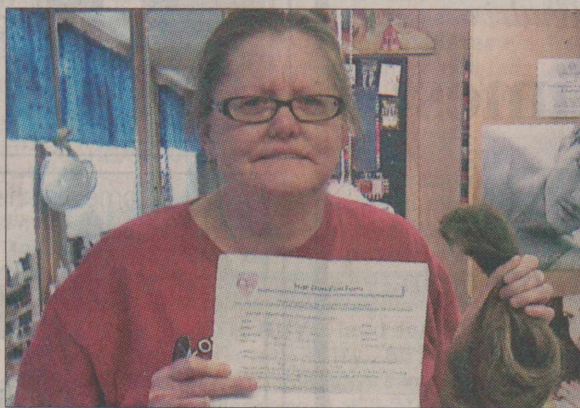
"I charge for the haircut, but, as a convenience to my customers, I will cover the cost of packing and shipping the donated hair to Locks of Love," Kilgore said.

Locks of Love provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in the United States and Canada under age 21 suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis, includ-

ing cancer.

In order to be eligible for donation, hair must be at least 10 inches in length and not be bleached or highlighted.

For information on the Locks of Love program, visit with your hair stylist, who must be a registered participant of the program. Potential donors also are encouraged to visit the organization's website at [locksOfLove.org](http://locksOfLove.org).



Courtesy photo

Leticia Bohannon of Knox City recently donated 11 inches of her hair to Locks of Love, bringing her total donations over the years to 42 inches.

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The Knox County News-Courier

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Editorial: Noon Mondays

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## Deaths

### Bobbie Meinzer

KNOX CITY — Bobbie Farrington Meinzer, longtime resident of Knox City, Texas, passed away with her family at her side, Thursday afternoon, July 25, 2013 at Stamford Memorial Hospital in Stamford. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, July 27, 2013 at the First Baptist Church in Knox City with Rev. Paul Chambers officiating. Visitation is planned prior to the service, at the funeral home, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Burial will take place immediately following the service at Benjamin Cemetery under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Homes.

One of 5 girls, Bobbie Floyd was born September 7, 1924 in Munday, Texas to Lewis Casey and Agnes (Bell) Floyd. She married Doug Meinzer December 6, 1945 in Haskell. Mrs. Mein-



**BOBBIE MEINZER**

zer enjoyed playing buttons and forty-two and she was a member of the First Baptist Church.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Lewis and Agnes Floyd; husband Doug Meinzer; 4 sisters, Irene Floyd, Leta Stubblefield, Ora Lee Hutchinson, Willie Joy Hediger; and her beloved pet, Bo.

Bobbie is survived by her daughters, Judy Logsdon of Cisco, Penny Baker and

husband Floyd of Haskell; son Tyke Meinzer and wife Gina of Haskell; granddaughter, Kristi Harrison of Cisco; grandsons, Scott Skiles of Abilene, Tom Skiles of Cisco, Riley Meinzer and Dalton Meinzer of Haskell; 2 great-grandsons, Chris Johnson Skiles of Clyde, and Justin Harrison and his wife Chelsea of Cisco; 2 great-granddaughters, Ariel Smoot of Cross Plains, and Stormy Farmer and husband Tyson of Cisco; and 1 great-great grandson, Stayden Harrison of Cisco; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

If desired, memorials can be given in Bobbie's name to Hospice of the Big Country, 4601 Hartford Street, Abilene, Texas 79605.

Online condolences can be shared with the family at www.smithfamilyfh.com.

### Eddie Redder

RHINELAND — Edward "Eddie" Redder, 83, passed away Monday, July 22, 2013 in Knox City. Eddie was born October 25, 1929 in Rhineland, Texas to Victor and Angela Redder.

He was a farmer most of his life. He also served two years in the Army as a Military Policeman.

Survivors include his girlfriend of many years, Doris McNulty, three brothers; Raymond and wife, Mary Ann Redder of Seymour, Rhiney Redder of Munday, and Billy and wife, Jeanene Redder of Munday. Also several nieces and nephews.

Rosary was held at 6PM,

Wednesday, July 24, 2013 at the funeral home. Funeral mass will be held at 11AM, Thursday, July 25, 2013 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Rhineland. Interment will follow in St. Joseph's Cemetery under the direction of McCauley-Smith Funeral Home of Munday.

## The Paperboy In a land of opportunity

There are a few states that are positioned very well for the distant future. It hasn't been talked about much in the press, but, since this is real news, it doesn't surprise me.

Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana are property-wealthy states. All three have an abundance of oil and gas, and the cities house the headquarters for major oil and gas companies.

What does this mean? Check this out: For the first time I can remember, a Saudi billionaire is warning his country the play happening in the United States is a growing threat to Saudi Arabia and that they need to diversify their economy quickly.

Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, a Saudi Arabian investor, penned an open letter to

the Saudi oil minister: "Our country is facing continuous threat because of its almost total dependency on oil. ... We see that raising North American shale gas production is an inevitable threat."

Oil revenue accounts for 92 percent of the Saudi budget.

U.S. imports from OPEC were at a 15-year low last year.

Projections say the United States will become the world's major oil producer within the next five to 10 years.

My how times have changed.

If these projections come to fruition, the three states mentioned above will play a huge role. How big?

Commissioners in Andrews County, home to just more than 15,000 people, presented their tax evaluation for the upcoming fiscal budget. The amount was eye-popping. I mean, how would you like being a commissioner in a county with a \$6 billion tax base?

Andrews County is just one of dozens in Texas literally making a fortune.

If oil prices remain around \$100 a barrel for the foreseeable future, we could very well see a boom unlike anything we've seen in my lifetime.

Why Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana?

The short answer is private landowners. The vast majority of land is owned

by private residents. Alaska, Colorado and California could be joining the boom, but a large amount of land in those states is owned by the U.S. government, which, as you know, is under the impression that oil is bad.

The net result: the South is gaining population and power. It's where the jobs are. Good-paying jobs in oil and gas or myriad related businesses.

On top of the jobs, serious investments are being made in education by wealthy independent school districts to attract students. Some towns are out of housing, and you see trailers galore swamping RV parks. In some counties, you see rows of hotels being built just to house the workforce.

I don't know what the future holds, but times are pretty good in the South when compared to many other states. There should be growing opportunities for these states to invest in themselves, creating good places to raise children and for their residents to chase the American Dream.

One day, some really smart people will develop the technology to phase out our need for fossil fuels. Until that point, these states are going to grab as much oil and cash as possible. It's simple economics.

Christopher Blackburn is publisher of this newspaper and CEO of Blackburn Media Group.



**CHRIS BLACKBURN**

## Knox County Aging Services Menus for August 5-9

**Monday:**  
Rigatoni with meat sauce, lima beans, salad, garlic toast.

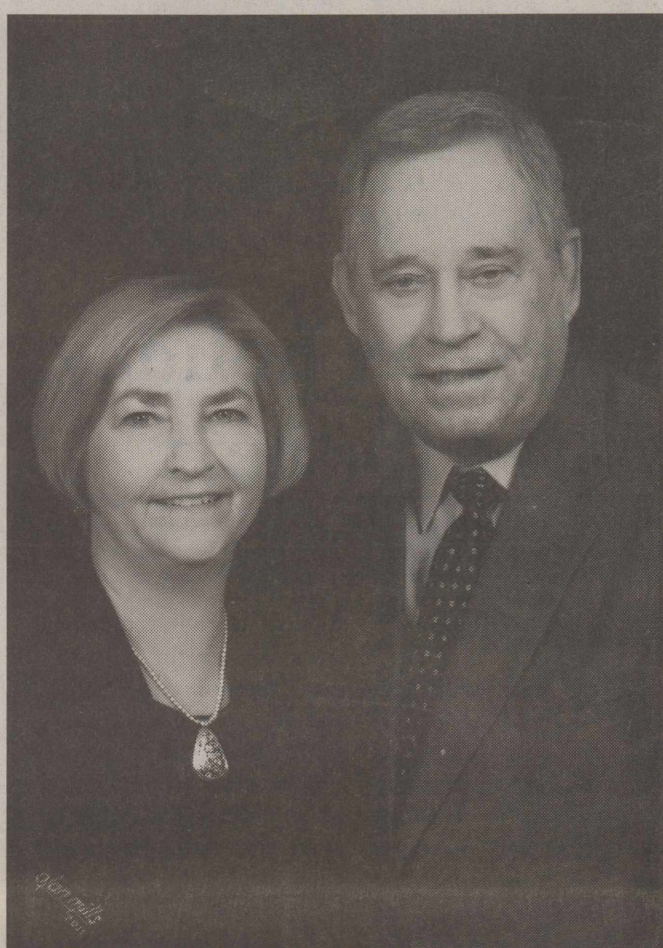
**Tuesday:**  
Baked chicken, mashed potatoes, seasoned corn, pumpkin squares.

**Wednesday:**  
Swedish meatballs, parsley noodles, mixed veggies, whole-wheat roll, angel-food cake with strawberries.

**Thursday:**  
Ham and beans, cornbread, spinach, seasoned corn, country apple crisp.

**Friday:**  
Cheeseburger, potato wedges, tomato wedge salad, fruit medley.

Call in orders by 10 a.m. to 940-657-3618.  
Pick up orders by after 11 a.m.



## John and Betty Loftin 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

Come celebrate!  
First Baptist Church-Munday  
Fellowship Hall  
August 11, 3:00-5:00 pm  
Come & Go

No Gifts Please

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A DWI turns summer into bummer. There's jail time, up to \$17,000 in fines, hours of community service, and very likely a suspended driver license. Before you head out for summer fun, line up a P.A.S.S.—that's a Person Appointed to Stay Sober. That way, you'll get a safe ride home and not get burned by a DWI.

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Worship: 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.  
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# Woman with local family ties receives medical degree

The Knox County News-Courier

HOUSTON — Dr. Lindsey Elizabeth Styles Tijerina was recently honored by Memorial Hermann Health System and the Memorial Family Medicine Residency Program for completing the educational requirements as a Resident Physician in Family Medicine.

Tijerina began her residency on July 1, 2010, and completed the program on June 30 with a Recognition Banquet held at the Houston Racquet Club on June 29. She also received the Chief Resident Award for her tenure as Chief Resident during the third year of residency.

Dr. Tijerina is the daughter of Chris Styles of Muenster and Lizz Ziraldi of Phoenix. Her grandparents are James and Henrietta Styles of Seymour and Henry and the late Pat Cuba of Megargel.

Dr. Tijerina is married to Nathan Tijerina of Rosharon.

Dr. Tijerina, a graduate of Seymour High School, Texas Tech University and The University of Texas at Houston Medical School, began her medical practice on July 15 with Kocurek and James Clinic in Schulenburg.



Courtesy photo  
Chris Styles of Muenster is pictured with his daughter Dr. Lindsey Styles Tijerina.

# Lawmakers called back for third special session

Road funding sends state leaders scrambling for resolution

By Wayne Hodgin  
The Knox County News-Courier

A little more than an hour after state lawmakers ended their second, 30-day special session, Gov. Rick Perry immediately called them back for a third to consider transportation funding.

"When it comes to transportation, the stakes facing our state could not be higher, and a failure to act now could take years — if not most of a decade — to correct, as traffic congestion increases and harms our quality of life," Perry said in a released statement announcing the call.

The news wasn't unexpected to House and Senate members as it was apparent as early as last week a joint resolution likely would not have enough votes to pass in either the House or the Senate. It was the second special session in which legislators had tried and failed to reach a compromise.

During that time span, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, who presides over the Senate, House Speaker Joe Straus and key lawmakers worked out strategies in back-and-forth messages, in hopes of bringing House Joint Resolution 2 and House Bill 16 to final votes on July 29 and 30, the last two days of the 30-day special session.

"A plan was on the table that would have taken a significant step toward improving our roads and highways using existing revenue," Perry said. "Inaction is a Washington-style attempt to kick a can down the road — but everybody in Texas knows we're rapidly running out of roads to kick that can down."

The governor, as early as last week, had indicated he would call a third special session if the Legislature failed to act in accordance with his wishes, that is, to let voters decide via constitutional amendment if sizable-yet-limited withdrawals from the state's \$12 billion Economic Stimulus (rainy day) Fund should be devoted to future transportation projects to the tune of about \$900 million a year.

Wording for the Nov. 5 ballot measure — if approved by the Legislature as currently written — reads: "The constitutional amendment to provide for revenue from motor fuel taxes to be used solely for constructing, maintaining, and acquiring rights-of-way for certain public roadways and to provide for the transfer of certain general revenue to the economic stabilization fund and the available school fund."

If approved by voters, the requirement that one-fourth of certain net revenue from the motor fuel tax be allocated to the available school fund will end. That revenue would be used to acquire rights-of-way for public roadways other than toll roads and for the construction and maintenance of those public roadways.

The new special session follows two previous ones in which Perry has called to address specific legislative priorities, including stricter abortion regulations, transportation and juvenile justice. The other measures have all passed, except for the transportation package.

"Continuing Texas' success long into the future requires that we take bold steps now to maintain our state's infrastructure and keep up with our growing population and the need to move more and more goods to market," Perry said soon after the Senate gavelled to a close. "I commend Lt. Gov. Dewhurst and the members of the Senate for doing their part to keep Texas moving on an upward trajectory of economic fortune. I look forward to working with members of the Texas House to ensure we address the important transportation needs of our state."

# The Idle American Québec City links old and new

I really miss the seasons. That's a lament commonly heard from folks transplanted here who failed to get the memo that Mother Nature's hop-scotch across Texas' weather map is guaranteed — often daily. She chuckles at the mention of seasons in the Lone Star State.



DON NEWBURY

On our continent, however, are climes worthy of poster-board homage to spring, summer, autumn and winter. Québec City — provincial capital of Québec — is such a place. There, more than a half-million people claim distinctive seasons, breathtaking topography and immense national pride.

Had Norman Rockwell lived there, he'd have been so taken with the folks, flora, fauna and funicular, thousands of magazine covers would have flown off his easels. The heralded artist for the Saturday Evening Post could have turned out prize-winning works on a daily basis.

During our recent four-day visit prior to boarding Holland America's Veendam for its Canada/New England cruise, our minds were blank slates. We

had never visited eastern Canada.

A favorite radio program during growing-up years, "Sergeant Preston of the Yukon," stirred in my memory. It painted vivid audio pictures of his gallant, never-ending pursuit of truth and justice alongside the always white-hatted Canadian Mounted Police.

Not once did we see uniformed law enforcement officers — mounted or unmounted — in one of the world's safest cities. Visitors eager to see uniformed sentries need only visit the Citadel, an ongoing military garrison where guards stand at rapt attention in the same manner as at England's Buckingham Palace.

We saw hoards of public school students visiting points of interest in the school year's waning hours. There is far more to take in than most "in-takes" allow, what with its rich 405-year history.

There were reminders at every turn — museums, statues, cathedrals, parks and the formidable Citadel stone wall that is up to 25 feet thick.

Nestling between two rivers — the St. Lawrence and the St. Charles — are both an old and new Québec City. The British won the Battle of 1759 over the French — on paper, anyway. Otherwise, "Francophones" prevail. (And no, this is NOT a

band instrument nor a Paris pay phone.) Upwards of 95 percent of the folks speak French primarily, sweetening the air with one of the world's most beautiful languages.

Native Americans proved centuries ago that the ravaging winters can be dealt with. The Hurons still have a strong presence, prospering in Wendake, a community in Québec City. It features a reservation with wide-ranging programming and unique activities.

Resourceful and talented, they fought winter's savagery on equal terms, followed by spring renewals, summer's flowering abundance and autumn's signature color-changing of leaves — all ordained by God.

In a similar manner, residents in the nearby île d'Orléans ("Garden of Québec") faithfully preserve their island of some 100 square miles. Worthy of ongoing applause are folks who tend small farms, dairies, wineries and, of course, tap trees for the precious sap that yields maple syrup. Some products new to us have "iced" on labels, i.e., ice cider, made, of course, from frozen apples.

A view from high in the Québec Hilton provided a view of the city and river that bade us "be still." We could fathom "laid back" for the summer season, assured that "frozen forward" rules almost half of the year. Our eyes often settled on a

nearby park — one of many — where green lawns flourish and locals gather. They bring children, pallets, Frisbees and dogs. Much seems right with their world.

Québec City is a grand place to celebrate life. This is particularly so for youth and other sports-minded individuals who happily claim all 12 months. They revel in skiing — both water and snow — and multiple other sports.

For the rest of us, it is a city to be savored. If the hills seem a bit too challenging, we can hitch a cheap ride on the funicular to ascend from shore side shops to the city's upper parts 252 feet above. The thought of departing QC is a sad one, gladdened by the prospect of one day returning to see wintry majesty and dozens of other places that couldn't be crowded into four days.

Don Newbury, former chancellor of Howard Payne University in Brownwood, is a Christian humorist, essayist and motivational speaker.



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Texas Department of Transportation

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# Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

Another Monday morning is here, and we begin another week. It's a little cooler, and we have a slight chance for some showers. That would be great, but the humidity that follows is pretty uncomfortable.

Sympathy this week to family and friends of Edward Redder, Bobbie Meinzer, and Dan Talbott. Edward died Monday in the Brazos Valley Care Home, where he had resided for quite some time. His funeral was Thursday at Rhineland. Bobbie passed away Thursday in Stamford Hospital after suffering a massive stroke just one week earlier. Her funeral was Saturday in Knox City. Dan died on Wednesday in the Munday Nursing Center. His funeral was Thursday at O'Brien.

### About Our Ill

Bo Milson has been a patient in a Lubbock hospital several days, being admitted with a heart problem. She was somewhat improved the last I heard, and if she continues to feel as well as she was, doctors planned to release her from the hospital Friday or Saturday. I have not heard whether or not she was released. Reports are that she would go to her daughter's (Kathy Wooley) home in Spur for a while until she's able to be by herself. They did say she would be on oxygen when she comes home. We wish Bo a complete recovery.

Charles Jones was a little "under the weather" this past weekend. He was unable to be in church, so we know he sure didn't feel well, as he never misses unless he's sick or out of town. Think he had gotten a virus, which seems to be a complaint of lots of folks lately.

Randolph Barnett will undergo knee replacement

surgery tomorrow (Tuesday). He's had discomfort with that knee for quite some time, so he decided it was time to get it fixed. He will have his surgery at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene, and of course, we wish him the best. Please pray for all these friends and anyone else who we may not be aware of that might be having any kind of problem at this time.

### New Arrival

Cooper Copeland has a new baby sister that he's sure proud of. Kayden Beth was born Thursday, July 25, 2013, around noon in a Wichita Falls Hospital. She tipped the scales at 8 lb 2 oz and was 20 inches long. Cooper and Kayden's parents are Jeff and Jenna, and grandparents are Dicky and Laura McCanlies of Benjamin and Tom and Kari Copeland of Wichita Falls. And she has one aunt, Kristi Copeland, who I bet will sure help with spoiling her only niece. Maternal great grandparents are Irene and the late E.O. Reed, and paternal great grandparents are the late Butch and Beth McCanlies, all of Benjamin. Jenna and Kayden are home, and the entire family is doing well. And that's good news!

### Here 'N There

Lynn Rogers and Kaylie of Snyder spent the weekend with her parents, Mike and Debi Moorhouse. Kaylie, who is 2 years old, remained for a few days visit with her grandparents. Also visiting and helping babysit is Taylor Herring of Munday.

Weekend guests of Jeanne and Ricky Clark were her parents, Jimmy and Bobbie Leach of Midland. Bobbie is the former Bobbie Jean Nance of Munday and a former schoolmate of mine (although she is younger!) It was good

to see her.

Debbie Neil and grandson, Collin, of Boca Raton, Florida are here for a few days visit with her mom, Mary Young.

Roger and Cindy Stone Potts of Seagraves were in the area during the weekend. They visited with Mike and Debi Moorhouse on Saturday.

I attended the funeral of Bobbie Meinzer on Saturday. I saw several out of town friends there. Among them were Kenneth and Ila Mae Benson of Wichita Falls, Tommy Benson of Abilene, Kenneth and Annette Stubblefield of the Dallas area, and Joyce Collins Offutt, who also lives in the Metroplex.

I talked to Cathy Tomlinson on Saturday. She said her mom, Gloria West, is doing well, and that they would probably be in Benjamin some time in August to do some more toward getting Gloria's place ready for sale. She also said she had talked to her sister-in-law, Debbie Clower, and that she is settled into her new place in Kansas and doing well. It's good to get that report.

Sean and Mary Widner of Coppell spend the weekend with her mom, Reyes Barrientez.

Nathan and Nancy Beavers of Wichita Falls spent the weekend with her mom, Tina and Kim Sealy. They played in that volleyball tournament held on Saturday in connection with the Watermelon Festival and told me their team came in 2nd. I think several teams were entered.

Betty and Roger Bohannon spent the weekend in Dumas where she attended her 50th reunion of her graduating class.

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

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## Dixie Divas Speaking the truth

The waitress set down the cup of coffee, and I poured cream into the hot, black liquid while quietly reflecting, pondering something.

"Why do people lie?" I asked Tink. We know a couple of people who, as Daddy would say, "the truth's not in them." They lie about many things, big and small, consequential and not consequential. And if you have them pinned against the wall with absolute evidence of the lies, they will lie about the lies. It's baffling.

Tink shrugged and carefully considered his answer before replying. "Being honorable and honest is learned. It isn't born in us. We're taught those principles."

I shook my head, again thoughtfully, and pointed out one of the persons was raised by honorable parents, has siblings who practice honesty so that, I said, couldn't be, well, it couldn't be the truth.

Daddy used to say a man who'll lie to you, will steal from you. And, I have found those to be words of everlasting truth. After all, a lie and a theft are both children of dishonesty.

A few months ago, I was at a speaking engagement in Florida where dinner was being served. My purse, held together with one snap in the middle that left the sides open, was sitting on a chair. I was standing across the room in conversation when I noticed a sudden flurry of activity around my purse. An old woman, her face hard and cracked, watched as a young woman grabbed napkins and rushed around. I hurried over.

"I'm sorry. Did I leave my purse in the wrong place?" I asked.

The young woman turned to me. "No, no, it's alright. She just bumped into the chair and spilled some tea."

The old woman turned to me, glowering. "We weren't trying to get into your purse!" she snapped. Her eyes narrowed. "It just spilled on the floor."

This, I quickly discovered, wasn't the truth. My purse had almost an inch of tea — not sweet tea, mind you — and it was

quite a mess. "Goodness!" I declared as I began pulling out items. "It's filled with tea." The woman plopped down on a nearby chair and continued to act ugly. "No, it is not. I barely spilled any tea, and it did not go into your purse."

The young woman, who could see differently, looked at me and smiled sadly. Neither of us said another word. We just cleaned it up while the old woman defiantly watched us.

Remarkable. It was a simple accident. Why lie about it? Why deny how much had been spilled?

A few weeks later, Tink was home working on a script and I was at a beauty appointment when we both received urgent calls from a friend who was staying in Mama's house. Our pasture sprawls across the creek from our house to Mama's, so there are three gates, two which are on Mama's side of the creek.

"The horses are out!" she screamed breathlessly into the phone. "We're chasing them now."

Trust me. This is not a call you want to get. By God's grace, the horses galloped up the road, crossed a major highway but never came close to danger. Tink charged into action, while my brother-in-law Rodney and nephew Rod rode to the rescue. By the time I arrived, the wayward creatures were back safe in the pasture though Rodney had cut his finger somehow.

Bowen, a freckled-faced, red-headed 8-year-old, approached me timidly.

"Miss Ronda," she said, "I think I left the gate open. I'm sorry."

It was so brave. Intensely admirable. I knelt down, hugged her, then looked her in the eyes. "You are so courageous. Always tell the truth even in times like this when it isn't easy. That's the mark of an honorable person, and that's what you want to be."

The truth isn't always pretty. Or easy. But it certainly gives respect to those who tell it.

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

## The 501 Hot glue bonds relationship

If you want to bond with a new family member, try using a glue gun.

I've had one in my hand for the better part of two days. If you think I've actually been dropping hot glue on human flesh, I have. But just mine. Mainly I've been laying beads of glue on pieces of heavy white paper to make flowers for a display structure for the reception following the upcoming

wedding of my stepson Ryan to his fiancée, Kristin.

Yep, I'm going to be her stepmother-in-law. Sounds like a bad character straight from a fairy tale. I'm working hard to counteract the negative connotations.

But this design project isn't work. I like making sturdy paper flowers.

Move over, Martha Stewart.

Indeed, Kristin has told me Stewart makes paper flowers, but the domestic design maven's perfect flora doubtless lack the interesting aberrations seen in my signature creations. Since the budget for the wedding is too tight to fly Martha Stewart in anyway, I'm it. The default decorator.

Not that Kristin hasn't made some of the flowers herself, but she has a real job. I don't. I'm a freelancer looking for ways to enrich my life and enhance my creativity. So here I am, cutting and hot-gluing paper to make something that ultimately will be the focal point of a post-nuptial garage sale. Could you use some large stunning panels of white paper flowers? I thought not.

Moving right along. The first evening Kristin and I worked

together, we searched the limitless repertoire of her smart phone for music we both could enjoy. Surprisingly, she'd never heard of Jack Teagarden or Al Jolson. Even I must admit "California, Here I Come!" didn't quite fit our agenda. We opted for silence. No TV either.

There you have it. Two women, separated only by 40 years, armed with glue guns — one about to marry into the family of the other. So we talked into the night. I like to think we bonded, sealing our friendship along with the flowers.

We analyzed father and son for similarities and came up with several traits held in common, one being a strong tendency to over-analyze. Then, alas, it was way past bedtime. Fatigue and hot glue don't mix. Quote me.

The next day I worked alone, trying hard to fabricate enough flowers to finish the project and to come up with some stepmotherly-in-law advice for Kristin. I settled on one suggestion: separate checking accounts, meaning less guilt when respective money is spent for things like fancy lamps and superfluous guns.

INTERNET PAUSE.

I just had to check out Martha Stewart's flowers. In a blog-like, Stewart-oriented discussion, I ran across a new term for me: Crazy Craft Lady. It's somebody whose designs imprudently cross an imaginary line into the realm of the bizarre.

I hope nobody stands too close to my pseudo-Venus flytrap. Maybe we have the makings of a fairy tale after all.

As long as the ending stays the same: And they lived happily ever after.

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



RONDA RICH



HANABA MUNN WELCH

## Roads damaged by energy boom to see repairs

Special to the Dispatch

AUSTIN — Recognizing a growing traffic safety concern in the state's energy-production areas, the Texas Transportation Commission recently approved \$225 million for much-needed road work resulting from the state's oil and gas boom.

The funding, provided by the Legislature, will allow the Texas Department of Transportation to begin repairing and rehabilitating roadways damaged by heavy trucks and increased traffic in these regions.

"The energy sector provides a tremendous economic boost to the state of Texas, but it must be supported in a manner that is safe to everyone on our roadways," said Texas Transportation Commissioner Fred Underwood. "The increased volume of heavy vehicles on aging Texas roads is causing stress on our infrastructure, which over time, can result in unsafe conditions."

As the Texas oil and gas industries help move the United States toward energy independence, it is estimated energy sector traffic across the state has caused \$400 million in immediate roadway safety concerns such as severe edge damage on narrow roadways, deep rutting and pavement damage.

Estimates show an additional \$1 billion per year is needed to restore roadways heavily impacted by energy development to "good" or "better" conditions.

"While increased energy exploration and production activities are yielding tremendous economic benefits for Texas, the unprecedented volumes of heavy traffic are contributing to crashes and fatalities," said TxDOT Executive Director Phil Wilson. "Fatalities resulting from motor vehicle crashes in Texas rose by 11 percent in 2012 compared to the previous year. We are pleased that our lawmakers saw fit to fund some of these safety-focused rehabilitation and repair projects, and we hope resources that enhance safety will continue to be a priority as our energy industry thrives."

With more than 80,000 miles of highway, Texas has the largest highway system in the nation. In addition to the booming energy industry, more than 1,000 people move to Texas each day, further crowding the state's aging transportation system. The increasing number of vehicles combined with the state's aging highways will continue to require a balanced program of preventative maintenance, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

You are **TWENTY THREE TIMES** more likely to crash when you text while driving. Is sending an **LOL** text message really worth killing someone? Park the phone when you drive.

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# Feds want voting restrictions restored in Texas

By Ed Sterling  
For the Courier

A month ago, in *Shelby County, Ala., v. Holder*, the U.S. Supreme Court held that Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is unconstitutional.

To some observers, the court's 5-4 decision meant Texas and a number of other states would no longer be subject to federal preclearance before any changes to state election laws could take effect. To others, the court's action meant more legal action lay ahead.

Last week — those who sensed more legal action would come — may be right.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder on July 25 announced the Justice Department would ask a federal court in Texas "to subject the state of Texas to a preclearance regime similar to the one required by Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act."

Holder said his request to "bail in" the state to require it to obtain "pre-approval" from either the Justice Department or a federal court before implementing future

voting changes is available under the Voting Rights Act when intentional voting discrimination is found.

"Based on the evidence of intentional racial discrimination that was presented last year in the redistricting case, *Texas v. Holder* — as well as the history of pervasive voting-related discrimination against racial minorities that the Supreme Court itself has recognized — we believe the state of Texas should be required to go through a preclearance process whenever it changes its voting laws and practices," Holder added.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott reacted to Holder's announcement, saying, "The Obama Administration shouldn't deny in Texas what is allowed across the country."

Likewise, Gov. Rick Perry said Holder's expressed intent "casts unfair aspersions on our state's common-sense efforts to preserve the integrity of our elections process."

On June 25, the day the Supreme Court released its decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, Texas Secretary of State John Steen posted a list of acceptable forms of identification that prospective voters could present at a poll

before casting a ballot.

### Court ruling favors EPA

The U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., on July 26 ruled in favor of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in *State of Texas v. EPA*, 10-1425.

The state had appealed the EPA's takeover of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's regulation of carbon-emissions from power plants and smokestack industries for not meeting the January 2011 deadline relating to the regulation of greenhouse gases.

The Texas Attorney General's Office said plans are to review the ruling.

### George Mitchell dies

Texas philanthropist, oilman, real-estate developer, billionaire and native of Galveston George P. Mitchell died July 26 at age 94.

A 1940 graduate of Texas A&M, Mitchell pioneered the process of hydraulic fracturing in oil and gas exploration, now a widely used technique.

# San Angelo man tapped as new Texas Wildlife president

Special to the News-Courier

SAN ANTONIO — The Texas Wildlife Association welcomed Greg Simons of San Angelo as the organization's 15th president, as well as three other officers and 67 new board members, following elections on July 12 at WildLife 2013 in San Antonio, the organization's annual convention.

Simons owns and operates Wildlife Systems Inc., a company he formed in 1987. Wildlife Systems Inc., based out of San Angelo, operates hunting and wildlife programs on about 800,000 acres of private land in Texas. The company has been involved with hunting programs in several other states and foreign countries, as well. Simons is a graduate of Texas A&M University with a degree in wildlife and fisheries sciences.

Simons previously served the Texas Wildlife Association as vice president, secretary and treasurer. He succeeds Glen Webb of Abilene as president, following Webb's

completion of his second one-year term.

The Texas Wildlife Association serves Texas wildlife and its habitat, while protecting property rights, hunting heritage, and the conservation efforts of those who value and steward wildlife resources.

"I am so incredibly humbled to stand here before you right now, and I feel so incredibly honored to serve this organization and its members in this capacity," said Simons during his address to convention attendees. "We will continue to be a good steward of our mission. We will continue to be a good steward of our values."

Other officers elected to serve the 6,500-member statewide organization for a one-year term were Marcus Barrett IV of San Antonio, vice president; Louis Harveson of Alpine, second vice president for programs; and David Anderson of Houston, treasurer.

In addition, 67 individuals were elected to a three-year term on the Texas Wildlife Association Board of Directors.



Texas Wildlife Association Officers for 2013-2014 are (left to right) President Greg Simons, Vice President Marcus Barrett IV, Second Vice President for Programs Louis Harveson and Treasurer J. David Anderson.

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queen bed, sofa bed, heavy duty breaks, three slide outs, will send detail sheet w/features if interested, great for lake or hunting lease, asking \$9000, call 658-3434 after 6 pm. 080813p

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## LOST/FOUND

**LOST:** Small black and white kitty cat named "Tom" lost last Thursday from 802 South Central Knox City wearing a special collar, would like to have the collar back if he is deceased.

**FOUND:** Set of 8 keys. 2 Honda keys, 2 Chrysler keys and one remote. Found near Dr. Berretta's in Alley. Call 940-658-3066 or come by 802 South Central, Knox City to claim. 080113nc

## GARAGE SALE

Garage Sale, Sat Aug 3 @ 441 S. 7th in Munday,

8:00-12:00 noon. Teen girls clothes, baby items, furniture, 32 inch TV, misc. 080113p

## ESTATE SALE

Estate Sale: Aug 10, 8:00-2:00. Red brick home south of John Deere House, Munday, TX. (Troy Gauntt Residence). Total gym, furniture, household goods, yard/garden tools, crib/baby bed & more. 080813p

Estate Sale LaNell Kight home, 602 S. Central Ave., Knox City. Sat, Aug 3. 8-?. no early birds. Various household, furniture. 080113p

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# The 2013 Knox County Watermelon Festival

Photos by Geoffrey Baumgartner/For the News-Courier



## TAX FREE

From Page 1

and similar items.

However, backpacks priced under \$100 sold for use by elementary and secondary students are exempt during the sales tax holiday.

A backpack is a pack with straps one wears on the back. The exemption includes backpacks with wheels, provided they can also be worn on the back like a traditional backpack, and messenger bags.

The exemption does not include items reasonably defined as luggage, briefcases, athletic/duffle/gym

bags, computer bags, purses or framed backpacks. Ten or fewer backpacks can be purchased tax-free at one time without providing an exemption certificate to the seller.

Texas families also get a sales tax break on most school supplies priced at less than \$100 purchased for use by a student in an elementary or secondary school.

### Layaways/rainchecks

A sale of a qualifying item under a layaway plan qualifies for exemption if the customer places the qualifying merchandise on layaway during the holiday or makes the final

payment during the holiday.

Eligible items customers purchase during the holiday with use of a rain check qualify for the exemption regardless of when the rain check was issued. However, issuance of a rain check by a seller during the holiday period will not qualify an eligible item for the exemption if the item is actually purchased after the holiday is over even if the rain check is presented at the time of purchase.

For a list of qualifying purchases or for information, visit the state comptroller's website at [window.state.tx.us](http://window.state.tx.us).

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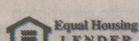
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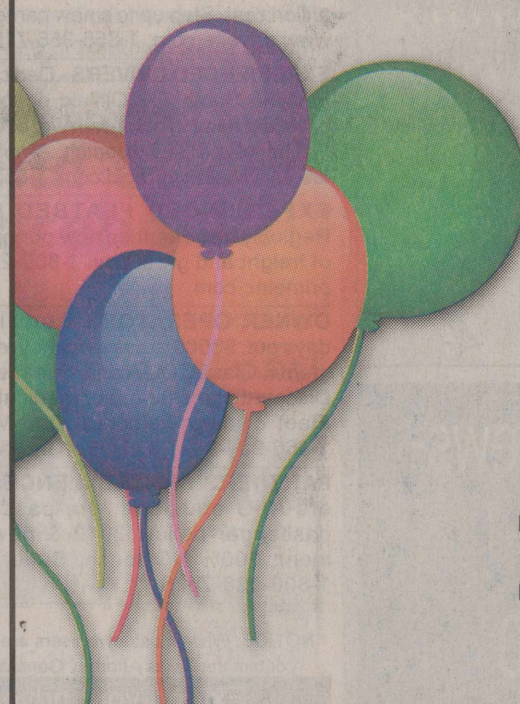
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