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# THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

HOME OF ??????

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2013

KCNEWSCOURIER.COM

75 CENTS

## Water grant is a Christmas miracle

By Wayne Hodgins  
 The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — Christmas came early last week for about 120 families in the rural areas of eastern Knox and northern Haskell counties who have for the better part of two years been paying to haul water to their homes because of the historic drought that's plagued West Texas the last several years.

Officials with U.S. Department of Agriculture announced a \$2.7 million rural development grant was awarded to the Knox County Water Supply Corp. to help fund a pipeline that would tie onto the

Millers Creek supply line east of Knox City at County Road 4419. The pipeline would run north to Cemetery Road, west to Highway 222 and the Old 6666 location and south to service some of northern Haskell County.

Members of the Knox County Rural WSC, a nonprofit business incorporated in 2011, had hoped the government-funded grant would be approved because of the extreme drought situation.

John Powell, area director for the USDA's Rural Development program, said the grant was intended to serve rural Ameri-



John Powell (right), Director of Rural Development for the USDA's Abilene office, presents a congratulatory plaque to representatives of the Knox County Water Supply Corporation (WSC) Brittany Coker (center) and David Albus (left).

See USDA, Page 12

## Knox Notes

Events are listed free of charge as a service by this newspaper for nonprofit groups, civic organizations, churches, schools and select community events. Listings should be submitted at least two weeks in advance and will run as often as possible through the date of the event. News staff does not guarantee placement of events. Emailed submissions are preferred to kcnewscourier@gmail.com.

### Christmas Mass

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass services have been announced for area Catholic Churches. Dec. 24: 5 p.m. at St. Mary of the Assumption in Megargel; 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart in Seymour; 9 p.m. at St. Joseph in Rhineland (caroling precedes service); 11 p.m. at Santa Rosa in Knox City. Dec. 25: 8 a.m. at St. Joseph in Rhineland; 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart in Seymour.

### Live Nativity

"O Little Town," a Living Nativity, will be presented at 7 and 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at O'Brien Baptist Church, 902 Grand Central Ave. Enjoy live narration and music; interact with the Wise Men, shepherds, animals and townspeople as the story unfolds. All welcome. Contact the church for information 940-658-3553.

### Taxpayer Clinic

Students at the Texas Tech School of Law conduct free clinic for low-income taxpayers throughout the year to assist them with federal tax issues related to individual tax matters. Eligibility is determined by the federal poverty guidelines. For information or schedule an appointment, call Nancy Mojica at 806-834-7972 or 800-420-8037.

### Ragtown Gospel

Ragtown Gospel Theater in Post will continue performing "Say Nicklaus!" at 3 p.m. Sunday and at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 22, Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m. and at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21. For information or to purchase tickets visit ragtown.com.

### Military exhibit

New military warplane exhibit at the Garza Museum commemorates the 72nd anniversary of the 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor. Purple Heart recipient Patrick Reilly donated the 154-airplane exhibit to the museum. For information, call 495-2207

### O.S. Museum

Beautiful and unusual Nativities and Crèches are the stars of the "Reflections of Christmas" exhibit on display at the O.S. Museum. Viewing hours are 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For information, call 495-3570.

### 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.

## Rolling Plains ag event focus is cotton technology

By Steve Byrns  
 Special to the News-Courier

STAMFORD — The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will conduct the 2014 Rolling Plains Cotton and Agricultural Conference from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Jan. 14 in Stamford.

The event, conducted by the AgriLife Extension offices in Jones and Haskell counties, will take place in the Texas Cowboy Reunion Bunkhouse on the Texas Cowboy Reunion rodeo grounds, on Farm-to-Market Road 2834 and U.S. Highway 277.

Individual registration due upon arrival is \$10. Organizers ask those planning to attend to RSVP by Jan. 10 to the AgriLife Extension office in Jones County by calling 325-823-2432.

Three Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units, one laws and regulations, one integrated pest management and one drift minimization, will be available.

"Our focus for the program will be on new technologies," said Steve Estes, AgriLife Extension agent in Jones County. "There is so much new technology becoming available these days, especially related to cotton, that a large part of our program will not only center around what those new technologies are, but also how to best manage them.

"We will also be spending some time updating producers on the farm bill and how any pending changes relating to it might affect our area farmers. Our slate of speakers are very current in their knowledge relating to their specific topics, so this program should be ideal for getting the new farming year off to a good start."

### Topics and speakers will include:

– Farm Bill Update, Dr. Joe Outlaw, AgriLife Extension economist, College Station.

Alternative Crops and the Farm Bill-How Will they Fit? and Cotton Market Outlook, Bill Thompson AgriLife Extension economist, San Angelo.

– Using TopGuard to Manage Cotton Root Rot and Small Grains Integrated Pest Management Update, Rick Minzenmayer, AgriLife Extension entomologist for Runnels and Tom Green counties.

Utilizing New Herbicide Technologies in Weed Management, Dr. Peter Dotray, AgriLife Extension weed and herbicides specialist, Lubbock.

Managing Chemical Applications-Current and New Technologies, Dr. Adam Hixson, technical service representative, BASE, Lubbock.

Cotton Variety and Herbicide Trial Results, Dr. David Drake, AgriLife Extension agronomist, San Angelo.

– Pesticide Laws and Regulations, Paul Weiser, Texas Department of Agriculture, Lubbock.

For more information contact Estes at 325-823-2432, saestes@ag.tamu.edu.

## Farm to fork



Kipp Cotton/For the Courier

## Young students get chance to tour interactive exhibit

KNOX CITY — Agrium Inc. and Texas Farm Bureau are working together to engage students in the Science behind the growing of healthy plants and the study of where our food comes from.

The Seed Survivor Mobile Classroom and representatives from Texas Farm Bureau were on the campus of Knox City Elementary on Nov. 22. Students participated in a

totally curriculum aligned plant and soil science lesson, planted their own sunflowers, and played games from as many as 15 interactive stations inside the trailer. The exhibit tours North America year round and will be in Texas from November to March. Knox City is one of the early stops on the tour.

The Knox County News-Courier

## Peanut yields average or above

By Robert Burns  
 Special to the News-Courier

With about 120,000 to 125,000 acres harvested, and about average yields, this year's peanut crop is certainly much better than it has been the past few growing seasons, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

"Starting off, it was geared to be an above-average year, but I feel a rough August cost us a little bit of yield," said Jason Woodward, AgriLife Extension plant pathologist and statewide peanut specialist, Lubbock.

Peanuts require a lot of water, as much as 2 feet per acre, much of which usually comes from irrigation, he said. But given pumping costs and water table levels and the need for

higher quality, growers also rely on rainfall to supplement irrigation, and August was drier and hotter than normal.

Still, Woodward expects yields to be in the range of 3,800 to 4,200 pounds per acre.

"Still a little above-average year, and much better off than we've been the last two years," he said.

Peanut production in Texas peaked in the 1990s, with as much as 300,000 acres grown annually, he said. For the last 10 years, competition for other crops, such as cotton, and the water needs of peanuts, have brought the average yearly production down to about 125,000 acres.



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

This season's peanut harvest is turning out to be better than originally anticipated. With August being particularly hotter and drier than normal and the propensity for farmers to cut back on irrigation, the water-hogging legumes are producing about 4,000 pounds an acre on average.

See PEANUT, Page 12

## Corrections

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

## News on the go



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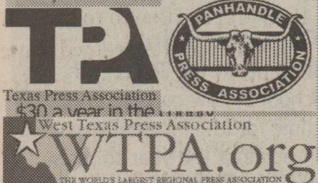
**EXECUTIVE EDITOR**  
Wayne Hodgins

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The Knox County News-Courier

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# Christmas in November in Munday: A big hit

By **Geoffrey Baumgartner**  
The Knox County News-Courier

MUNDAY — Munday had its annual Christmas in November celebration this past month and brought in Christmas cheer a little early. The celebrations include the holiday themed Vendor's Flea Market in the morning, with a Christmas parade going through downtown later that evening. Santa Clause himself visited Meers Mercantile so kids could sit on his lap and whisper what they

wanted. Sales were slower this year as the annual holiday themed Vendors Flea Market kicked things off the morning of Nov. 30. With what was rife with sales and holiday shoppers last year struggled to find the magic this year. The holiday fun continued with a full-blown downtown Christmas Parade through the streets of Munday.

The parade culminated with the Munday Santa posted in front of Meers Mercantile taking in kid's wishes for the Holiday season.



Munday veteran Homer K. Lowrance visits with Clifford and Edwina Early of Early Creations during the active hours at the Munday Indoor Vendors Flea Market earlier this month. The market was set up with businesses from not only Munday, but from all around the Big Country as well.



The Munday Santa takes the reins of the electric reindeer in front of his sleigh during the city's annual Christmas in November celebration at the end of last month.



The Munday Santa embraces the crowd as he makes his way toward Meers Mercantile to set up. His sleigh stuffed completely full with gifts for the needy.

## Menus

### Week of Dec. 23-27

**Knox City-O'Brien**  
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**Munday**  
Closed for Christmas holidays

**Knox County Aging Center**  
**Monday:** Happy Holidays, closed  
**Tuesday:** Happy Holidays, closed  
**Wednesday:** Happy Holidays, closed  
**Thursday:** Porch chops, black-eyed peas, spinach, cornbread, baked apples  
**Friday:** Hamburgers, potato wedges, tomato and wedge salad, melon medley

Come eat with us and support your aging center program. Please call in your orders by 10:00 a.m. to 657-3618. Orders can't be taken after 11:00 a.m. please pick up by 11:00 a.m.

## Student news

### Collier receives degree from McMurry University

The Knox County News-Courier

ABILENE — Destiny Collier of Munday has been awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in exercise science and human performance from McMurry University. Collier was one of 53 graduates receiving degrees during commencement exercises Saturday at Radford Auditorium.

Offering a diverse academic curriculum to more than 1,400 students, McMurry University is a small Christian liberal arts school in Abilene. Students choose from 41 majors; education and business are popular as are the school's pre-professional programs in medicine, dentistry, law, and physical therapy. The three-week May Term gives students an opportunity to explore a subject outside their major. Through the Servant Leadership Program, students learn about ethics and develop leadership qualities. Internships with businesses in Abilene present undergraduates with the opportunity to acquire additional knowledge of the workplace in nonprofit and corporate settings.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) have approved McMurry University to grant master's degrees. Beginning in the fall 2012, students may enroll in a Master of Nursing program through the Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing.

McMurry University is into its second year of a NCAA Division II candidacy period, bringing back scholarship athletics to the institution for the first time since the 1976-77 school year.

## THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

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5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Youth: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

### Schedule for Catholic Mass times

**Christmas Eve/December 24**  
5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption in Megargel  
7:00 p.m. Mass at Sacred Heart in Seymour  
11:00 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph in Rhineland (caroling before)  
9:00 p.m. Mass at Santa Rosa in Knox City (caroling before)

**Christmas Day/December 25**  
8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph in Rhineland  
10:00 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart in Seymour

A Blessed and Merry Christmas to All!



# Roll 'em, Cut 'em, Bake 'em

## Coffee Cookies

By Lorrie Coop, Munday

- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon instant coffee granules
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- Icing
- 1/2 teaspoon instant coffee granules or instant espresso coffee (dry)
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar

Heat oven to 350°F. In large bowl, beat granulated and brown sugars, butter and egg with electric mixer on medium speed, or mix with spoon, until creamy. Stir in flour, 1 tablespoon coffee granules, the baking soda and salt. Stir in pecans and chocolate chips.

Drop dough by 1/4 cupfuls about 2 inches apart onto ungreased large cookie sheet.

Bake 12 to 15 minutes or until golden brown and edges are set. Cool 4 minutes; remove from cookie sheet to wire rack. Cool completely, about 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, in small bowl, dissolve 1/2 teaspoon coffee granules in water. Stir in powdered sugar until smooth and thin enough to drizzle. Drizzle cooled cookies with Coffee Drizzle. Makes 15 cookies.

## Cake Mix Cookies

By Lorrie Coop, Munday

- 1 box any flavor cake mix
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup oil
- Optional: add any kind of chips, candy pieces, nuts or flavorings you want

Add 1/2 cup oil and two eggs to one box of cake mix and mix

until well blended. Stir in optional items if desired. Drop by spoonfuls onto a greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes. Makes 3 dozen cookies.

## Cut-Out Sugar Cookies Refrigerator Cookie Category

Marsha Quade, Knox City

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 eggs
- 6 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 cup (8 oz.) sour cream
- Frosting:
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 4 cups confectioners' sugar
- 3 Tbs. milk
- Food Coloring, optional

### Directions:

In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Combine dry ingredients; add to the creamed mixture alternately with sour cream, beating well after each addition (dough will be sticky). Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours or until easy to handle.

On a floured surface, roll out dough to 1/4 inch thickness. Cut into desired shapes with floured cookie cutters.

Place 1 inch apart on greased cookie sheets. Bake at 375 degrees for 8-12 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool for 1-2 minutes before moving to wire racks.

For frosting, in a large bowl, beat the butter, confectioners' sugar and milk until smooth. Add food coloring if desired. Frost cookies.

## Christmas Slices

Cheryl Daniel, Knox City

- 1 c butter or margarine
- 1 c powdered sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 1/4 c flour
- 2 c candied fruit
- 1 c chopped pecans

Cream together butter and powdered sugar. Add eggs and vanilla. Beat til fluffy. Add

flour and mix well. Stir in candied fruit and chopped pecans.

Chill for 1 hr.

Shape into 3 rolls-wrap in plastic wrap and chill. Can also be frozen and used as needed.

Slice and bake @ 325 degrees for 10 to 12 min.

## S'mores Cookies

Jimi Coplen, Munday

Yield: 3 dozen

### Ingredients

- 11 Tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt (optional)
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup mini marshmallows
- 3 regular sized Hershey's bars, broken into pieces
- 1-2 packages graham crackers, broken into squares

### Instructions

In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, sea salt and cinnamon to combine. Set aside.

In the bowl of an electric mixer, cream butter with white and brown sugar until light and fluffy. Add the eggs and vanilla and mix until combined.

Add the flour mixture to the butter mixer and combine on low speed.

Fold in the chocolate chips and marshmallows. Chill dough in refrigerator for 1 hour to overnight (I did one batch right away and another after chilling overnight and found there was no difference.)

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Line baking pans with parchment paper. I used one 11x17 pan and one 9x13 pan but you can really use any sized pans you want.

Lay out graham crackers side by side on the pans as close as possible (they should be touching). I used 16 graham cracker squares on one pan and

10 squares on another. You may have to add or remove graham crackers according to how much dough you have. If you want your cookies thicker you will use more dough and less graham crackers.

Place tablespoons of dough on graham crackers about 1 - 1 1/2 inches apart. I averaged about 1 1/2 tablespoons of dough per graham cracker square as seen in the picture above. Press down slightly with fingertips.

Bake for 5 minutes then remove from oven to press Hershey's bar pieces on to the top. You can place as many pieces or as little as you want depending how much chocolate flavor you want.

Bake for an additional 5 - 7 minutes or more if your cookies are thicker. They will be done when the edges begin to turn golden brown. Remove to a wire rack to cool. For clean cutting make sure cookies are completely cool and cut with a sharp knife.

## White Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Cookies

Jimi Coplen, Munday

Original Recipe Yield 6 dozen

### Ingredients

- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups rolled oats
- 2 cups white chocolate chips
- 1 cup chopped pecans

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease cookie sheets.

2. In a medium bowl, cream together the butter, brown sugar and white sugar until smooth. Stir in the egg and vanilla. Sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt, stir into the creamed mixture. Finally, stir in the rolled oats, white chocolate chips and pecans. Drop by tablespoons onto

the prepared cookie sheets.

3. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes in the preheated oven. Remove from baking sheets to cool on wire racks.

## Orange Snowballs

### No Bake Category

Marsha Quade, Knox City

- 2 3/4 c. vanilla wafers, finely crushed
- 3 c. powdered sugar
- 1/4 c. undiluted frozen orange juice, thawed
- Milk
- 1/4 c. butter, melted
- 1 c. pecans, chopped
- 2 Tbs. butter, softened
- Flaked coconut

Mix vanilla wafer crumbs, melted butter, 1 cup powdered sugar, chopped pecans and undiluted orange juice. Shape into small balls, about walnut-size. Mix softened butter and remaining powdered sugar, add milk for easy spreading consistency. Roll balls in milk, butter, sugar mixture and then in coconut. Let dry. Store snowballs in airtight container. Makes about 3 dozen.

## Pecan Roll Cookies

Michele Fetsch

Servings 6 dozen

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup pecans
- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 cup butter (2 sticks cut-up-no substitutions)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

In a food processor with the knife blade attached...

Pulse pecans with 1/4 cup powdered sugar until nuts are very finely ground.

Add butter and vanilla and process until smooth, occasionally stopping and scraping the side with a rubber spatula.

Add flour, and process until evenly mixed and dough forms.

With floured hands, shape dough into 3/4 inch balls and place them 1 inch apart on an ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake 16-18 minutes or until

bottoms are lightly browned and cookies are light golden.

Carefully transfer cookies to a wire rack, and cool about 3 minutes.

Meanwhile, place the remaining powdered sugar in a small bowl. While still warm, gently roll cookies in powdered sugar to coat. When cool, gently roll cookies again in the powdered sugar.

Enjoy!

## Peppermint Meltaways Rolled Cookie Category

Marsha Quade, Knox City

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. peppermint extract
- 1 1/4 cup flour
- 1/2 cup cornstarch
- Crushed candy canes for garnish
- Frosting:
- 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese
- 1/2 cup salted butter, softened
- 1 cup powdered sugar, sifted
- 1 tsp. peppermint extract

### Instructions:

1. In a small mixing bowl combine flour and cornstarch. Set aside.

2. In another small mixing bowl cream together the butter and powdered sugar. Add peppermint extract. Slowly add the flour and cornstarch mixture to the butter and powdered sugar mixture. Combine well and refrigerate for an hour.

3. After the dough has chilled preheat oven to 350 degrees. Roll the dough into 1 to 1 1/2 inch sized balls and place them 2 inches apart on a cookie sheet.

4. Bake for 10-12 minutes in the oven until the edges start to lightly turn brown. Remove from the oven and let cool completely.

5. To make the peppermint cream cheese frosting, cream together cream cheese and butter. Add peppermint extract and slowly add the sifted powdered sugar. Frost the cookies with the frosting and garnish with crushed peppermint candy canes.

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# The Paperboy

## The birth of Jesus - not your average party

It's Christmas time in the city. And in the country too!

I hope you're getting ready for the world's largest birthday party.



**CHRIS BLACKBURN**

Speaking of Christmas, I found some interesting facts regarding the holiday at randomhistory.com I thought I'd share:

- Each year more than 3 billion Christmas cards are sent in the U.S. alone.
- All the gifts in the Twelve Days of Christmas would equal 364 gifts.
- In A.D. 350, Pope Julius I, Bishop of Rome, proclaimed December 25 the official celebration date for the birthday of Christ.
- According to the Guinness world records, the tallest Christmas tree ever

cut was a 221-foot Douglas fir that was displayed in 1950 at the Northgate Shopping Center in Seattle, Washington.

- The traditional three colors of Christmas are green, red, and gold. Green has long been a symbol of life and rebirth; red symbolizes the blood of Christ, and gold represents light as well as wealth and royalty.
- The world's largest Christmas stocking measured 106 feet and 9 inches (32.56 m) long and 49 feet and 1 inch (14.97 m) wide. It weighed as much as five reindeer and held almost 1,000 presents. It was made by the Children's Society in London on December 14, 2007.
- Christmas trees have been sold in the U.S. since 1850.
- Alabama was the first state in the United States to officially recognize Christmas in 1836.
- Christmas wasn't declared an official holiday in the United States until June 26, 1870.

Ancient peoples, such as the Druids, considered mistletoe sacred because it remains green and bears fruit during the winter when all other plants appear to die. Druids would cut the plant with golden sickles and never let it touch the ground. They thought it had the power to cure infertility and nervous diseases and to ward off evil.

- The poinsettia is native to Mexico and was cultivated by the Aztecs, who called the plant Cuetlaxochitl ("flower which wilts"). For the Aztecs, the plant's brilliant red color symbolized purity, and they often used it medicinally to reduce fever. Contrary to popular belief, the poinsettia is not poisonous, but holly berries are.
- Puritan Oliver Cromwell outlawed Christmas celebrations and carols in England from 1649-1660. The only celebrations allowed were sermons and prayers.
- It is estimated that the single "White Christmas" by Irving Berlin is the best selling single of all time, with over 100

million sales worldwide.

The first person to decorate a Christmas tree was reportedly the Protestant reformer Martin Luther (1483-1546). According to legend, he was so moved by the beauty of the stars shining between the branches of a fir tree, he brought home an evergreen tree and decorated it with candles to share the image with his children.

Christmas purchases account for 1/6 of all retail sales in the U.S. May God bless you and yours this Christmas. I hope it's a time when we reflect on the true meaning, not the trivial meaning.

Chris Blackburn serves as CEO at 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@blackburnmedia-group.com](mailto:chris@blackburnmedia-group.com) and you can follow him on Twitter @WCSBlackburn.

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# Knox City gets wins and losses at Jayton Tournament

By **Geoffrey Baumgartner**  
The Knox County News-Courier

JAYTON – Knox City's Greyhound varsity basketball squad participated in the Jayton "bad weather" tournament this past week. Bad weather tournaments are put together when weather conditions prevent teams, or groups of teams, from completing their regularly scheduled tournaments. Other schools that participated in the tournament were Hamlin, Newhome, Seymore, Sands, and Haskell.

Coach Webb was ultimately pleased with the way his team played.

"We had some close losses and also performed well offensively. We could show improvement on defense," said Head Coach Josh Webb.

Knox City went up against Haskell on the first day of the tournament. The Greyhounds pulled out a very close victory over the Indians 46-43.

The next day of the tournament saw the Greyhounds take on Sands in an equally

close match-up. After an offensive battle on both sides, Knox City wound up falling short to the Mustangs 49-52.

Seymore would be the Greyhounds next opponent. The Panthers would wear down Knox City throughout an exhaustive defensive battle and eventually defeated the Greyhounds by the small margin of 42-39.

After the Seymore and Sands losses, the Greyhounds headed into the third day of the tournament determined to win; and that is exactly what they accomplished. On the final day of the tournament, Knox City beat both Hamlin and Newhome. They defeated the Pied Pipers of Hamlin by the large margin of 51-32 and beat the Leopards of Newhome on an even larger scale, 49-19.

Apart from this latest tournament, the Greyhounds are now 4-1 for the regular season. They will be facing Munday on Dec. 20 before the Holiday and will be going up against Rule after the New Year on Jan. 3.

# The 501 Let's get geophysical

What was I thinking? Me, write an article about geophysics?

What I know about physics is that it's what I didn't take in high school.

Geo is a car. Right?

Yep, I bit off more than I could chew.

It started a couple of years ago at church

when I sat on the same row

as a guy wearing boots. It

was church in the city, where

boots aren't de rigeur like

they are in the country.

Just so happened I had

a pair to give away — nice

boots I'd inherited, sort of,

from the late ex-husband of

a friend who had given them

to me thinking they might

fit my husband. They didn't.

Anyway, that's how I met

Jesse, part-time cowboy

preacher and former editor

of a national cowboy maga-

zine. No wonder he was wearing boots.

Now he's editor of an oil and gas magazine,

which means he still gets to wear boots. I won't

say which magazine. The next issue will contain

my article on geophysics, so I'd just as soon

keep it secret.

Sometimes editors get a little desperate

during holidays. That's when freelancers, me

included, have a good chance of getting as-

signments that normally would go to regular

writers — regular people who don't like to work

during holidays.

So, if you want to break into freelance

journalism, don't count on roasting any turkeys

and be sure to get your Christmas shopping,

decorating and cookie baking done early. You'll

be set.

Then, if you want to prove your tenacity as a

newshound, develop your ability to understand

a highly technical subject and write about it

with clarity and see if you can get people who

are in the middle of a boom and too busy to

talk to anyone about anything to take time

to talk to you about information that can't be

released because it's proprietary, dive into petro-

leum geophysics.

By the time I'd spent a couple of days getting

almost nowhere, my editor began to lower his

standards. He'd started by saying he wanted a

"snapshot" of the industry. After a few days, he

was ready to settle for a snapshot. Period.

Interestingly enough, I found myself in the

middle of a seismic survey. Pink tape fluttered

from barbed-wire fences. Star Wars-esque

devices stood everywhere. Big trucks lined up,

ready to shake the ground. Reporter's luck.

Click. Click. Click. Three snapshots.

A name and phone number finally came my

way in a smart phone email from one of the

editor's contacts. I called, and a nice man actu-

ally talked to me! He was something close to a

geophysicist. Close enough for me. Providence.

Then a non-profit organization responded to

my request for information with a bit of jargon

I couldn't understand. I added it. Icing on the

cake.

That's all there is to it.

Just remember to set your standards high

enough to lower them, and remind your editor

you once gave him a nice pair of boots.

That last part might not work for

everybody's.

Hanaba Munn Welch is a columnist and contributor to

Blackburn Media Group newspaper.



HANABA  
MUNN  
WELCH

# The Idle American Wherefore art thou, simpler stage?

In his play, *As You Like It*, debuted some 410 years ago, Will Shakespeare said "all the world's a stage."

We can only guess whether theatre audiences nodded in agreement or shook their heads vigorously to object. Most of them likely were ambivalent, much like "players" on the world's stage today, when we face more issues than anyone cares to count.

So let us consider an addendum to his quote: "and cameras as well as micro-



DON  
NEWBURY

phones." We, the populace, may whimper, protest, mutter, lament or whatever. We are now at that place where sights and sounds are part of public records. Such has been stuffed into our collective pipes, ours to smoke, whether or not we inhale.

Nations spy on nations, corporations on competitors, political parties on each other, and, of course, traf-

fic cameras on motorists.

We may "cry uncle" or not, but it is clear that "uncle's" intrusions have taken over like kudzu, tentacles fully engaged.

More info whizzes about in cyberspace than mere mortals can imagine. The US mail, though, provides sobering reminders.

One came in a foreboding envelope from the City of Fort Worth the other day. It was addressed to me, and I opened it hastily, not dreaming that contents would apply to my wife, not to me.

Lo--and throw in "behold," too--the document, somewhat harshly worded, alleged that a motorist driving a vehicle registered in my name "did then and there commit the following violation... failure to stop at a red light." Supporting

evidence included photos shot from three angles, as well as a video. The "knock-out" blow was unmistakable — a picture "front and center" of my car's license.

I did what any spouse with a lick of sense would do. Racing to my calendar, I prayed that it would provide proof of my being other-where on the fateful day.

Hallelujah! I was in Dallas — driving our "good" car. I was "committing" a speech in the morning and visiting with a friend's family gathered in a hospital surgery waiting room in the afternoon.

After establishing innocence, it was

mine to inform my wife that she had committed a grievous traffic infraction and to contact the county tax office. After all, it seems best to get both our vehicles in her name. That way, she can open future such notifications herself.

She doesn't believe she had done anything wrong, of course. After all, she's been driving for a full half-century, NEVER having received a citation.

Stopped just once for driving a "teensy-weensy" bit over the speed limit, she cried real tears that rolled down reddened cheeks. The officer put away his citation pad, apologizing for causing for causing any inconvenience.

Alas, while tears worked on the officer, they do no good for an emotionless camera. The \$75 check for the fine has been mailed, so officially, the matter is closed. The saga continues verbally, however.

Views of such matters depend on whose foot the shoe pinches. Ours is major surgery; yours is minor, probably even "out-patient." I could probably stand your minor illness on my eyeball.

Brenda "sort of" remembers the errant turn, vowing that the light was primarily amber, maybe with the slightest "pinkish" hue.

My guess is that it was at the epicenter of red—the brightest hue sold at the paint store.

The recent holidays were joyous with convergence of kids and grandkids. At mid-morning, though, "technological overkill" tempered Thanksgiving joy. Daughter Jana and her hubby received frantic phone calls from Tyler. Police, they learned, had converged on their home, responding to a "911" call. Relax, it was a false alarm. After all, no one was home. Some phone line fault triggered the "911" call. (Emergency responders explained that such calls are often the result of such breaches.)

Jana was chagrined. Kinfolks and neighbors inspected every room, making sure the home was free of intruders. With disarray associated with both the holidays and "getting out of town," Jana had postponed housecleaning until right AFTER Thanksgiving. She winced at the thought of others seeing the, uh, mess.

Ah, this stage on which we mortals strut may be far better illuminated than we like."

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

Thanks for reading the News-Courier!

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Geoffrey Baumgartner/The Knox County News-Courier

Munday junior athlete Raci Dillard poses for a photo in the Munday gym with the volleyball net strung tight. Dillard earned All State recognition despite being out part of the season with an ankle injury.

## Local Munday student selected for All-State honor

By Geoffrey Baumgartner  
The Knox County News-Courier

MUNDAY – Another Munday Mogulettes student athlete has been chosen for All-State honors. Junior Raci Dillard has been selected by the UIL to be a member of the 2013 All State volleyball team. This is not the first time one of the Munday Mogulettes has been selected for All State honors and it is beginning to be quite a tradition under Munday Head Coach Kim Kuehler.

“Raci is the fourth All State player Munday has produced since volleyball started in 2007 and this year Raci Dillard was the Offensive MVP for District 6-A,” explains Kuehler.

“Kristen Kuehler was chosen All State

in 2010 and 2011 while Makebra Collier was also chosen to be a 2011 State team player,” Kuehler continues.

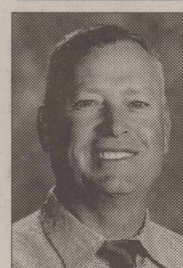
Dillard, who has worked with Coach Kuehler for several years now and who despite being out several games due to an ankle injury, managed a quick recovery and redeemed her person stat record to a high enough point to qualify her name. She also had 354 kills, 73 aces, and 72 blocks in her 30 matches.

While the Mogulettes post-season play-off advancement was cut-short with a straight set loss to Archer City last month, the Mogulettes athletic tradition moves forward as Coach Kuehler’s Munday Junior High (MJH) basketball practices begin and Dillard’s varsity basketball season takes shape well.

## Guest Column 'Twas the week before Christmas break

**T**was the week before Christmas break,  
And all through the school,  
The teachers were trying  
To just keep their cool.

The hallways were hung  
With Christmas and basketball art  
(Some made in back in August  
To get a head start!)



ROBERT DILLARD

The children were bouncing  
Off ceilings and walls,  
And seemed to forget  
How to walk in the halls.

When out of the teacher's workroom  
With holiday shirts and jingle bell jewels,  
The teachers looked festive  
Enforcing the rules.

When all through the building  
There came such a chatter,  
The principal went in  
To see what was the matter.

The teachers were hiding  
And trying to refuel,  
On coffee and cookies  
And treats of the Yule.

When what to their wondering  
Ears do they hear,  
But the ringing of school bells  
— It's the children, "Oh dear!"

More rapid than reindeer  
The little ones came,  
And the teachers all shouted

And called them by name;

Walk, Vincent! Walk, Tanner!  
Walk, Tyler and Sammy!  
Sit, Jamie! Sit, Laura!  
Sit, Tara and Tammy!

To your desks in the room!  
To your spots in the line!  
Now walk to them WALK to them!  
No running this time!

So straight to their places  
The children all went  
With fear of detention  
Where they could be sent.

With manuals of lessons  
Cradled in arms,  
The teachers began  
To use all their charms.

But the lessons presented  
All fell on deaf ears.  
Kids were thinking  
Of Christmas and Santa's reindeer!

With a toss of their hands  
They put manuals aside.  
Went straight to the cupboards  
Where videos hide.

And laying a finger  
On the TV remote  
They sat back to write  
Their last Christmas note.

But you could hear them exclaim  
At the end of the day —  
Have a wonderful, happy and  
L-O-O-O-O-O-N-G HOLIDAY!!!

Robert Dillard is superintendent of schools for the Munday Consolidated Independent School District.

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My dad wants a truck, a dirt bike and a 4-wheeler.  
Love,  
Andres Lopez

Dear Santa,  
I want an Elf on a Shelf, and a actul elf. But I want a toy from Rudolph. Thank you Santa from Chase.  
Love,  
Chase Ledesma

Dear Santa,  
I want for Christmas a airplane of Dusty and a car I can derive on, and a Lego car and hocky game.  
Love,  
Vicente Samano

Dear Santa,  
I wut a camo bed and I wut a lego set and a camo pillowcase, noo boots and noo par uv shoos.  
Love,  
Ty Friddle

Dear Santa,  
I onet a car and a rascar.  
Love,  
Ryder Antilley

Dear Santa,  
I whant a Skylanders Swamp force and a munster truk and a iyerzman too and a pet snake.  
Love,  
Gaven Favor

Dear Santa,  
I want a fijit, firbe, and a zoomer. My dad wants a airplane. Thank you four what you do.  
Love,  
Bailee Hodges

Dear Santa,  
I want some basketball stuff and a roller coaster in the back yard.  
Love,  
Creed Coker

Dear Santa,  
I want my 2 front teeth and I want a tree hous, a swing set, a robote dog, another thing I want a lot a stuf. I want a tooth piloe and a big elf on the shelf. Thank you?  
Love,  
Kylee Stanfield

Dear Santa,  
I want a nref gun and Skylanders figrs, and a lego set. Thank you.  
Merry Christmas.  
Love, Jonah Duke

Dear Santa,  
I want an I-Pad, press playdough and a zoomer. The End. Thank you  
Santa, Mere Christmas.  
Love,  
Reyna Alvarez

Dear Santa,  
I want a pelit gun and I will lev you milk and cookies. Thank you Merry Christmas.  
Love,  
John Cross Utiey

Dear Santa,  
What are you giving me from crimus? I who like a cute tate bar(teddy bear) and I who like a roodor(Rudolph) tatedar(teddy bear) and zoomer and a elf on the shelf and girls and a playset and a baby dol.  
Love,  
Emily Shaver

Dear Santa,  
I want an I-Pad, an elf on the shelf, Kindle and a Pappy(puppy).  
Love,  
Railee Arrieta

Dear Santa,  
I want a red motorcycle, drums, and a football. Thank you Santa, and Merry Christmas.  
Love,  
Gilbert Morelos

Dear Santa,  
Thank you for the presents last year. This year I would like a fone, a wii u, and a skootr. I will leve you koooces and karuts.  
Love,  
Krystabel

Love,  
Kyle Adkins  
Dear Santa,  
Thank you for the presents last year. This year I would like a elf on a shelf and a dog and a cat and a notboock. Tel miss clos I said hi.  
Love,  
Bailey Castorena

Dear Santa,  
Thank you for the presents last year. This year I would like a new skootr and a barbae doll. I will leve milk and cookies and a cairrt for the reindeer.  
Love,  
Taley Espinosa

Dear Santa,  
Thank you for the presents last year. This year I would like a slay and a bik, a blo dart gun, a Ipad, and a kindlfir. I will leve the rainder a karit.  
Love,  
Jayden DelosRios

Dear Santa,  
Thank you for the presents last year. This year I would like a trampoline in my backyard. Don't for get my bruthr and sistr. I will leav you cookees.  
Love,  
Kaleb Herrera

Dear Santa,  
Thank you for the presents last year. This year I would like a ipad. This year I will leve you cookies and milk.  
Love,  
Kamryn Jones

Dear Santa,  
Thank you for the presents last year. This year I would like a elf on a shef and a bice. Have a safe flite.  
Love,  
Addysen Ledesma

Dear Santa,  
Thank you for the presents last year. This year I would like a dog and a bik. I love you and your rander.  
Love,  
Joe Adam Morelos

Dear Santa,  
Thank you for the presents last year. This year I would like a dog and a cat. I will lev milk and cookes.  
Love,  
Arrianna Rubio

Dear Santa,  
Thank you for the presents last year. This year I would like a dog and a cat. I will lev milk and cookes.  
Love,  
Kaylee Silvas

Dear Santa,  
Thank you for the presents last year. This year I would like a bike and a elf on a shelf and I hope that you will have a safe chrip.  
Love,  
Savanna Smith

Dear Santa,  
Thank you for the presents last year. This year I would like a elf on a shelf and a electric scooter. I will leve you milk and cookes.  
Love,  
Krystabel

Dear Santa,  
Thank you for the presents last year. This year I would like a elf on a shelf and a electric scooter. I will leve you milk and cookes.  
Love,  
Krystabel

Dear Santa,  
Thank you for the presents last year. This year I would like a elf on a shelf and a electric scooter. I will leve you milk and cookes.  
Love,  
Krystabel

Dear Santa,  
Thank you for the presents last year. This year I would like a elf on a shelf and a electric scooter. I will leve you milk and cookes.  
Love,  
Krystabel

Dear Santa,  
Thank you for the presents last year. This year I would like a elf on a shelf and a electric scooter. I will leve you milk and cookes.  
Love,  
Krystabel

Dear Santa,  
Thank you for the presents last year. This year I would like a elf on a shelf and a electric scooter. I will leve you milk and cookes.  
Love,  
Krystabel

I have been good. Our elf has been naughty - she cut toilet paper and put it on the Christmas tree. My dog Obie has been really naughty - he bites all over me. Pepe and Titan have been good dogs. Tell my elf to bring me some books, I only have 5. I want a Repunzel doll, a Belle doll and a doll house. I need some new pants and long sleeve shirts and shoes.  
I love you!  
Gabriella Martinez

Dear Santa,  
I love you! I live in Knox City, but I will be in Abilene for Christmas. I have a hug for you! I want an Iron Man toy and transformers for Christmas. I need some shoes and pants also.  
Your friend,  
Alex

Dear Santa,  
I am in Kindergarten and I like going to school. I am six years old.  
Please bring me a Barbie and a puppy. I also need some boots, pants, and a jacket. I am going to leave you some cookies.  
Your friend,  
Jaiden Alligood

Dear Santa Claus,  
I am five years old. I go to school in Knox City.  
I want an remote control car, remote control helicopter and a guitar. I also need shoes, socks and some new clothes. I will leave you some cookies.  
Your friend,  
Christyn

Dear Santa,  
I am 6 years old and I live in Knox City. I will leave you a snack at my dad and meme's house. For Christmas I want the game Doggy Doo, a bike, make-up, a swimming pool, a trampoline and a car that I can ride in. I need some new yellow cowboy boots and some new clothes. I love you, Santa!  
From,  
Avery

Dear Santa,  
I live in Knox City and I am six years old. I am going to be good to my cousin Kamryn. I will leave you some milk, cookies, and some

presents. Please bring me gloves, earrings, shoes, and a bed with drawers. I would also like a diary you can send to other people. I also need some new clothes and some books.  
I Love You,  
K'Lee Rae Grimsley

Dear Santa Claus,  
I am six years old. I saw you at Munday and I told you I wanted Play Dough for Christmas. I was happy to see you. I still want some Play Dough. I need some new shoes and clothes. I will leave you some milk and cookies!  
I love you,  
Lillian Alvarez

Dear Santa,  
I would like an Iron Man and some Lego's for Christmas. I need some new clothes, also. I have been good this year. I am five years old. I live in Knox City. I will leave you some candy. Please remember my friends in Kindergarten.  
I love you,  
Octavious

Dear Santa Claus,

I am five years old. I want to look at Rudolf. I like your hat.  
I want Thomas the Train and Transformer Optimus for Christmas. I could also use Mario Control and Mario 3D World for the Wii.  
Thank you for the toys you brought me last year. I still play with them. Please remember my friend from Kindergarten, Octavious.  
Love,  
Elijah

Dear Santa Claus,  
For Christmas, I would like a Bumble Bee Truck, Transformers and a Race car. I would also like an iPad. I am 5 years old and I go to school. Thank you for what you brought me last year.  
I love you,  
Mauricio Silva

Dear Santa Claus,  
I live in Knox City straight down from the red Knox City Park. I have a dog. I go to school in Knox City. I want an iPad, a pool, and a puppy to play with my other dog. I need some new shoes, new socks, and new clothes.  
I love you,

Coltan Cox  
Dear Santa Claus,  
My name is Isabelle and I am 6 years old. I'll be a t my grandma's for Christmas. I will have some cookies for you. I would like a sister or brother for Christmas. I would also like a pet fish and a pumpkin. Some things I need would be love, peace and to be 18.  
I love you,  
Isabelle Weaver-Lindsey

Dear Santa,  
I am five years old and I go to Kindergarten. I live in Knox City.  
I would like a baby doll crib and a doll carrier. I need a make-over and some markers. Please remember my friends in Kindergarten!  
Your Friend,  
Tessa

Dear Santa,  
I wanted to say thank you for making people believe in you and making me believe in you, too. I just want to ask if I can have an elf please.  
Love,  
Mason



KNOX CITY-OBRIEN CON. INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT			
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE			
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS			
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2013			
Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>REVENUES:</b>			
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 1,283,385	\$ 104,210	\$ 1,387,595
5800 State Program Revenues	1,962,470	290,385	2,252,855
5900 Federal Program Revenues	8,733	666,666	675,399
5020 Total Revenues	3,254,588	1,061,261	4,315,849
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>			
<b>Current:</b>			
0011 Instruction	1,520,626	365,220	1,885,846
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	25,933	-	25,933
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	13,996	2,069	16,065
0021 Instructional Leadership	4,300	170,778	175,078
0023 School Leadership	200,145	-	200,145
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	44,434	158,291	202,725
0033 Health Services	232	-	232
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	62,229	-	62,229
0035 Food Services	4,180	195,977	200,157
0036 Extracurricular Activities	193,510	-	193,510
0041 General Administration	256,023	-	256,023
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	383,765	16,599	400,364
<b>Debt Service:</b>			
0071 Principal on Long Term Debt	-	75,000	75,000
0072 Interest on Long Term Debt	-	16,082	16,082
0073 Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	-	323	323
<b>Capital Outlay:</b>			
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	71,169	-	71,169
<b>Intergovernmental:</b>			
0093 Payments to Fiscal Agent/Member Districts of SSA	78,628	81,432	160,060
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	38,655	-	38,655
6030 Total Expenditures	2,897,825	1,081,771	3,979,596
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	356,763	(20,510)	336,253
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):</b>			
7915 Transfers In	-	1,072	1,072
8911 Transfers Out (Use)	(1,072)	-	(1,072)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(1,072)	1,072	-
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	355,691	(19,438)	336,253
0100 Fund Balance - September 1 (Beginning)	2,432,281	403,295	2,835,576
3000 Fund Balance - August 31 (Ending)	\$ 2,787,972	\$ 383,857	\$ 3,171,829



WSC representative David Albus stands by the Christmas Tree as he proudly holds up the plaque he was just presented with by the United States Department of Agriculture for the \$2.7 million in funding coming into Knox County.



USDA Rural Dev. Director Mike Powell sits and explains to all the other representatives of the Knox County Rural Water Supply Corporation why the WSC and Knox County are receiving the funding. With the Christmas tree in the background, the business of water transportation must be addressed even during the holiday season.

**USDA**  
From Page 1

cans in these situations. "We are extremely pleased to assist in getting water to this rural community that could use it," Powell said. "That is what this program was designed to do." The award is broken up into a \$1.85 million grant and a direct loan of \$868,000 the WSC

will use to build a domestic water system for about 42,000 residents and will include the installation of about 81 miles of water line, a new storage tank and two pumping stations. For Brittany Coker, who has been one of those residents whose family has for two years paid to have water hauled to their home numerous times throughout the month, it really does feel like a Christmas miracle. "This couldn't have come at

a better time for all these residents and families who have spent the last two years shelling out a great deal of money and who have written hundreds of letters to their congressmen and other representatives begging for just a drink of water," Coker said. "The water situation in West Texas will continue to worsen before it gets better. We hope this grant will buy us a little more time in this continual fight against this awful drought."

**Benjamin News**

By Gladene Green

Thank goodness for sunny days! After the miserable weather of a couple of weeks ago, these 30 and 40 degree days seem almost like a heat wave! Just hope the more pleasant days continue until after the holidays, but it is December, so one never knows what may develop over a course of just a little while. We will just have to wait and see.

**About Our Ill**

We have several in the area who are having some pretty serious health issues but undergoing treatment and hopefully in a few days will begin to show improvement.

Janice Tolson is in Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene with a colon problem. At last report, she was getting lots of antibiotics and probably would be having some surgery within a short while. She had not felt well for several days, so she's just where she needs to be so doctors can take care of the problem.

Mike Young came home on Saturday from Hendrick Medical Center, where he had been for several days before and after having open heart surgery. He was feeling fine, but on Sunday morning his blood pressure dropped and after being checked in Knox County Hospital, he was sent back to Abilene (by helicopter, I believe) where he still is today (Monday). No late word on how he is doing and when he may return home. Meanwhile, his mom, Imagean Young is in the Knox County Hospital with double pneumonia. She was admitted on Sunday after feeling bad for several days also. I talked to her today, and she still felt mighty bad. She has IVs and oxygen, though, so she should start to feel better before long.

Carol Dickson is doing pretty well according to those who have visited her. I have not been by but am so glad to get that encouraging report. I'm sure a card would cheer her up, so why not take a few minutes to send her one.

It is a busy time, but we all can make time for our friends.

Hazel Stockton is having her share of problems also. Doctors have not been able to pinpoint the exact cause of why she feels so bad but are still testing. She is very weak and has no appetite, and that alone can sure make anyone feel bad. All these friends need our prayers, so please remember them.

**Christmas Program**

The annual Christmas program was Sunday night at the Baptist Church. Lots of youngsters took part as the story of the first Christmas was led by the supply pastor, James Jackson and read with the congregation taking part. Congregational singing as the story unfolded was enjoyed

by everyone. Preceding the Christmas Story, Tibb Burnett recited some of his cowboy Christmas poetry and also played his harmonica. Then several present gave their account of a very memorable Christmas in their lives. A reception at the Church of Christ Annex followed with everyone enjoying cookies and punch and a time of visiting. It was a very successful evening.

**Here 'N There**

Sharon Patterson Bivens called on Thursday and said she has recently had open heart surgery. She had two bypasses and is doing well now but had several pretty uncomfortable episodes before her problem was diagnosed. She had her surgery in Lubbock, and it will be six weeks before she can go back to work. She is a teacher. It was good to hear from her, and very good to hear she's doing so well. She also said Karson is doing pretty well also, although he's had a few problems as well - the flu and he's still "getting over" aches and pains caused by a bale of hay falling on him in July. But he is doing better.

Bud Conner and I attended the annual Christmas Party at Bud's Cafe Sunday night. All the employees and many of their family members enjoyed an evening of good food, games, gift exchanges, and fellowship.

Jeff Conner and Brandi Jones of Lubbock visited briefly with his mom, Judy, and Randolph Barnett on Sunday afternoon.

Among the out of town relatives here Saturday for the memorial for Carl Engbrock were Randy and Jane Ann Engbrock and Dylan, and Kathy Engbrock Tovar and family of Wichita Falls, Ricky Trepanier and family of O'Brien, Connie Harvey and Sara Golden of Haskell, and Marie Perkins, Kim Trepanier, and Joe Trepanier of Seymour. It had been quite a while since we had seen these folks, and it was good to visit with them for awhile.

Lots of buyers and many "on lookers" were here Saturday for the live estate auction of Gloria West. Most everything she had sold, but the house did not. Maybe someone will come along and buy it before long. It's a shame for a house like that to set vacant. They go down in a hurry.

My sincere wish for each and everyone of you all is for a very merry Christmas and may 2014 be extra good to you. Just be careful, and if you are traveling, watch the other drivers. They may not be as alert as they need to be, and that can cause a problem.

MERRY CHRISTMAS from my house to yours.

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

**PEANUT**  
From Page 1

Increasing feral hog damage has also been a discouragement for peanut growers, he said. A troop of feral hogs, which is called a sounder, can root up several acres overnight. They may attack the crop at all stages

of production, from planting to pegging to digging.

"Feral hogs like peanuts for the same reason people do," Woodward said. "They're high in protein and essential oils."

Most Texas peanuts are grown in the High Plains and Rolling Plains; however, Frio and Atascosa counties account for 15 to 20 percent of acres, he said. Harvesting

times for peanuts in Texas are opposite of other crops. Harvesting begins first in the High Plains, followed shortly thereafter in the Rolling Plains.

"Central Texas is later, and harvesting typically concludes in South Texas, as they can plant later," he said. "Overall, I would say peanut harvest is nearly complete."

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Members of the youth group at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Rhineland last week presented "The Bethlehem Project.."

Submitted photo

## St. Joe's youth perform re-telling of age-old story

RHINELAND — St. Joseph's Youth presented "The Bethlehem Project" to a packed audience on the evening of Dec. 11. Forty-four youth participated in the play with an additional 24 pre-K & K students singing Christmas songs prior to the play. Practices started in early November

for the cast and sponsors, Robert and Janet Dillard.

"The Bethlehem Project featured the traditional Christmas story but with a fresh twist that provided both fun and life relevance for kids. The Bethlehem Kids and the Shepherd Kids don't get along until

they find the Savior. The musical begins with lots of humor and colorful characters but moves to a pointed message of love, salvation and reconciliation. It includes a wide variety of fun music styles: contemporary, country, 1950s rock 'n' roll, rap and more. There are fresh treatments of tradi-

tional carols along with new songs. Following the program, was a reception with homemade Christmas candies and cookies.

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