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# THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2013

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75 CENTS

## TxDOT cost-savings plans draw eyes of local leaders

By Wayne Hodgin  
The Knox County News-Courier

Two controversial cost-cutting measures state transportation officials are touting are drawing widespread criticism from elected leaders who say the plans will hurt taxpayers in the long run.

Texas Department of Transportation officials are struggling to cover a billions-dollar shortfall after state lawmakers this past legislative session failed to fund the state agency at its current level.

In response, South and West Texas counties in the midst of an oil-drilling and exploration boom began seeing the state agency convert damaged asphalt roads to gravel this past week.

Legislators from those affected districts are expressing concerns that patching crumbling pavement with

gravel is short-sighted, creating not only safety hazards for travelers but also an image issue in a state known for its pristine roads.

State transportation officials say maintaining certain rural road segments is becoming too expensive as oil-field traffic soars.

On Aug. 28, TxDOT officials announced a 60-day period for counties "to review plans to convert damaged roads to high-end unpaved roads in the state's energy-producing areas before proceeding with the work" and during that evaluation, the agency would "not move forward on converting other damaged roads unless there is an immediate safety concern."

"We believe our plan to potentially convert 83 miles of significantly damaged roads in the energy sector is the safe and sensible solution with TxDOT's available funding," TxDOT

Executive Director Phil Wilson said. "At some point, when drilling activity has subsided and more funding is available, we plan to rebuild these roads to paved farm-to-market levels."

In addition, another plan to turn over control of some state highways to municipal and county governments also is drawing the ire of state and local leaders who say the measure unnecessarily shifts the financial burden from the state's traditionally held responsibility to local taxpayers.

Since June, transportation officials have been considering discontinuing the maintenance of more than 100 miles of roads in cities with populations of 50,000 or more.

The agency currently spends \$165 million a year to maintain the roads, a commitment that began when the roads were part of the state's farm-

to-market system. Many of the roads, though, are now major thoroughfares.

The Texas Municipal League has accused TxDOT of trying to pass the buck.

"Shifting \$165 million of state costs onto cities would be a massive unfunded mandate that would require higher property taxes on homeowners and businesses," said Bennett Sandlin, TML's executive director.

In remarks on the subject during last week's meeting of the Stonewall County Commission, Judge Ronnie Moorhead said the plan has the potential to have major financial repercussions in small, rural counties.

"If they're doing it in big counties, it's just a matter of time," he said. "If they're doing it now for them, how far behind can we be out here? It may be a few years away, but I suspect it's coming."

## 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).

### Benefit rummage sale

A fundraising rummage sale to benefit the Wichita Brazos Museum and Cultural Center will Sept. 14 at the Perry Patton Community Center in Munday. Doors open at 8 a.m. Hamburgers will be sold at 11:30 a.m. For information, call 940-459-2229 or email [kchc2229@yahoo.com](mailto:kchc2229@yahoo.com).

### Turkey dinner benefit

Members of the Knox County Aging Center, 107 N. Ave. E, Knox City, will have a fundraising luncheon from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and younger. Plates include turkey, dressing and gravy, candied yams, green beans, cranberry sauce, homemade rolls, iced tea, peach or blueberry cobbler. Dine in or carry out orders welcome. For information, call the center at 940-657-3618.

### Photo workshop

The third annual Wyman Meizer Photography Workshop will be at 5 p.m. Sept. 28 at the Heritage House in Post. Event is sponsored by the Caprock Cultural Association for \$100 per participant. To reserve your place, call 806-495-4148 or email [ccarts@poka.com](mailto:ccarts@poka.com).

### Beth Moore simulcast

Harvest Christian Fellowship, 211 N. Main, Seymour, will host a live simulcast of well-known Bible teacher and best-selling author Beth Moore's "Living Proof" for women Sept. 14. Registration begins at 8 a.m. with the simulcast from 9 a.m. to 4:15 a.m. Music will be led by award-winning contemporary Christian singer Travis Cottrell, and the message will be conducted by Moore all via live Internet stream. For tickets or information, call Jeannie Allbritton at 940-256-0988 or email her at [tiptopcj@windstream.net](mailto:tiptopcj@windstream.net). Also visit the Beth Moore Simulcast on Facebook.

### 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. The next meeting is Aug. 12. Call Ronda Thompson at 940-422-4541 for information.

### 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 [RagtownTheater.com](http://RagtownTheater.com) or call Ragtown Theater at 877-724-8696.

## Corrections

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

## News on the go



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

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## Laws take effect Sept. 1

The Texas Department of Public Safety on Aug. 29 publicized a list of some of the new laws to take effect Sept. 1. Here are short notes on just a few of them:

- HB 347 expands current limitations on cell phone use in an active school-crossing zone to include the property of a public elementary, middle or junior high school for which a local authority has designated a school-crossing zone.

- HB 1174 increases minimum fines for the misdemeanor offense of passing a stopped school bus loading or unloading children. The minimum fine increases from \$200 to \$500 and the maximum fine increases from \$1,000 to \$1,250.

- SB 181, a law that took effect on May 24, allows a motor vehicle operator the option of using a wireless communication device (such as a cell phone) to display motor proof of insurance information as evidence of financial responsibility.

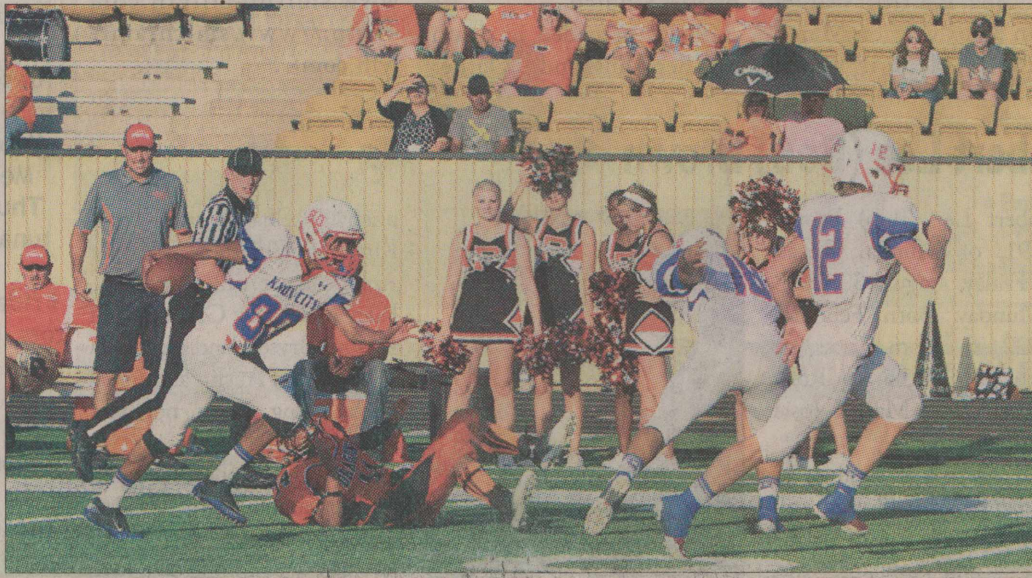
- SB 510 expands the state's Move Over/Slow Down law by requiring drivers to move over or slow down, depending on the roadway, when approaching a stationary Texas Department of Transportation vehicle with its lights activated and not separated from the roadway by a traffic-control device.

- HB 625 clarifies that the penalty for operating a vehicle on a public highway without displaying the two license plates assigned to the vehicle is a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine not to exceed \$200.

- SB 275 increases the penalty for leaving the scene of a motor vehicle accident resulting in the death of a person and failing to render aid from a third-degree felony to a second-degree felony.

The Knox County News-Courier

## Greyhounds and Moguls open season



Sheri Baby/For the News-Courier

The Knox City Greyhounds started slow Saturday but got on track and rolled over the Paducah Dragons 76-31 to open the 2013 season. Above, Israel Rodriguez (80) turns on the jets for a score. KC will host the Rotan Yellowhammers Friday with kickoff slated for 7:30 p.m. The Yellowhammers (0-1) dropped their opener to highly ranked Crowell 54-0.



Terry Messer/For the News-Courier

Munday Mogul running back L.J. Collier runs through the Windhorst Trojan defense Friday night during the first game of 2013. The Trojans 27-22 comeback win ended the Mogul's 15-game win streak. Collier rushed for 136 yards on 17 carries and one touchdown. He also caught a touchdown pass from Alfonso Nunez. The Moguls travel to Stamford Friday in a battle of Class 1-A's defending state champions. Kickoff is at 7:30.

## Getting the most out of cattle, wheat yields

*Editor's Note: As fall approaches, farmers and ranchers are making decisions about their livestock operations. A mid-August conference in Abilene covered a wealth of topics — enough for a series of stories about the challenges beef producers face amid the current drought and the results good management can achieve. The series begins this week with an economist-producer's outlook on whether it makes more sense to graze wheat or cut it for grain or both.*

By Hanaba Munn Welch  
The Knox County News-Courier

Gamblers by any other name, livestock producers gathered recently in Abilene at the Big Country Beef Conference to hear advice from experts on a range of beef industry topics:

Whether to graze wheat or grow it for grain or both, pasture maintenance in a drought, market analysis, managing health issues and public perceptions and consumer preferences and so on. The information fell on seasoned ears, but the presentations were fresh — timely up-to-date information designed to keep cattle growers savvy as they face an ever-changing scenario regarding all the elements of the risky game.

### Grain vs. graze-out

Economist-farmer-rancher Stan Bevers, who works for the Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center at Vernon, outlined a formula for determining the optimum use of winter wheat — whether to graze this year's crop or aim for a grain crop in the spring or both.

Bevers, who farms and ranches at Munday, didn't base his talk on his own operation. Instead, he updated a previous analysis of a 3,200-acre wheat and stocker operation east of Vernon, plugging in new factors. But he did reveal his personal plans for this fall and winter in response to a question from the audience.

"I do have a cattle and wheat operation in Knox County," he said. "Am I going to graze (my wheat) this year? The answer is yes, even though it's irrigated. I've got calves ready to sell. I want to stick a little more weight on while these calf prices continue to accelerate."

Bevers' main presentation recognized a variety of factors affecting the wheat and cattle business, including a brief look back over trends that have set the stage for the current situation.

"Things started going on in 2006, 2007," he said. "Fertilizer was skyrocketing up to \$1,000 a ton, depending on what you were using."

Bevers noted that before the fall 2010 start of the present drought, cattle prices were on the

verge of going up and grain prices were "starting to try to explode."

"We were getting gains and values out of stocker cattle like we thought we should," he said.

The choice was between raising stocker cattle and growing grain — both viable.

"There didn't seem like any way you could be in the middle," he said. "If I was the wheat farmer, my grain yield was the pri-

See CATTLE, Page 8



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Stonewall Courier

The price of wheat is dropping, one local expert says, which might mean better grazing opportunities for area cattle producers.

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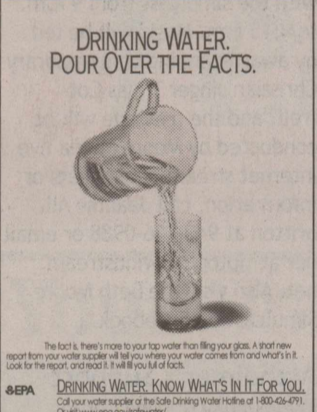
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It is the mission of this newspaper to promote the rights of individualism in the American Declaration of Independence. The right of life, liberty and the ownership of property are the cornerstone of freedom. Government's sole purpose is to enhance 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

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



## Deaths

### Richard Gerald Averitt

HOUSTON — Richard Gerald Averitt, Sr., 89, passed away on August 1, 2013, in Houston, Texas. He was born on August 13, 1923 in Rule, Texas, to Joe and Ada Maye Averitt.

Gerald grew up in Knox City, where he graduated from high school. He attended Texas A&M University for a short period of time prior to joining the U.S. Navy in October 1942. He served his country as an Aviation Radioman and Aerial Gunner during World War II. He became a member of

Davy Jones Locker after being shot down in the South Pacific, where he spent two days in a life raft awaiting rescue.

In 1944, while still enlisted, he married Ruth Colleen Cole in Knox City. When his tour of duty ended, he farmed with his father-in-law, W.H. Clonts, in both Knox County and Hill County, Mont.

In 1956, he and his father opened Averitt and Son Insurance Agency in Knox City, where he resided until 1968. He spent the remainder of his years in South Texas as

an avid fisherman.

Gerald is survived by his son Richard Averitt Jr. of Amarillo, daughter Colleen Fisk of La Porte, 11 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Gerald was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth, in 2006; brother Billy Joe Averitt and son John Conrad Averitt.

No public services will be held. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations to the Hill County Youth Ranch, P.O. Box 67 Ingram, TX 78025.

### Hope Poe

Lifelong resident of Knox City, Texas, Hope Poe passed away Saturday, August 31, 2013 at Brazos Valley Care Home in Knox City. Mrs. Poe was 89. Graveside services will be held at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 3, 2013 at Knox City Cemetery in Knox City with Paul Chambers officiating. Arrangements were made under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Homes.

One of six children, Hope was born in Stamford, Texas on October 31, 1923 to Valley Lee (Vincent) and William Leslie Duncan. She married Oather Poe in Knox City on March 23, 1940. Hope is retired



**HOPE POE**

from the food service industry and she enjoyed her time spent as a Hostess for Smith Funeral Home in Knox City. She was a faithful member of the Eastern Star and devoted to O'Brien Baptist Church.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Oather

Poe; parents W.L. and Valley Ducan; 2 brothers; 2 sisters; and one granddaughter. Hope is survived by her daughter Bonnie Peysen and husband John of Knox City; 2 grandchildren, Ronnie Bruce and wife Annie and Rhondi Rodriguez and husband Augustin all of Knox City; 6 great-grandchildren; 8 great-great-grandchildren; and one brother, Billy Duncan.

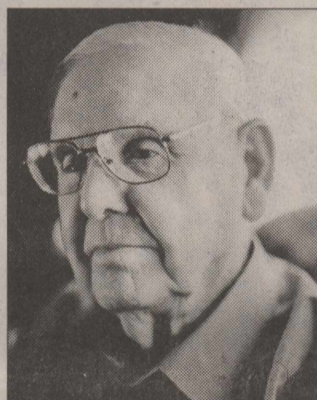
If desired, memorials can be made in Hope's name to Hospice. Online condolences can be shared with the family at [www.smithfamilyfh.com](http://www.smithfamilyfh.com) <<http://www.smithfamilyfh.com>>.

### Robert Lee (Bob) Brown

Robert Lee (Bob) Brown age 91, of Munday, Texas, died Friday, August 30, 2013 in Munday. Born February 9, 1922, in Edom, Texas, he was the son of the late Robert Wesley and Martha Josie Brown.

Bob was a businessman in Munday for over 48 years and owner and operator of Munday Tire and Appliance, Inc. for 32 years. He enjoyed all activities involving Munday youth and was an avid follower and supporter of Knox County 4-H and Junior Livestock Show programs and the Munday Moguls.

Throughout his life, Bob accomplished many achievements. Some of those include: a Marine Corps combat veteran in World War II, selected Citizen of the Year in Munday in 1997, and he was a charter member of the Munday Lions Club receiving his 60 year pin in 2013. He also served as Deacon at First



**ROBERT BROWN**

Baptist Church and a former Munday ISD Board Member.

He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Allene Brown of Munday, daughter, Sandy and husband Jerry King of Munday. Grandchildren include Kerry King and wife, Rhonda of Lubbock, Rev. Chad King and wife, Amanda of Childress, Rob Anderson of El Paso, Jason Anderson of San Diego, CA, and Angela Grantham of Austin. Great-grandchildren include Kendall King of San Marcos, Kelsey King of Ste-

phenville, Chanda and Kolton King of Childress, Blessing Anderson of Stillwater, OK, Riley and Kaley Grantham of Austin, Bryson and Brooklyn Hampton of Austin and many other loving nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister, Pauline Dale, brothers, Henry and J.W. Brown and one daughter, Linda Kay Anderson.

Funeral services for Bob Brown will be held at 2:00 pm, Monday, September 2, 2013 at the First Baptist Church in Munday with Dr. Randy White, Rev. Chad King, and Rev. Shane Kendrix officiating under the direction of McCauley-Smith Funeral Home. Visitation will be held at McCauley-Smith Funeral Home in Munday on Sunday, September 1, 2013 from 4:00 to 5:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Keep Munday Beautiful or First Baptist Church.

## Letter to the editor

To the Editor and Staff of the Knox County Courier News:

We want to thank you for enabling us to reunite a lost and thirsty dog with his family.

We found 'Oscar' on the roadside of Texas Highway 6. After waiting for some time for his 'person' to appear, we took him home.

We placed a 'found' ad in the Knox County Courier News and within a few days, his owner called.

We are so happy that Oscar is back where he belongs (even though we enjoyed his visit!).

We owe a debt of gratitude to the KCNC and to Michelle Fetsch who went above and beyond to make Oscar's homecoming possible.

**LYNN BURGER  
GRAHAM  
WENDY CAVALIER  
EASTLAND**

## School Menus

### September 9-13

**Benjamin ISD**  
Call school to request menu.

**Knox City-O'Brien CISD  
Breakfast**

**Monday:** Pork sausage biscuit or cereal, toast, mixed fruit, juice, milk

**Tuesday:** Biscuits and sausage with gravy or cereal, toast, mixed fruit, juice, milk

**Wednesday:** Mini corndogs or cereal, toast, mixed fruit, juice, milk

**Thursday:** Pancakes with syrup or cereal, toast, mixed fruit, juice, milk

**Friday:** Cinnamon roll or cereal, toast, mixed fruit, juice, milk

**Lunch**

**Monday:** Spaghetti with meat sauce or antipasto salad with salami, sweet corn, green beans, mixed fruit, slushy, milk

**Tuesday:** Corndog or fajita chicken salad, glazed carrots, pork and beans, banana, slushy, mi

**Wednesday:** Chicken fajitas or garden pasta salad, Mexicali corn, cinnamon apple slices, slushy, milk

**Thursday:** Chicken tenders with peppered gravy or tuna salad, mashed potatoes, green beans, peaches, slushy, milk

**Friday:** Pepperoni pizza or chef's salad, sweet potato tots, baked beans, strawberry applesauce, slushy, milk

**Munday CISD  
Breakfast**

**Monday:** Golden waffles and syrup, honey graham cracker, fruit, slushy, juice, milk

**Tuesday:** Cereal, honey graham cracker, fruit, slushy, juice, milk

**Wednesday:** Breakfast pocket, applesauce, slushy, juice, milk

**Thursday:** Cereal, honey graham cracker, fruit, slushy, juice, milk

**Friday:** Breakfast pizza, honey graham cracker, fruit, slushy, juice, milk

**Lunch**

**Monday:** Spaghetti and meat sauce, sweet corn, green beans, mixed fruit, blue slushy, milk

**Tuesday:** Corndog, glazed carrots, pork and beans, banana, slushy, milk

**Wednesday:** Chicken fajitas with lettuce, Mexicali corn, cinnamon apple slices, slushy, milk

**Thursday:** Chicken tenders with peppered gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, peaches, slushy, milk

**Friday:** Pepperoni pizza, sweet potato tots, baked beans, strawberry applesauce, slushy, milk

## Knox County Aging Services

### Menu for September 9-13

**Monday:**

Hamburgers, potato wedges, tomato wedge salad, melon medley

**Tuesday:**

Pork chops, black-eyed peas, spinach, cornbread, baked apple

**Wednesday:**

Baked chicken and dumplings, corn, tossed salad, whole-wheat roll, fruit crisp

**Thursday:**

Swedish meatballs, parsley noodles, mixed veggies, angel-food cake

**Friday:**

Sloppy Joes, country potato salad, carrots and zucchini, creamy fruit squares.

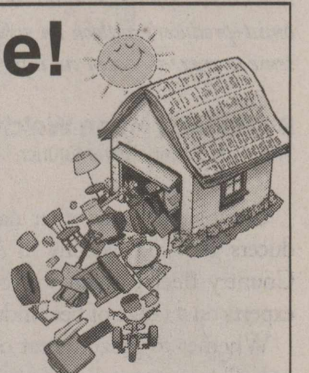
## Super Sale!

Saturday, September 7  
9am-1:30pm

Significant price reduction on furniture, linens, gympac and miscellaneous items

**Troy Gauntt residence**

South of John Deere house, Munday, TX



### Estate Sale (Sam White)

Saturday, Sept 14

601 SE 4<sup>th</sup> St. Knox City, TX

If we're working, stop & shop; early sales OK!

**Everything must go!**

940-256-2888 or 940-997-2370

~~VP Girls, Rule, TX~~

## Football Friday Sale!

ONE DAY ONLY

CASH & CARRY

STOREWIDE GIFT SALE!

All GIFT items

25% off regular price

Some restrictions apply

Sale price good Friday, Sept. 6 only

All Sales Cash & Final

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Limited to stock on hand • No exchanges or refunds

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Munday, TX 76731  
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Pastor Shane Kendrix

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

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

**Thanks for reading  
The Knox County  
News-Courier**

## Knox Notebook

### Munday ISD surpasses state accountability standards

The Munday Consolidated Independent School District Board of Trustees met in regular session at 6 p.m. Aug. 12 in the Board Room in the Administration Building.

The following board members were present: Rebecca Araujo, Nancy Birkenfeld, Sam Hunter, Bill Longan, Bob Moore and Superintendent Robert Dillard. Jason Redwine and Todd Thompson were absent. Guests present were John Berry, Kristi Bufkin, Patrick Corcoran and Scott Riley.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by general consent.

Motion by Sam Hunter seconded by Nancy Birkenfeld to hire Scott Riley as an assistant coach/teacher for the 2013-2014 school year on a probationary contract as recommended by Coach Corcoran and Superintendent Dillard. All voted for.

Dillard informed the board that the accountability ratings have been released and the district surpassed all four indices, and therefore met all state accountability standards.

The elementary school met all three of its required indices and earned distinction designation for academic achievement in reading and English language arts.

The secondary school met the standard on all four of its required indices and earned a distinction designation

for academic achievement in reading and English language arts and was in the top 25 percent for student progress.

The proposed 2013-2014 Munday CISD budget was built based on a \$1.17 tax rate. The proposed budget is a balanced budget.

Motion by Bill Longan seconded by Sam Hunter to approve a resolution proposing a tax rate of \$1.17 as recommended by Superintendent Dillard. All voted for.

Motion by Bob Moore seconded by Rebecca Araujo to amend Fund 240 as recommended by Superintendent Dillard. All voted for.

Motion by Bill Longan seconded by Sam Hunter to commit a total of \$1.5 million for facilities improvements and \$500,000 for technology from the fund balance in order to meet Optimum Fund Balance requirements as recommended by Superintendent Dillard. All voted for.

Motion by Bob Moore seconded by Rebecca Araujo to approve the Financial Investment Review & Report as presented by Superintendent Dillard. All voted for.

Motion by Sam Hunter seconded by Bill Longan to approve the property/casualty insurance proposal from the Texas Association of Public Schools as recommended by Superintendent Dil-

lard. All voted for.

Motion by Nancy Birkenfeld seconded by Rebecca Araujo to approve Zach Rowe with Dickey, McGann & Rowe as the local agent for our Property/Casualty Insurance since Carol Key of Higginbotham & Associates will be retiring. All voted for.

Motion by Bill Longan seconded by Nancy Birkenfeld to approve the Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct as recommended by Principal Bufkin, Principal Berry and Superintendent Dillard. All voted for. The Student Handbook can be accessed online mundaycisd.net or a copy may be picked up from either campus office.

Motion by Sam Hunter seconded by Bob Moore to purchase secondary curriculum on a course-by-course basis from Plano ISD as recommended by Superintendent Dillard. All voted for.

Superintendent Dillard gave the board a proposal for purchasing equipment for upgrading the high school lunchroom and the quotes received to date.

Motion by Bob Moore seconded by Rebecca Araujo to give Superintendent Dillard authority to negotiate equipment purchase and installation for lunchroom renovation. All voted for.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

## Hospital seeks grant funds for equipment

The regular third Wednesday meeting of Pink Ladies, a volunteer women's auxiliary of the Knox County Hospital, was held Aug. 21 at the store. The roof must be replaced for a total of \$6,000 and will not be covered by insurance because it is just weather worn.

Insurance payment of \$1,200 is also due.

Stephen Kuehler, administrator of Knox County Hospital, visited with us and requested \$10,000 to help pay for a new \$60,000 monitor that is needed at the hospital. He hopes to obtain a grant from the Priddy Foundation and feels his grant proposal will be strengthened if he has others to help pay for the monitor.

Officers for the new year were elected with Glenda Huff remaining as president and Judy Leaverton as vice president; June Tankersley will continue as treasurer.

Carol Judiscak, a new member, will serve as recording secretary with Margaret Hill filling the new post of corresponding secretary. Frances King remains historian and Billie Walker as reporter. Connie Boone of Seymour will record volunteer hours.

We thank our customers and donors. Without all of you, we couldn't help our hospital, the clinics, or the folks who are in severe need.

Billie Walker

## Copper Breaks StarWalk slated Saturday at state park

QUANAHA — The popular StarWalk is set for Saturday at Copper Breaks State Park. The nationally acclaimed public astronomy program continues its 18th year with the presentation "Luna-tics."

Program coordinator John Rudd will lead participants in a naked-eye exploration of the night sky beginning at sunset, around 8:45 p.m., in Big Pond Campground.

In addition to the after-dark programs, Sky Guide volunteers will again offer Sun Fun at 4:45 p.m. Sun Fun offers the public rare views of our own star, the Sun, through telescopes fitted with filters for safe viewing.

Nighttime observing begins after sunset. Rudd will begin the program using items for the NASA Night Sky Network, followed by a tour of the darkening sky—the original StarWalk. Blending science with history, legends, and lore, Rudd will take the public on a trip through major constellations, spotlighting bright stars, and introducing the "star-hopping" technique to find other interesting objects.

After the StarWalk, the public is invited to view these various dark-sky objects through the park's binoculars and telescopes with the help of knowledgeable Sky Guide volunteers, who come from throughout Texas and Oklahoma to assist with the StarWalk.

The 2013 slate of StarWalks will end with the Saturday presentation set for Oct. 26, weather permitting.

Upon entering the park, StarWalk signs will direct visitors to Big Pond Campground and parking. The quarter-mile walk into the observing area is on lighted asphalt, and extra assistance for the handicapped is available from park personnel.

StarWalk and Sun Fun are continuing Campsite Programs offered by Copper Breaks State Park. For information on park facilities or other programs, call 940-839-4331 during business hours.

The Knox County News-Courier

## Museum News

### Rummage sale will benefit museum

By Mary Jane Young

There is only one more week to go before the annual Wichita Brazos Museum garage sale on Saturday, Sept. 14, 2013, at 8 a.m. Friends of the Museum have been scouring the county and beyond to ensure customers at the Perry Patton Center in Munday will have plenty to choose from. It's sort of like going to market at Dallas for a storeowner.

The Friends have been holding the museum's second largest fundraiser so many years they could write a book. The cookie and brownie committee said last year the sweet snacks sold

so fast and so early Saturday morning they had to hide cookies in order to have some to sell at the grilled hamburger lunch on the center's front porch. Translated, that report seemed to say, "Bake more cookies and brownies." I agree, the homemade sweet snacks are delicious. We will start selling the hamburgers at 11:30 a.m.

We will be at the Center at 8 a.m. Friday to accept donations and prepare for the sale at 8 a.m. Saturday. It may be a get-rid-of-it object to the donor, but it may become someone else's treasure that they can't live without.

The garage sale helps pay for the

museum operations and improvements. It's an opportunity for everyone to help the museum. Be a good resident, clean out your closets, pull out that dusty box in the back corner of the garage and donate what you find to the sale. But save the box, you'll need it to carry home those treasures.

For information call a board member in your community or the museum at 940-459-2229.

Museum hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

Mary Jane Young is curator of the Wichita Brazos Museum in Benjamin and director of the Knox County Historical Commission.

## Homstad attends state sheriffs conference

BENJAMIN — Sheriff Dean W. Homstad recently attended the Sheriffs Association of Texas 135th annual training conference at the American Bank Center in Corpus Christi from July 20-23. More than 1,500 were in attendance. First held in 1897, the conference is conducted in various cities across the state and allows sheriffs, deputies, federal, state, and city law enforcement officers to network and discuss different issues that affect law enforcement across the state and nation. This year, participants received training on a variety of topics, including crimes in Texas/border violence, criminal

profiling, bail bonds, homicide investigations, new legislation, strength-based leadership and supervision, tracking dogs, mental health issues, active shooter response, human trafficking, state agency updates, narco-terrorism, public safety broadband program and using social media as an investigative tool.

Participants also had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the latest in crime-fighting tools and technology at more than 200 exhibitor booths.

The Knox County News-Courier

## Jail Report

The following is a list of people processed through the Knox County Jail from June 27-Aug. 9 and obtained from Sheriff Dean Homstad under the Texas Open Records Act.

- Carney, Kimberly Ann. Arrested Aug. 2 for criminal trespass (class B misdemeanor) Baylor County.

- Hebel, Rowdy Wayne. Arrested Aug. 2 on multiple probation violations with original charges of possession of controlled substance (third-degree felony), criminal trespassing (class B misdemeanor) and surety of bond (criminal

trespass), Baylor County.

- Silva, Joel Luis. Arrested Aug. 6 in Scurry County for surety of bond (possess marijuana, class B misdemeanor), possess marijuana (class B misdemeanor), Knox County.

- Northcutt, Jimmy A. Arrested Aug. 6 on a probation violation (possession of a controlled substance, state jail felony), Foard County.

- Araujo, Jose Benito. Arrested Aug. 8 for driving while intoxicated, first offence (class B misdemeanor), Knox County.

Knox County News-Courier

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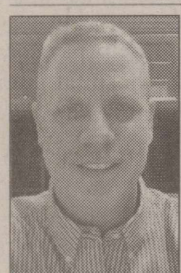
On September 6<sup>th</sup> we will leave on a 15-day tour beginning in Machu Picchu, Peru, including a trip down the Amazon, to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Why Peru? Just to prove to ourselves that we are still young enough to climb mountains! And it is on our "bucket list!" Before leaving however, we'd like to take this occasion to thank parents, family, classmates and all our Munday community friends who have supported us and contributed dearly to our happiness and marriage these many years! Particularly, we feel a deep debt of gratitude to members of the First United Methodist Church where at an early age, we were nourished with the gospel of Jesus Christ and where we were eventually married! Indeed, over the years we have felt the positive example and many contributions Munday has made to our family. Thank you so very much for being there for us! Our prayers and best wishes are with you!

—John and Judy Massey.

The Paperboy

# U.S. action in Syria a tough call

**I** find it ironic that President Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry are pushing for action against Syria — especially if the action is unilateral.



**CHRIS BLACKBURN**

had some support regarding action.

Mind you, I'm not saying I'm against the action. I'm not saying I'm for it. I honestly don't know how I feel about it. I suppose I'd feel better if the United States

But that does not mean our intervention is not warranted. In fact, you could argue that a precedent has been set somewhat.

I do believe congressional approval is necessary.

However, I seem to recall some opposition from Obama and Kerry to similar action during the Bush Administration. That's the ironic part.

Sending troops into a field of battle is always the toughest call to make for a president. And our troops have been in harm's way for a long time. Should President Obama and Congress make that call, let us all pray for a quick resolution.

In my opinion, the last several wars we've been in were not handled

correctly.

In war, you should have a conqueror and the conquered. When you defeat your enemy, you take over a country and sweep it clean of the enemy.

For thousands of years this is how wars were fought. Things changed beginning with Korea and continuing today.

War can never be kind and gentle. It's horrific. So, if you're going to subject the country to war, take over the enemy's land and correct what's wrong with it. We've had several examples that not doing so creates more problems down the road.

A psychiatric hospital in Pennsyl-

vania is set to become the country's first facility of its kind to offer an in-patient treatment program for people with severe Internet addiction.

The voluntary program will open soon at the Behavioral Health Services at Bradford Regional Medical Center. The program is organized by specialists with backgrounds in treating issues like drug and alcohol abuse.

"[Internet addiction] is a problem in this country that can be more pervasive than alcoholism," said Dr. Kimberly Young, the psychologist who founded the non-profit program. "The Internet is free, legal and fat free — that can be more pervasive than alcoholism."

The program is not for children

and adults who spend hours playing video games. It is for people whose lives have become totally consumed spending nearly every waking hour on the computer.

Judging by how many of us act in public, perhaps a gentler program is needed for smartphone addiction. Half of the country looks to be in need of help.

Chris Blackburn is CEO of Blackburn Media Group, proud owner of The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon, Hall County Herald, The Hollis News, The Knox County News-Courier, The Post Dispatch, The Childress Index, Wellington Leader and The Stonewall Courier. He can be reached by email at [chris@blackburnmediagroup.com](mailto:chris@blackburnmediagroup.com) and you can follow him on Twitter @WCSBlackburn.

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## Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

It's Labor Day, and ordinarily we think cooler weather is pretty close at hand, but not so this year as the 100+ temps are still with us and probably will be for several more days. School is well underway, and everything seems to be going well.

We have some new teachers this year. They are Sara Reeves, Donna Railsback, Jacob Navarro, and aide, Jill Jackson. They join the other faculty members, Susan Jones, Nancy McGreger, Emily Cates, Susan Spake, Cassie Daniel, Vicki Spence, Melissa Everson, Ben Grill, (part-time coaching assistant), and Ruthie Acree.

Completing the staff are Superintendent Olivia Gloria, Secretary Stacia Propps, Custodian Michele Brown, Maintenance Gene Gloria, Bus Driver Dean Homstad, and Cafeteria Gracie Homstad. That's a good "crew" looking forward to a good year.

My sincere sympathy today to the families of Bob Brown in Munday and Hope Poe in Knox City. Bob passed away on Friday after several months of failing health and being diagnosed with stomach cancer less than 3 weeks ago. His funeral is today at 2 pm in Munday. Hope passed away on Saturday. She was in the Knox City Care Home where she had resided for quite some time. She, too, had been in failing health for quite some time. Graveside rites for her will be tomorrow (Tuesday) at 10 a.m. at the Knox City Cemetery.

It's good to report that, as far as I know, there are no serious illnesses in the community today. Little Jayden Holmes had some dental work done last week. She had 2 teeth pulled and 4 capped. It was done as an outpatient procedure at West Texas Regional in Abilene. Jayden is about 7 years old and is the daughter of Erika and Wes Holmes. Erika and the girls visited her sister and brother-in-law in Dallas recently.

Several (who don't see him often) have asked about Bud Conner. He may be feeling some better. Seems his pacemaker is finally doing what it's supposed to. He still is not feeling completely "up to par," but maybe in time he will.

It's back to college for some and off to college for the first time for some of our Benjamin graduates. Leaving for school for the first time is Matthew Acree, who is attending Midwestern University. Matthew lives in Knox City but is a 2013 graduate of Benjamin High School. Jonathan Rainwater is taking some courses at VRJC. Returning to college are Cody Propps to Tarleton State University, Devon Jones to Midwestern University, Jessica and Leah Vanderpol to McMurry, Brittany Coop to Texas Tech, and Mitchel Ham to Midwestern. I hope I haven't missed anyone. If I have, please call me, and I will include anyone I have missed next week.

### Here'n' there

Sunday was a big day at the Nathan Herring home in Munday as family and friends gathered to honor little Weston on this 3rd birthday. Cake and ice cream

were served the guests by his mom, Liz Moorhouse Herring. Guests of all ages were present to enjoy the festivities, and several kids were eager to help him unwrap and put to use his many gifts. It was enjoyable to see all the fun everyone was having.

Imagean Young hosted a cookout at her home Saturday night for her kids, Deann Lamb and Mike Young and some other family members. Others present were Dillon, Ariel, and Addison Benson; Bubba, Wendy, Chastity, and Lily Benson; Lana Hale and granddaughter Tayah; and Mary Young, all of Benjamin; Sydney and Reagan Guerrero of Abilene, and Colton Coldwell of NTSU in Denton. Grilled steaks, sausage, and chili dogs and all the trimmings made up the menu. From all accounts, everyone had a great time.

Jan Carver enjoyed a few days' visit with her brothers-- Dennis and Evelyn Anderson of Abilene, and Jerry and Barbara Anderson at their home near Waco. No details on her trip as she had not gotten home Monday, but Fred said he was sure they were all having a good time. She will have a full report for us when she gets home.

Janice and Buddy Tolson were in Vernon Saturday morning for the funeral of her great nephew, Tye Daniel, son of Johnny and Janet Daniel of Roanoke. Tye had lived in Truscott for a while, and several in the area were acquainted with him. Burial was later in the day Saturday at Truscott. Tye was the grandson of R.C. And Joann Daniel. Of course, my sincere sympathy to Tye's family in their time of grief.

Janice also told me that her brother, Don Daniel, is in a Wichita Falls hospital. He is a severe diabetic and has had a lot of trouble. Our prayers are with him.

Philomae Roberson made her last trip to her eye doctor last week. She's doing well and glad to have that problem taken care of.

Bob and Bobbye Goodwin of Earth were weekend guests of Roger and Betty Bohannon. On Saturday Bobbye and Betty attended a baby shower for Bobby's daughter-in-law in Abilene, and the men stayed here and visited.

Barbara and Donnie Ryder were in Fort Worth Thursday for her to see her doctor. She got a favorable report, and of course, she was glad to get it.

Football got underway Friday night for almost everyone. Munday traveled to Windthorst and lost by 5 points. Not bad for a team that lost most of their main players at graduation. Knox City played Paducah Saturday at Jayton. They won, and we congratulate them and wish them all well the rest of the year.

And finally, a word of thanks to all the readers of this weekly column. It's because of all of you that I keep on week after week. As you can tell, there are some weeks that there's not much going on, but I'll continue to do my best, and thanks again, everyone!

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

## State roadways mowing policy shifts focus to safety

The Knox County News-Courier

CHILDRESS — Officials at the state transportation district office have received several inquiries recently regarding its mowing policy.

Maintaining 7,956 lane miles of highway in the Childress District of the Texas Department of Transportation involves more than roadways, said the region's director of operations, Darwin Lankford — 23,635 acres of rights-of-way in the district's 13 counties also require maintenance.

The district includes the counties of Briscoe, Childress, Collingsworth, Cottle, Dickens, Donley, Foard, Hall, Hardeman, King, Knox, Motley and Wheeler.

"Over the past few years, TxDOT has experienced a steady decline in the funding for both maintenance and construction of our highway system," Lankford said. "During this time of shrinking budgets, every aspect of how TxDOT spends those limited funds has been analyzed, including the statewide management of roadside vegetation."

Because of limited funding, TxDOT has changed its mowing policy.

"The new policy will allow us to better focus our mowing efforts on safety rather than aesthetics," Lankford said.

TxDOT's new policy limits the number of times rural highways receive a modified full-width mow instead of mowing the entire width of the right of way. TxDOT mows twice per year, typically in the spring/summer, then again in the fall.

The fall contract to mow began Sept. 1. Full-width mowing is primarily done for aesthetic reasons. District workers will continue to perform safety mowing as needed at intersections, driveways and curves.

"The safety of the traveling public is TxDOT's No. 1 priority, and we'll continue working to ensure that visibility along our roads is provided," Lankford said.

By reducing mowing, TxDOT is expect-

ing to save taxpayers as much as \$25 million per year.

"That's money that can be used for critical roadway maintenance needs, like filling potholes and resurfacing roadways," Lankford said.

In addition, the state agency's herbicide and wildflower programs not only help state highways look good but also reduces the cost of maintenance and labor by encouraging the growth of native species that need less mowing and care.

The agency's goal is to reduce undesirable vegetation such as Johnson grass, careless weed, Kochia weeds, silver leaf night shade and rag weed, just to name a few species.

Specific herbicides target these undesirable species while maintaining desired species, such as blue grama, buffalo grass, sideoats grama and bluestems. Herbicides also aid in regulating vegetation growth, enabling a limited number of mowing cycles.

"Our maintenance sections are implementing aggressive herbicide programs in their respective counties to reduce the amount of undesired vegetation along the rights of way, especially at intersections and median turn-arounds," Lankford said.

A herbicide program offers several benefits, he said.

First, it reduces the need to frequently mow fast-growing weeds that obstruct motorists' view.

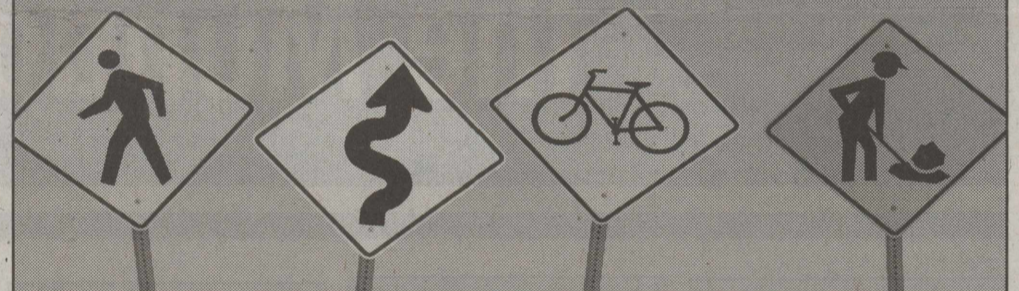
Secondly, it allows the natural grasses to flourish, improving driver visibility and enhancing the natural landscape.

In addition to the herbicide program, workers will continue to mow at a seven-inch height cut, which helps the grass maintain health by storing energy in its roots and encourages growth to choke out undesired vegetation.

Residents are asked to continue to contact their local TxDOT maintenance section to report areas with visibility or safety issues along the rights of way.

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# The 501 How not to ... grow cantaloupe

In the world of how-to books, let's add how-not-to. Couldn't we all write some?

"How Not To Garden" is the book I should write. Ways not to grow almost anything are my specialty. "Forgetting To Plant" will be Chapter One. I've had years of practice.

This year, however, I changed my pattern and planted cantaloupe seed. What was I thinking? I can't even spell cantaloupe. Cantaloupe. Well, I still prefer my spelling. It looks more French. But the vines aren't there no matter how you spell cantaloupe. I just can't grow 'em. Hmm. Now I'm feeling Italian. Where in the world did that word "cantaloupe" come from anyway?



HANABA  
MUNN  
WELCH

### DICTIONARY PAUSE.

Believe it or not, there's a cantaloupe-growing place near Rome called Cantaluppi. Seriously. It would be fun to go there, although I'd rather visit Watermelon. I like watermelon better. But at garden-planting time this year, seed from a cantaloupe — oops, cantaloupe — was all I found.

The cache came from a tasty cantaloupe consumed so long ago I don't remember exactly how good it was. Maybe that's a rule. Don't keep seed too long — sort of like the toss-the-doggy-bag-if-you-can't-remember-the-meal rule.

Nevertheless, our fourth-grade teacher told us wheat seed found in the tomb of a pharaoh sprouted when planted. That's how it was in those pre-Internet days. You had to trust your fourth-grade teacher.

### RESEARCH PAUSE.

Sure enough, she told us wrong. That seed-sprouting myth dates from the 1800s, when Europe was going wild over all things Egyptian, if Wikipedia can be trusted on Egyptomania. Something in my fourth-grade soul told me our teacher was too sure about everything to be right about everything.

That said, in 2005, per the Internet, a 2,000-year-old date palm seed from Herod the Great's palace sprouted for some Israelis. They dubbed their palm Methuselah.

I should've planted date seeds myself, but I was fresh out. A couple of palms would improve this farm. Didn't the late Billie Sol Estes, deceptive fertilizer-tank wheel-dealer, have palms at his place at Pecos?

### MORE RESEARCH.

Indeed he did. A 1966 newspaper story reports the demise of his Florida imports. They didn't freeze; they got chopped down, apparently by souvenir-seekers, while Estes was away from home serving time.

That's one thing I haven't done wrong — left plants untended to serve a prison term. But prison's a better excuse than simply forgetting to check the garden. Guilty as charged. Yep, while I wasn't looking, Flopsy, Mopsy and Peter Cottontail must have ambled over the brick fence and eaten everything, if anything ever came up.

I'll devote a chapter to what sort of fences not to build. A brick fence one brick high doesn't discourage rabbits, especially if the bricks are lying flat.

I might have suspected armadillos instead of rabbits if I'd discovered snout marks. But when you forget to water, armadillos stay away.

Indeed, my little bare spot doesn't even look like a garden. That's how good I am at what I don't do.

I guess I've found my calling.

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

# The Idle American NFL toughens 'Bag Lady' rules

A generation ago, my wife proclaimed a small victory. "We can mark that one off," she said. "I've just taken our youngest to the pediatrician's office for the last time."

"Congratulations," I purred. "No more waiting in pediatricians' offices for us."



DON  
NEWBURY

(Warning: Saying "no more" with such finality is essentially the same as "never again.")

Years later at a Dallas speaking engagement, my turn at the lectern was delayed by a talented male quartet's 45 minutes of song. They were all pediatricians. This time, I waited not for one doctor, but four.

We both whooped it up when the same daughter progressed from nighttime diapers to "big girl undies."

"We've been buying diapers of some kind for 99 consecutive months," I announced, somewhat proud of my double-digit addition. We had cloth diapers in the early going—as did the diaper delivery and pick-up service — for the first of three daughters, anyway.

We "reminisced on," naming the various brands of disposable diapers. "I couldn't trust you to buy diapers," Brenda said. "You rarely got the right brands, right type or right size." I winced, nodding like a bobblehead doll.

"One thing for sure," I laughed, shifting to subject-changing gear. "Never again will diapers dominate our conversations."

Then — in the serious and

understandable name of security — the National Football League comes up with new rules about what fans may bring into football stadiums. At first, I nodded approvingly. Then I noticed diaper bags no longer are permitted.

This edict can't hold water. Young parents are going to throw fits — progressing from hissy, to connipation, to wall-eyed — and well they should. (Really now, if you were a walleye, wouldn't you have a fit if you were hooked on the business end of a fishing line?)

We who harbor suspicions immediately wonder if this is another money-grubbing scheme.

Fans will quickly notice if they set up diaper stands, perhaps just inside entrance gates. Hawkers may yell, "Get your diapers here, \$10 each."

And if parents want to trade one in, the answer is likely to be, "With trade-in, they're \$15 each."

I know. Fans can take in small transparent bags and "mini purses," the latter no bigger than hand size. It's a stretch to think they'll accommodate diapers, burp cloths, pacifiers, bibs, bottles and more.

All fans have vested interest. What if games go into overtime, or hours are bloated by those wretched "further reviews"?

The announced policy, carried out, makes us cross fingers that the roof will remain open

Oh, the folks inspecting carry-ins are just doing their jobs.

In the case of the Dallas Cowboys, some 40 additional personnel are serving in the parking lots, advising what can be taken inside.

I'd sooner work on a sardine-packing assembly line, even if my job was closing their little eyes before the cans were sealed

If the diaper bag rule is amended, there'll be thunderous cheers. And creative moms — some who've already contrived massive hats made of diapers and held meetings on smuggling techniques — can channel their energies elsewhere.

I imagine the other edicts will stand up. Fans will grouse for a while before resuming our culture's sheep-like tendencies, but they'll eventually accept the tightened rules as standard operating procedure.

At home, TV viewers will add still another item to their lengthening "why-bother-going-to-the-stadium" lists. "Hey," couch vegetables (potatoes and others) will say, "My big screen won't match the one at Jerry World, but it's about as big as our den wall can accommodate."

This ain't your father's Oldsmobile or old NFL. Back when, game tickets were cheaper than a hot dog is today. Fans often were seated three seats apart so there could be "spreading room" only. I imagine anything one could carry or drag into stadiums—short of artillery or dynamite — was A-OK.

Oh, many fans will continue to flock to games in this Barnum & Bailey world, hang the cost.

Others will be more discerning, though, opting to watch games on TV at home.

I feel sorry for AT&T, already laying out big bucks to name the stadium. I doubt that AT&T was consulted about the diaper-bag rule. Besides, they're busy trying to convince fans that it's AT&T Stadium, not Jerry World.

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



### Public Hearing Notice

City of Knox City

Texas Community Development Block Grant Program

Disaster Relief Grant

Date of Publication: September 5, 2013

The City of Knox City will hold a public hearing at 5:30 PM on September 17, 2013, at City Hall in regard to the submission of an application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Program funds for Disaster Relief. The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the citizen participation plan, the development of local housing and community development needs, the amount of TxCDBG funding available, all eligible TxCDBG activities, and the use of past TxCDBG funds. All citizens are encouraged to participate in the development of this application and to make their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to City Hall during regular office hours. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact City Hall to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

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Mary Rike, Broker  
mary@rikerealestate.com

Megan Cox, Agent  
megan@rikerealestate.com

John Rike, Agent  
john@rikerealestate.com

### REAL ESTATE SEALED BID SALE

Rike Real Estate LLC has been appointed by the Sellers as the Listing Agent of three (3) farms by sealed bid sale, surface estate only. Farm one consists of 160 acres (+or-) and is located 3.0 miles NW of downtown Haskell on FM Rd 2163. Farm two consists of 93.5 acres (+or-) and is located 1.9 miles NW of downtown Haskell on FM Rd 2163, then .9 miles W on CR 104. Farm three consists of 682 acres (+or-) and is located 10.2 miles S of downtown Haskell on U. S. Highway 277. The headquarters gate is on the W side of the highway. The three farms will be bid on by sealed bid and sold separately. Each party to the transaction will pay the normal buyer-seller closing costs. The farms will be sold based on the number of acres in the deed records of Haskell County, Texas. If a survey is required by the selected bidder(s), the survey costs will be a buyer's expense. Bidding will begin MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2013 and end FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2013, at 5:00 P.M.

**THE SELLERS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS. CONTACT RIKE REAL ESTATE LLC, 415 S. FIRST STREET, HASKELL, TX 79521, TELEPHONE NUMBER 940 864 2411, FOR MORE INFORMATION AND/OR A SEALED BID PACKET.**

# Dixie Divas Oh, the stories of woe

Oh, the stories people tell. Not always good ones, mind you, but the kind that will make you fall down on your knees and thank the good Lord up above that you don't have a story like that.



RONDA RICH

In emails, letters, calls and in person at speaking engagements, people will strip bare their lives and share their tribulations with me. Pride melts away and honest humility seeps in and soaks them to the bone.

They neither put on airs nor do they try to pretty up the ugliness. They just tell it like it is, and how it is often has me in tears as I clasp their hands and try to squeak out words of encouragement.

She was a tiny little thing, the size of an underweight 10-year-old girl, but she was a grown woman with plenty of heartache to bear. She sat by me at a women's church event at which I was speaking, and the small talk somehow turned to serious talk.

It was hard to make ends meet, she said, after her husband had up and left her and those three children.

She smiled tiredly. "I hadn't worked in 16 years, and I couldn't find a job. I clean houses, and I'm thankful for the money it brings in."

She dropped her head. "He's fight-

ing me for custody because he doesn't want to pay child support. It takes every penny I can scrape together to pay the attorney. He keeps dragging it out."

On top of that, her mother had been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and needed her, too.

There was another woman who wrote to thank me for writing "There's A Better Day A-Comin'."

"Those stories," she wrote, "are, besides the Lord, the one thing that keeps me goin'."

That's another thing — they always lift me up when they can barely lift their own heads.

She explained she had divorced her husband after she discovered he was a pedophile and had abused their daughter. She lost her job, went without one for two years, found another then the company shut down after a year.

"I never imagined I'd be a single mother with no income living with my widowed mother, but here I am." She closed with words of inspiration and gratitude to me.

I've been in some bad places, but I've never been in those kinds of places. I've seen some hard times, but I never came close to touching a time as hard as that. By God's grace, I suppose. Certainly not my own ingenuity or cleverness.

"No matter how bad you got it," Mama used to say, "somebody else's got it worse."

In my youthful stupidity, I didn't

care about anyone else's problems, only mine. All those problems seem so "piddly" as Mama would say.

Time passed and with it the problems resolved or dissolved. Most challenges and aggravations do just that, you know. They go away and then you look back and think, "Now, what was it that worried me so?"

Even now, I can barely conjure up any real tribulation to talk about. Jobs were lost, and others were found. Roofs leaked and were fixed. Cars were wrecked, and insurance companies paid. There was that time a hot water heater broke and flooded the house. That was a mess. But I cleaned it up.

Then, I, sad hearted, reached into a pitifully meager savings account and pulled out the money to replace it. But, at least I had a pitifully meager savings account. I'm embarrassed to admit now that, looking back, I wasn't consoled by that.

Here's what I think we all should do: Look around and see those who are suffering, those who are walking a road far rockier than ours, and stretch out a neighborly hand.

And for those who have no idea how good they've got it, how blessed they are in life, introduce to them to the other folks.

Ronda Rich is a Southern humorist, storyteller and best-selling author of "What Southern Women Know (That Every Woman Should)." Visit [rondarich.com](http://rondarich.com) to sign up for her weekly newsletter.

## CATTLE

From Page 1

Stockers didn't need to be a part of my overall program."

Then Bevers talked about wheat-grower options based on current costs and potential rewards. He utilized the 3,200-acre model, theoretically putting 800, 425-pound calves on half the wheat acreage from late November through mid-February and then pulling the calves off all but 500 graze-out acres, thus illustrating three options for this fall's yet-to-be-planted wheat crop: grain harvest, grazing and grain and or grazing only.

After enumerating all costs, with all best guesses based on current information, Bevers asked the pertinent questions:

What yield can be expected if the wheat is harvested?

What is the expected per-bushel price?

What other price adjustments should be made, keeping in mind insurance and harvest costs for graze-out versus grain, the days of graze-out remaining and average daily gain and stocking rate during graze-out?

Bottom line, penciling in up-to-date information for 2013-2014, Bevers summed things up:

"If the value of that calf's

gain is over 57 cents (per pound), I'm better off to graze it out," he said.

The ownership of the stockers makes a difference.

"If I own the cattle, I'm getting a buck whatever," Bevers said. "If I've got lease cattle on me, am I getting more than 57 cents (paid per pound of gain)?"

Putting off the graze-out decision until late in the season can be problematic.

"I may want to graze out my wheat starting March 1, but do you find the cattle?" he asked.

In the final analysis, the price of wheat is what makes the difference.

"Everything else is kind of a follower," Bevers said. "It's a unique situation right now. Cattle are pretty good right now, but they're expensive. Costs are very high, but the wheat price is starting to come down."

Besides explaining factors to be considered, Bevers exploded a fallacy. The cost of putting pounds on a calf in a feedlot should not influence the lease price paid for wheat pasture, he said.

"Cost of gains in a feedlot have nothing to do with it," Bevers said. "It has everything to do with what the wheat producer is giving up. You lose five to six bushels."

Bevers' final words recognized the uncertainty of farming and raising cattle:

"God bless; pray for rain. We ain't out of this drought yet."

## Nancy's Notions

### Cooking up a cottage food business

Recent changes to the Texas Cottage Food Law mean that more foods can be prepared and sold from a residential kitchen.

The previous law limited the foods that could be sold to mainly baked

goods, jams and jellies and dried herbs. Under the amended law, which took effect Sept. 1, the list of foods that can be sold has been expanded to include pickles, popcorn snacks, candy, unroasted nut butters and vinegar.

In addition, these foods can be sold at venues outside the home, including farmers markets, roadside stands and fairs.

All foods sold must be properly labeled and include the name and address of the operation, the name of the product, possible allergens that are in the food, and a statement saying the food was not prepared in a kitchen that is inspected by the Department of State Health Services or a local health department.

The amended law also requires that anyone who operates a cottage food business have a food handler card by

Jan. 1. You can complete your food handler application online at [foodsafetyonline.tamu.edu](http://foodsafetyonline.tamu.edu).

With the growing interest in food preservation and selling foods at farmers markets, roadside stands and fairs, nutrition specialists from Texas A&M University have developed a presentation that may be of interest to potential entrepreneurs or fundraising volunteers, including schools and churches.

The Cottage Food Law workshop will be offered from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sept. 24 at the Garza County Extension Office. The program includes the income limits for cottage food production, foods allowed and not allowed under the new law, and potential marketing locations. Packaging and labeling guidelines and examples will ensure the law is being interpreted correctly.

Cost to attend the seminar, which is limited to the first 15 registrants, is \$10 and includes complete handouts.

For information about the Cottage Food Law, the food handler card or to RSVP for the Cottage Food Law workshop, call the Garza County Extension Office at 806-495-4400.

Nancy McDonald is the family and consumer sciences agent for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Garza County.



NANCY MCDONALD

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Holly and her daughter, Mary Northport, NY

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**Public Hearing Notice**  
**City of Munday**  
**Texas Community Development Block Grant Program**  
**Disaster Relief Grant**

Date of Publication: September 5, 2013

The City of Munday will hold a public hearing at 6:30 PM on September 10, 2013, at City Hall in regard to the submission of an application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Program funds for Disaster Relief. The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the citizen participation plan, the development of local housing and community development needs, the amount of TxCDBG funding available, all eligible TxCDBG activities, and the use of past TxCDBG funds. All citizens are encouraged to participate in the development of this application and to make their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to City Hall during regular office hours. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact City Hall to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

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**Public Hearing Notice**  
**City of Goree**  
**Texas Community Development Block Grant Program**  
**Disaster Relief Grant**

Date of Publication: September 5, 2013

The City of Goree will hold a public hearing at 6:00 PM on September 10, 2013, at City Hall in regard to the submission of an application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Program funds for Disaster Relief. The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the citizen participation plan, the development of local housing and community development needs, the amount of TxCDBG funding available, all eligible TxCDBG activities, and the use of past TxCDBG funds. All citizens are encouraged to participate in the development of this application and to make their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to City Hall during regular office hours. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact City Hall to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.



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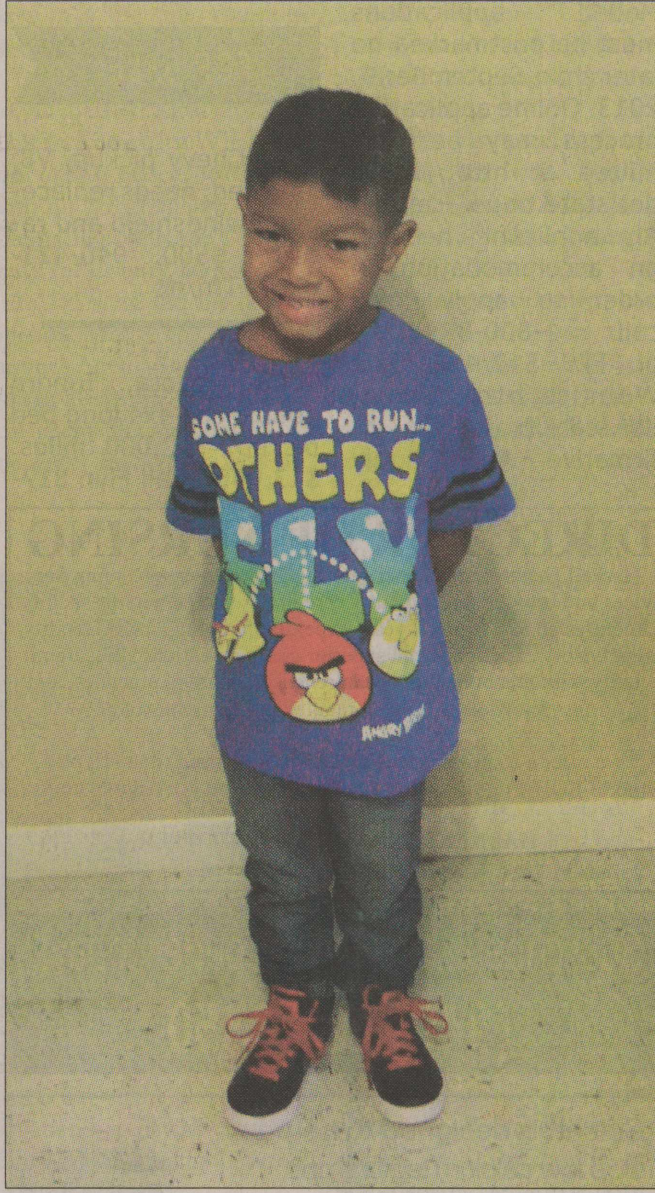
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# First Day of School Brag Page



Brendan Kuehler, seventh grader at Munday



Christyn Angel Ramos, kindergarten at Knox City Elementary School



Ivan, Alexis and Isaac Garcia, children of Amanda Prieto of Munday and Adrian Garcia of Wichita Falls, attend Munday Elementary School



Munday ISD sophomore Taylor Thompson, sixth-grader Sydney Thompson and third-grader Cheney Thompson



Sixth-grader Madilyn Davis and fifth-grader Tyler Rios, both at O'Brien Middle, and Jayden Rios, first-grader at Knox City Elementary. Parents are April Davis and Al Rios

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Zenaída Nunez, Munday Elementary School

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<b>Clyde, TX</b> (325) 893-5884	<b>Munday, TX</b> (940) 422-4522
<b>Haskell, TX</b> (940) 864-8555	<b>Stamford, TX</b> (325) 773-2122

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Equal Housing LENDER MEMBER FDIC

**LIVING PROOF LIVE SIMULCAST**

with **BETH MOORE**  
and worship leader **TRAVIS COTTRELL**

First Baptist Church Munday  
September 14, 2013  
9:00 - 4:30  
Cost \$20  
Breakfast & lunch will be provided  
Register by September 9th  
To register or for more information please call the church office at (940) 422-4559

LifeWay Women

Events subject to change without notice. Sales tax applied to event cost, if applicable.