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THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

HOME OF L.J. COLLIER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2014

KCNEWSCOURIER.COM

75 CENTS

Annual Cotton-Pickin' Quilt Show slated next weekend

By Geoff Baumgartner
 The Knox County News-Courier

GOREE — Goree will be hosting the Knox Prairie Cotton-Pickin' Quilt Show and Cookin' Show this year. This will be the 20th year of the event, which will be taking place on Saturday, Feb. 22 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Knox Prairie Event Center in Goree.

It is being coordinated by Munday Postmaster Vickie Huffman and jointly sponsored by the Going for Greatness Group of Goree as well as the Munday Chamber of Commerce. Also attending will be the Brazos Valley Quilt Guild from Benjamin, who are always on the hunt for new members, and the Paducah Quilt Shop. Popular quilt-maker Susan Spake will be on hand as well.

Quilting is a centuries old American tradition and most traditionally passed down from mother to daughter. An interesting aspect to quilting is the history or sometimes American history contained within it seems. Not only historical, but creative and aesthetic ideas (such as T-Shirt Quilts) can be worked out upon them. They can capture memories which are then incorporated into fabric of the quilt.

Goree began hosting the event three years ago and according to Huffman the show is growing in popularity every year. The cooking show will be in the form of a cupcake competition with other food preparation demonstrations going on as well.

"It is a growing event and we actually just added the cooking show two years ago," said Huffman.

"We would like to show off your quilts old and new alike, so be sure to attend the event and enter them in the competition," Huffman continued.

See **SHOW**, Page 8

Paul says he'll stay true to TTU

By Geoffrey Baumgartner
 The Knox County News-Courier

MUNDAY — Munday's star quarterback from their 2012 state championship winning team will be remaining at Texas Tech University despite rumors and speculation that he was transferring.

Dee Paul led the Moguls varsity football team to the 2011 Texas 1A Division II Championship game, falling short to Tenaha, 51-28. However, he led them again in 2012 to the Texas 1A Division II State Championship game against Tenaha, but this time exacted revenge for the previous year's loss and thoroughly crushed the Tigers, 42-14.

After his star-making senior season, Paul accepted a full scholarship to Texas Tech University amidst much speculation about where he would eventually attend. He was one of the most sought after high school football prospects in the state of Texas during this time, but was eventually recruited to the university by former Texas Tech quarterback and later Tech receivers coach Sonny

See **PAUL**, Page 8



Stephen Spillman of the Avalanche Journal/
 Special to the Knox County News-Courier
Dee Paul

Purple is his color



Janet Dillard/Special to The Knox County News-Courier
Munday senior L.J. Collier signs his commitment papers to TCU with his proud parents by his side as Munday Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Patrick Corcoran looks on smiling.

Mogul Collier to play for Horned Frogs

By Geoffrey Baumgartner
 The Knox County News-Courier

MUNDAY — L.J. Collier, Munday's senior star defensive player of this last season and an active member of their 2012 state championship winning team, has officially decided to attend Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, signing his commitment papers last week.

Collier comes from a long line of high performing Munday football athletes. His Uncle Tim Collier played for Munday as well as his uncles, twins Perry and Terry. Not only did they play, they brought Munday to state-wide prominence when they led Munday to the 1984 Texas State Championship with their outstanding running ability. All three went on to play Division I football, Tim for North Texas University in Denton and the twins for Oklahoma University in Norman and later the Alabama Crimson Tide.

Apparently, L.J. has the genetics and then some, as he is larger than all three of his uncles were—who were slimmer and faster, but not as big as L.J. has grown to be. Collier is 6'4 and weighs 250 lbs, which is an increase from what he weighed during this last football season. He is attempting to bulk up for next year and to win the Texas State Discus Championship in track and field, an event he took second in state in last year for the Moguls.

Originally, Collier was planning on joining his cousin Dee Paul at Texas Tech University and was even actively recruited by the same receiver coach, former TTU quarterback Sunny Cumbie. However, upon a recent trip to Lubbock to discuss his future, Tech defensive coach John Scott, who was strangely not getting back to L.J., informed him that they wanted him to attend Cisco Junior College for a year or two before officially transferring to play TTU, a prospect the 6-foot-4, 250-pound athlete thought was laughable. When looking for an explanation for this unexpected turn, he found one.

Apparently former Head Coach Tommy Tuberville's coach hires left when he did and several of those coaching staffs' active recruits dropped out of Texas Tech this year and last. This left new different

coaches to recruit their own new choices, of which Collier was not among them. However, afterward he was approached by Cumbie, who told him he was taking a new coaching position at TCU, still wanted L.J. even if Tech did not, and would get TCU to offer him a full scholarship. Cumbie was true to his word and L.J. eventually got the offer. He was very thankful to Coach Cumbie.

"Coach Cumbie is the one that originally looked at Mogul game films, traveled to our practices in Munday, talked to Coach Corcoran, and recruited not only me, but my cousin Dee Paul to Texas Tech too."

When asked if he was disappointed about not getting to play with Paul this next year as the two had originally planned, he wasn't disappointed but optimistic.

"I've been playing on football teams with Dee since I was in second grade, it's time now for me to do my own thing and make a name for myself on my own terms," Collier proudly asserted.

When Dee Paul was asked how he felt about it, he was disappointed in Tech recruiting staff.

"We should not have stopped recruiting him, I think it was a mistake, but I'm proud of L.J., he's doing his own thing now," said Paul, who is currently an active member of the Red Raider football and track and field roster.

His parents are also in total support of his decision and could not be more proud.

Lawrence had L.J. after fathering three daughters with his wife and was thrilled to have a son he could make a Mogul football player to follow in the footsteps of his family.

"Proud doesn't describe how I feel about my son, the word is just not enough," Lawrence Collier explained.

While L.J. will miss Munday and being a Mogul he is anxiously looking forward to playing for TCU and going up against the school that abandoned recruiting him.

"I'm looking forward to a fresh start in Fort Worth at TCU, and Texas Tech will regret their decision when they have to play against us," Collier said with confidence.

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.

The Noah Project

North Advisory Committee will meet Friday, February 14, 2014, at Pit N Grill. Please attend if at all possible to discuss our annual fund raiser to be held on Saturday, April 26, 2014, at the Haskell Civic Center. Contact Donna Sue Anders for more information, 940-864-2551.

Support Group Meetings

AA and Al-Anon meetings are 7 pm Tuesdays, the Doug Meinzer Activity Center, 203 SW Fourth St., Knox City, TX. Call if you have questions, JoAnn @ 940-658-3926.

Job Fair

Green Pastures Wind Farm job fair will be 2 to 5 pm Feb 15 at the Knox County Courthouse in Benjamin. Vendors and subcontractors are encouraged to attend. Contact Jimi Copeland at 940-459-4121 or email kcvg@srcaccess.net.

Relay for Life

This year's event will be May 3 at the Munday High School track. Volunteers needed. For information, contact chairwoman, Leann Harlan, at memawharlan@yahoo.com.

KCAC Raffle

Knox County Aging Center members are selling \$1 tickets for a \$250 gift card to Walmart as a fundraising project. The drawing will be held during the center's Mother's Day luncheon on May 11. Call the Center at 940-657-3618 for information.

Tabana Yuane

The annual sunrise wind ceremony predicting the upcoming crop season will be March 22 at Post City Park. The tradition dates back to a spring ritual of the Cherokee Indians of the region. Call the Post Area Chamber for more information at 806-495-3461.

Military exhibit

The Garza County Historical Museum, 119 N. Ave. N, Post, has a new exhibit of more than 100 cast-dyed military warplane models on display as part of the 72nd anniversary of the 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor. The planes were donated by U.S. Marine Corps veteran Patrick Reilly and will be part of the museum's permanent collection. This county museum is housed in an old sanitarium built in 1912 by C.W. Post. Exhibits feature artifacts significant to the county and of general interest to visitors. For information, call 806-495-2207.

Corrections

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

News on the go



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Knox County News-Courier
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 Volume 36 No. 29
 USPS 439-620



Knox courthouse noted in upcoming book

By Geoffrey Baumgartner
 The Knox County News-Courier

BENJAMIN — Knox County is going to be featured in a new book hitting the website Amazon.com. The book is titled "The



Hines is a retired rancher who stumbled into writing, discovering his passion late in life. This is his fifth book with the possibility for more. Hines own home-town of Kit Car-

son, CO is now down to around 200 people, which was a motivating factor for him to write the book, so he is no stranger to small town life.

"As a rancher and also after retirement I have put on thousands of miles in rural areas. I like back roads for one never knows what you will see over the next hill. I like history and after getting the writing bug, I decided to do this book. It is my fifth book. I have one other general interest book and three on ranch management," says Hines, who is beginning to amass several titles under his belt as an author.

"I put on ranch management workshops around the western states. I am always picking up more information on my travels and wondering what my next book may be," Hines continues.

See **BOOK**, Page 8



The Knox County Courthouse as it stands today. The original courthouse was a stone and strip structure and was replaced with a more modern courthouse from 1888-1936. The current courthouse, which is featured in Hines's book, was built and has been in use since 1936.

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The Knox County News-Courier (ISSN 8750-6750) is published every Thursday, including holidays, by Blackburn Media Group Inc., P.O. Box 1260, Childress, Texas, 79201-1260. Entered at U.S. Post Office, Munday, Texas, for transmission through the mail as a Second-Class matter, according to an Act of Congress, March 3, 1879. Periodical Rate Postage Paid at Munday, Texas, 76371. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Knox County News-Courier, P.O. Box 151, Munday, TX 76371.

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The Knox County News-Courier

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



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Letter to the editor Coverage kudos

The Knox County News-Courier published a good article by Mr. Geoffrey Baumgartner about our "Meet the Candidates" program last Thursday. It was a pleasant surprise to me to see individual pictures and quotes of each of the candidates. If you don't subscribe to the paper, you may want to pick one up and see. Thank you, Mr. Baumgartner!

LOU VAIL
Chairwoman, Knox County
Republican Party

Knox County to add new full-time 911 dispatcher and Switch machine leasing providers

By Geoffrey Baumgartner
The Knox County News-Courier

BENJAMIN - Knox County's Commissioners Court recently met in open session Feb. 11 and voted to add an additional full-time dispatcher to the currently understaffed Knox County 911 service. The Commission also voted to switch leasing companies for the heavy Cat machines and Sheriff's vehicle the County currently utilizes.

Hiring and training a new 911 dispatcher is no easy feat and does not come cheaply. The average cost for a telecommunicators license-which all 911 dispatchers are required to have is around \$1800, and that is before the cost of the two month training requirement needed before a person can actually sit in the seat and take emergency calls. After license and training the average cost falls in between \$4000-\$5000.

The vote eventually passed 4-1, with commissioner Urbanczyk being the only dissenting vote. With the addition of this new employee the

number of full time Knox County 911 dispatchers now grows to five.

In addition, they also voted to switch from American National Leasing Company to First National Bank Leasing with Stewart Cobb in Wichita Falls- the Bank's leasing representative. The leasing agreement will cover the one 2012 Cat Dozer and two 2013 Cat Motorgraders they county uses for construction and road projects. The switch was made because of the low interest rate of 2.25% Cobb offered and his consistent working relationship with the commission, as opposed to the roughly 3.00% interest rate it pays now.

Refinancing with First National will not only increase the equity of those machines, but will eventually save Knox County around \$7,000 annually. The lease also included a lower interest rate for Knox County Sheriff Dean Homstad's patrol truck-which was an added benefit. The motion eventually passed 3-2.

Menus: Week of Feb 17-21

Knox City-O'Brien

Breakfast
Monday: Biscuits with sausage and gravy or cereal bowl, toast, peaches, juice, milk

Tuesday: Cinnamon toast with sausage or cereal bowl with sausage, pears, juice, milk

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

Thursday: Pancakes with syrup or cereal bowl with sausage, applesauce, juice, milk

Friday: Cinnamon roll with sausage or cereal bowl, toast, pineapple, juice, milk

Lunch

Monday: Beefy macaroni or antipasto salad or bologna and cheese, glazed carrots, corn, fruit, slushy, milk

Tuesday: Chicken nuggets or fajita chicken salad or turkey and cheese, gravy mashed potatoes, green beans, pears, slushy, milk

Wednesday: Soft beef tacos or garden pasta salad or ham and cheese, Mexican beans, lettuce, orange, slushy, milk

Thursday: Ballpark hot dogs or zesty tuna salad or tuna salad, mashed potatoes, applesauce, peaches, slushy, milk

Friday: Pizza or chef salad or po-boy sandwich, tator tots, pork n' beans, fruit, slushy, milk

Munday

Breakfast
Monday: Biscuits with sausage gravy, honey graham, applesauce, slushy, juice, milk

Tuesday: Cereal bowl with sausage, mixed fruit, slushy, juice, milk

Wednesday: Mini corndogs, honey graham, cinnamon apple slices, slushy, juice, milk

Thursday: Cinnamon toast cereal bowl with sausage, pineapple, slushy, juice, milk

Friday: Pancakes with syrup, honey graham peaches, slushy, juice, milk

Lunch

Monday: Beefy macaroni or bologna and cheese, glazed carrots, corn, grapes, slushy, milk

Tuesday: Chicken nuggets or turkey and cheese, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, pears, slushy, milk

Wednesday: Soft beef tacos or ham and cheese, Mexican

style beans, lettuce, orange, slushy, milk

Thursday: Ball park hot dog or tuna salad, mashed potatoes, applesauce, peaches, slushy, milk

Friday: Pepperoni pizza or po-boy, tator tots, pork n'beans, grapes, slushy, milk

Knox County Aging Center

Monday: Closed for Presidents' Day

Tuesday: Baked ham and pineapple, lima beans, chuckwagon corn, cornbread, chocolate chip cookies

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

Thursday: Glazed meat loaf, red potatoes, mixed vegetables, bread sticks, country apple crisp

Friday: Hamburgers, potato wedges, tomato-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.

The Paperboy What would you do with billions of bullets?

I guess if we're ever invaded, you can trust the United States Post Office to get your six.

Or perhaps the USPS just needs tons of ammunition to fight off wild dogs.

Whatever the reason, the USPS has joined other government agencies in stockpiling enough ammo to take down a country. Or keep one together.

In what postal officials now call a "standard purchase" for the Postal Police, the USPS is currently seeking companies that can provide "assorted small arms ammunition."

The agency now joins the Department of Education and NOAA acquiring huge arsenals.

On Jan. 31, the USPS Supplies and Services Purchasing Office posted a notice on the Federal Business Opportunities website soliciting contractors to register with USPS as potential ammunition suppliers.

"The United States Postal Service intends to solicit proposals for assorted small arms ammunition," the notice reads, which also mentioned a deadline of Monday, Feb. 10.

Since 2001, the U.S. Dept. of Education, through purchases orchestrated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, has spent over \$80,000 on Glock pistols and over \$17,000 on Remington shotguns.

In July of last year, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration purchased 72,000 rounds of .40 Smith & Wesson, following a 2012 purchase for 46,000 rounds of .40 S&W jacketed hollow point by the National Weather Service.

NOAA spokesperson Scott Smullen responded to concerns stating the purchase was meant for the NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement for its bi-annual "target qualifications and training."

Including mass purchases by the Department of Homeland Security, it is estimated that non-military federal agencies have combined to purchase over two billion rounds of ammunition in the past two years.

For good measure, the Feds have also spent millions on riot control measures.

In addition, Homeland Security spent over \$58 million on hiring security details for just two Social Security offices in Maryland.

The arms and ammunition grab goes on and on.

Does any of this make anybody else a little nervous? Is there a reason for non-military agencies to stockpile over two billion bullets?

I find it ironic that the USPS can't afford to keep the lights on, but they're buying enough ammunition to arm a large militia.

I don't like the fact that our government feels it should take arms from Americans yet is preparing to do what to Americans? Protect us? Control us? Kill us?

It should scare everyone of us for agencies based on our own soil to have as many weapons and as much ammunition as they have.

For the life of me, I can think of only one reason for this and it's terrifying.

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@blackburnmediagroup.com and you can follow him on Twitter @WCSBlackburn.

Thanks for Reading
the News-Courier!

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Munday, Texas

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

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KC Historical Commission holds silent auction

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

Benjamin – Knox County's Historical Commission was finally able to put on its planned fundraising luncheon this past weekend that was postponed for a week due to hazardous winter weather conditions and the turnout was quite large. It appeared as if the entire county attended to either get some delicious food or participate in the silent auction that was being held.

All the major political candidates attended, as well as several families with their children, cowboys, municipal workers and etc. While there was brisket, sausage and all the traditional country fixings served on site, folks were also able to walk through the side entrance and get a stacked

to go plate if they were not able to attend the entire event.

In addition to the food being served, there was also a silent auction being put on during the lunch. There were several useful and artistic items being auctioned. Everything from fire extinguishers, horseshoe wine racks, Texas shaped clocks, squirrel traps, 170 piece Crescent brand tool kits, home décor, valuable sterling silver silverware sets, and numerous freshly baked cakes.

Valerie Young, the curator of the Wichita Brazos Museum and Cultural Center in Benjamin and the one responsible for organizing the event, was not only pleased with the amount of people who showed up, but was very satisfied with the food being served as well.

"I am just so appreciative of all the help we

have received, plus the food is delicious," Young exclaimed.

Needless to say, she was very proud of the event and recognized how much it truly benefits the museum.

"This event is the museums largest fundraiser of the year and is very necessary," Young continued.

Several Knox County residents stepped up to volunteer for the event, which made the entire thing possible. Dan Offutt of the Historical Commission announced the auction, while Ann Thurwanger and Becky Offutt assisted in handing out the prizes. In addition, Stephen and Shelia Kuehler were on hand serving up the take-out plates while Fred and Nancy McGreger managed the side door where the actual take-out

plates were served. Jan Kildgore was also readily available serving up cheesecake, pecan, apple, and various cream pies.

After the event, participants were encouraged to attend the museum and view their historic attractions. The museum held special weekend hours to accommodate folks after the fundraiser.

Furthermore, while the Historical Commission hosted the event for the museum in Benjamin, it was the commission itself that saw some recent changes. At a recent session of the Knox County Commissioners Court, the commissioners voted to appoint Fred McGreger and Richard and Pam Garrett while they simultaneously voted to remove Jessie Roberts and the late W.R. Baker, a very prominent Knox County politician and educator who passed in recent months.



An overview of the event with the United States and Texas flags proudly displayed above the auction. All the proceeds from the auction and food went to the Wichita Brazos Museum and Cultural Center in Benjamin.



Pam Duke, being served fresh pie by Ann Kildgore with the auction taking place behind them. In addition to the food sold at the event, all of the remaining fixings were sold off after the event as well.



Dan Offutt holds up a prize for one of the lucky winners during the silent auction. He is assisted by Ann Thurwanger to his left and Byron Gass to his right.



Fred and Nancy McGreger hand out to go plates as residents enter from the side entrance to get their food to take home. Fred McGreger was recently appointed to the Knox County Historical Commission and volunteered to help put on the event.

Benjamin News

By **Gladene Green**

Despite the early morning fog that "hung around" until nearly noon Sunday, the cold temps and just plain miserable weather, the meal at noon turned out to be (once again) very successful. A large crowd was on hand to enjoy the sausage, turkey, and brisket, beans, cole claw, potato salad, and a choice of pie or cake with tea and/or coffee. Folks were here from lots of places. I saw visitors from Vernon, Crowell, Abilene, Old Glory, Seymour, Goree, Knox City, Munday, Haskell, and College Station. We also had some from Minnesota and New Mexico, who were in the area and came to enjoy the food and fellowship. Lots of door prizes were awarded (I didn't get one!) and the silent auction proved once again to be a real "attention getter." Most everything donated was bid on, so a bunch of folks went home happy with their "take." All things considered, it was a good day for everyone and several bought the food that was left for supper, and maybe to have some for a day or two this

week. Mary Young, who is president of the Knox County Historical Commission, had nothing but praises for the board and also all the volunteers who played such a big part in the success of this annual event. She said she was amazed at people who just "pitched in" and did anything they saw that needed to be done. A good team effort is what makes things work!

Well, after all that cold, snowy mess last week, we wake up to ice on the surface today. The slow drizzle last night made it just wet enough for the cold temps to cause a thin layer of dangerous ice! Lots of vehicles have been slipping off the roadways keeping the local "helpers" busy getting them going again. The moisture is wonderful, and we are thankful, but we could stand a few warmer days now. We'll see what the rest of the week brings.

Imagean Young said her son, Mike, is holding his own but still hospitalized at HMC and will be for quite a while longer. He is taking some kind of therapy where he is put into a chamber that provides extra oxygen that is supposed to

help in the healing process of his wound. He's ready to come home, but doctors say not yet. If you are in Abilene and have time, drop by Hendrick and see him. I'm sure he would like to see someone from home.

Carol Dickson continues to do well with her chemo, and she's at the store quite a lot. So that's very good news.

Butch Young has undergone back surgery recently but is home now and doing well. He lives in Saginaw, and his surgery was in Arlington. Good to know he's doing well. He's a brother of the late Dutch and Jackie Young and Pat Benson.

Kenneth and Ila Mae Benson and Wanda Jennings of Wichita Falls and Tommy Benson of Abilene were here Sunday for the meal and to enjoy some family visiting as well as visiting friends. They are always good to support things "back home."

I visited with Rudy Gore Friday night. He's living back at Vera now. I had not seen him in so many years. I didn't recognize him.

But we had a nice visit, and it was good to see him.

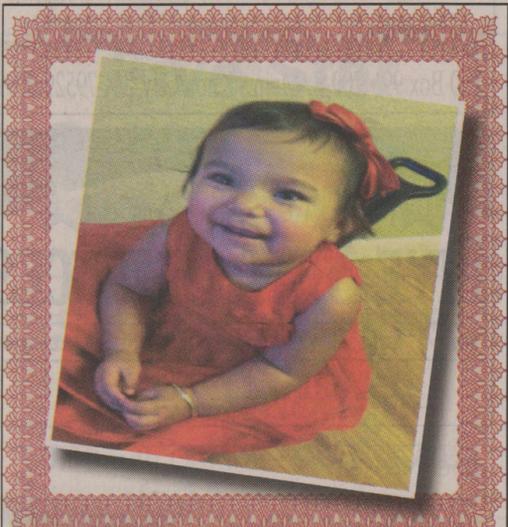
My great grandson, Dillon Keys, has been ill the past few days, but doctors are taking good care of him. He's on a ten-day antibiotic drip treatment, and doctors think that will clear up the cause of his elevated white count. He goes to the Seymour hospital every day for the drip, which takes about an hour and a half. Please remember him in your prayers.

Are you interested in watching the Olympics this week? Some of the events I really enjoy—Some, not so much, but that's the good thing about TV—I can always turn the channel.

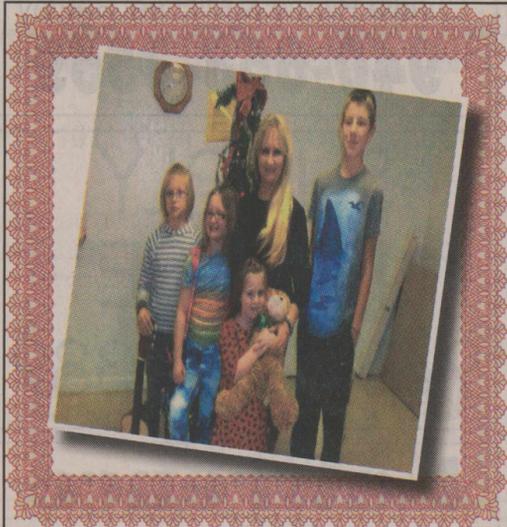
News is scarce again this week. Remember to call me if you have something to report. I always say, "Everyone is interested in what their friends and neighbors are doing."

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

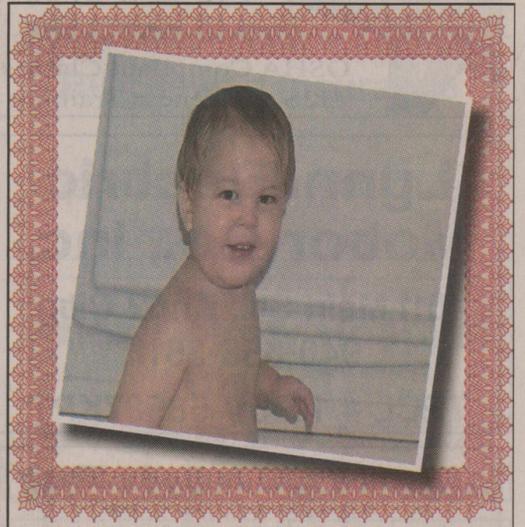
Happy Valentine's Day



Lylah Jade Burns, 1 year old
Happy Valentine's Day
Parents: Brooke Rocha & Rolando Burns
Grandparents: Pete & Robbin Rocha;
Billy & Teresa Burns



Becca (red), Lainy (guitar), Skylar (blue), Sloan (boy) & Patti Currie (middle)
Have a Wonderful Valentine's Day!
Love,
Parents: Aaron & Julie Lewis (Becca, Lainy, Sloan) of Burkburnett, Brandon Lewis (Skylar) of Knox City; Grandparents: Patti & Keith Currie of Abilene; Danny & Ambra Lewis of Knox City; Danny & Sherry Speck of Knox City; Great-Grandparents: Dallas & Dorothy Jean Dykes of Knox City; Elaine Lewis of Knox City; Josie Lewis of Knox City



John Kirk Baumgartner
"Happy Valentine's Day to our special little man, we love you!!"
Geoffrey and Coach Sammy Jo Baumgartner

The 501 If cows had Olympics, Rio Rita takes the gold

Any calf born this week on our farm is going to be named Olympus or Olympia, per the gender — not for Sochi 2014 but in honor of a different brand of Olympics. The cattle brand.



HANABA MUNN WELCH

It's the Winter Cattle-Feeding Olympics — challenging events that revolve around cows and humans in coldest winter, and I do mean revolve.

Picture yourself following the branded end of headstrong alpha cow around and around a big bale of hay, close on her heels as you remove the bale wrapping for the very nearby hungry herd, snow everywhere. On our farm, that's how it happens. The lead cow is the one-eared longhorn

Rita. Think of her as a gold medalist. She does.

Think of me as the token human. I do. Why go to the trouble to march three times around each bale to remove the netting? Rita could rip it off with her horns. But protocol must prevail. After all, it's the Olympics.

No, I haven't timed us yet. How was I to know I'd be reporting on these games? I just now came up with the name.

What's more, the march around the bale is really more like an opening ceremony than a competitive event. When it comes to feeding cows, each day starts with some sort of opening ceremony.

One way to kick things off is to create a parade around the arena by distributing cubed feed automatically from one of those nifty dispensers mounted on a truck bed, like leaving a trail of really big

breadcrumbs. But we don't have one of those dispensers. So it's always just me and Rita and the ritual hay bale march.

The music? Yesterday I found myself singing "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush" — no worse than some national anthems you hear only during the other Olympics.

Moving right along, my favorite cow-feeding story is borrowed from my distinctly non-cowboy friend Jerry, who, perched on the back of a truck (or maybe it was a trailer), was assigned to open sacks of feed for a whole herd of hungry cows while his brother-in-law drove.

Poor Jerry, not having trained for the event, frantically tried to determine which end of which string to pull to get the first sack to open. Meanwhile, the cows were in stampede mode, wild-eyed and snorting, pressing in, thinking of the sacks as piñatas. Jerry finally must have

pulled the right string. He survived to tell about it. Picture his brother-in-law watching in the rear-view mirror, smiling.

Whatever the opening ceremony, the cows munch away afterward and don't even watch the events that feature humans — stuff like ice breaking, feed-tub wrestling and off-road driving through mud, snow and ice.

All it would take to publicize and market the Winter Cattle-Feeding Olympics would be an organized winter competition somewhere snowy, starring a herd of iconic longhorns and some expert cattle feeders who've honed their skills in the sport.

Rounding up the humans would be the hard part. They're all feeding cattle.

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

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KC Basketball

Houndettes slip past Crowell

By Geoffrey Baumgartner
The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY – Knox City girls hosted Crowell this past week, and while it was an extremely close game with the Lady Cats dominating the first half, the Houndettes remained steady with their press and eventually dominated the second half. While Crowell's first half performance netted them the lead, it did not produce as many points as the Houndettes second half performance and Knox City took the game by the narrow two-point margin of 51-49.

The box score for the game had Knox City putting up eight points during the first quarter while Crowell put up 15, 10 points during the second quarter while Crowell managed 13, 16 points during the third to Crowell's eight, and 17 during the fourth quarter com-

pared to Crowell's 13 points.

Leading scorers for the Houndettes were Makaylie Steele with a massive 21 points, Jordyn Eaton with eight points, Cassandra Ledesma with eight points as well, and Shailee Manning with six points.

Head Coach Jason Josselet was thrilled with how his girls stayed positive, remained tough on defense, and managed to pull out a tough win.

"We got down early, but we stuck with it. We picked up our defensive intensity in the second half, which led to some easy baskets. We fought back and didn't get down on ourselves. I'm proud of our girls. They fought hard and made some big plays down the stretch," said Coach Josselet.

With this victory, the Houndettes regular season record is now 11-10, while their district record soars to 8-2.

New farm bill improves crop insurance program

By Mary Jane Buerkle
Special to the Courier

After three years of negotiating, farmers and ranchers across the nation finally have a farm bill that will guide U.S. ag policy over the next five years.

The U.S. Senate last week passed the Agricultural Act of 2014 by a vote of 68-32. President Obama signed the bill on Monday in Michigan, Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow's home state.

"We appreciate the Senate for coming together in bipartisan fashion to pass this bill and move it forward to the president for his signature," Plains Cotton Growers President Craig Heinrich, a cotton grower from Slaton, said. "We commend the House Agriculture Committee and Chairman Frank Lucas, along with the Senate Agriculture Committee and Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow, for creating a legislative package that saves money, cuts the deficit, and reforms and streamlines programs."

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the bill the prior week, 251-166.

PCG Executive Vice President Steve Verett noted the Agricultural Act of 2014 advanced relatively quickly through both the House and Senate because of excellent leadership, and congressional leaders from West Texas played key roles on the bill's creation and passage.

"We are fortunate to have strong West Tex-

as representation on the farm bill conference committee in Congressmen Mike Conaway and Randy Neugebauer," Verett said. "They understand why this bill is so important to our area and to the state, and have been actively working for agriculture, which is the cornerstone of our regional economy."

However, Verett said, PCG officials are disappointed that Texas Senators Ted Cruz and John Cornyn chose not to support the Agricultural Act of 2014.

"This bill saves billions of dollars while achieving meaningful reforms, and is the best we could expect in today's budgetary and political climate," Verett said. "Our farmers need some assurance that they will have the tools they need to continue to grow our food and fiber."

Plains Cotton Growers will join with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Texas Tech University, and other ag-related organizations to host educational seminars regarding implementation of the farm bill.

The bill includes a transition program for cotton in the 2014 crop year, since enactment will come too late for USDA and the private sector to offer the new Stacked Income Protection Plan (STAX).

Crop insurance continues to be the backbone of the farm safety net for cotton, and the bill includes several important improvements in the crop insurance program that will allow farmers to better tailor their crop insurance to the appropriate risk.

Greyhounds fall short to Crowell Wildcats

By Geoffrey Baumgartner
The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY – Knox City's Greyhound varsity team took on Crowell this past week, and while the Wildcats did not put up 98 points this time, they were still able to overcome our defense to get the win. However, the Greyhounds slowed down the tempo of the game, which was their intention going in and managed to keep a powerhouse team in check, although still falling short in the end, 72-50.

The box report for the game showed that Knox City managed to put up 11 points during the first quarter to Crowell's 16, 10 points in the second quarter to Crowell's 19, 10 points again in the third compared to Crowell's 18, and 19 points in the fourth quarter compared to Crowell's 19 also.

Major point scorers for the Greyhounds were Zach Carter with 10 points, Ryan Heard with 11 points, Krys Campos with 11 also; Tylynne Eaton with two points, while Skylar Neill put up five points, and Ibn Lag-

way managed six points.

Head Coach Josh Webb thought his team played tough, recognizing his team's defense effort.

"After the craziness of the last time we played Crowell this game was relatively low key. Also, we followed a great girls game where they pulled off the win to secure 2nd. Congrats to them. We tried to slow it down as much as possible because we know that they like to play at a very fast pace. We could not keep up with them last game so it was our game plan going in. We still turned it over too much but only allowing 73 pts instead of 98 was a big win for us. We also held the best scorer in the district under 20pts. It was some good confidence and practice going into the playoffs."

Knox City's boys overall season record now stands at 8-2, while their district record drops to 8-2. Knox city's first playoff game opponent will be decided by the winner of the Feb. 11 Guthrie vs. Jayton match-up.

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Munday Moguette senior Tatum Bufkin gets All-State award

By Geoffrey Baumgartner
The Knox County News-Courier

MUNDAY – Munday senior and this seasons Moguette basketball team's star player (highest point scorer), was recently named by the Texas Sports Writers Association to their district 6A All-State Volleyball Team. She was given an honorable mention setter award derived from her performance from the last three seasons starting on the team.

While junior Raci Dillard was the primary middle hitter who would land numerous spikes per game for the varsity Moguette volleyball team, it was Bufkin that almost always provided her with the quintessential set. Setting is a vital position that enables the hitters to make the plays and score the points for the team. Basically, she would throw up assists for other team mates to make kills, or spikes as they are commonly referred.

Munday Head Volleyball Coach Kim Kuehler was very proud of Bufkin, and could not have been more pleased with the honor.

"Tatum has worked very hard and deserves her success. I am very proud of her this season," said Coach Kuehler.



A close-up of senior Tatum Bufkin as she grasps the Moguettes District Winner trophy from this past 2013 season. She attained her All-State status despite being out with an ankle injury for a portion of the season.

"The 2013 Moguette varsity volleyball team had two All-State players this year, senior Tatum Bufkin and junior Raci Dillard," Coach Kuehler continued.

The Moguettes were the district 6A champions this past volleyball season and worked rigorously to attain the trophy.

UIL Solo and Ensemble

24 members of the Purple Cloud Band competed at the UIL Solo and Ensemble competition this past Saturday. Results are:

Soloists receiving a Division 1 were:
Ariana Arellano – Alto Sax
Grace Tidwell – Tenor Sax
Kimberly Shahan – Trumpet
Haley Ericson – Twirling
Sonora Escamilla – Twirling
Kamille Redder – Twirling

Ensembles receiving a Division 1 were:
Flute Trio consisting of Denise Araujo, Rebecca Carranza, and Ana Vega.

Flute Quartet consisting of Paloma Perez, Mayte Torres, Maria Vega and Jenna Wertz.

Ensemble receiving a Division 2 was:
Clarinet Choir consisting of Sonora Escamilla, Charity Hunter, Mariela Jasso, Hilda Mendez, Ariana Nunez, Diamond Perez, Mayra Ramirez, Kamille Redder, Janie Salinas, Victoria Salinas, Reagan Sanderson, Baylie Taylor and Kayla Taylor.

The Flute Quartet and Twirlers will advance to the State Solo and Ensemble contest in May in Pflugerville.



Munday girls annihilate Anson for second time in a row

By Geoffrey Baumgartner
The Knox County News-Courier

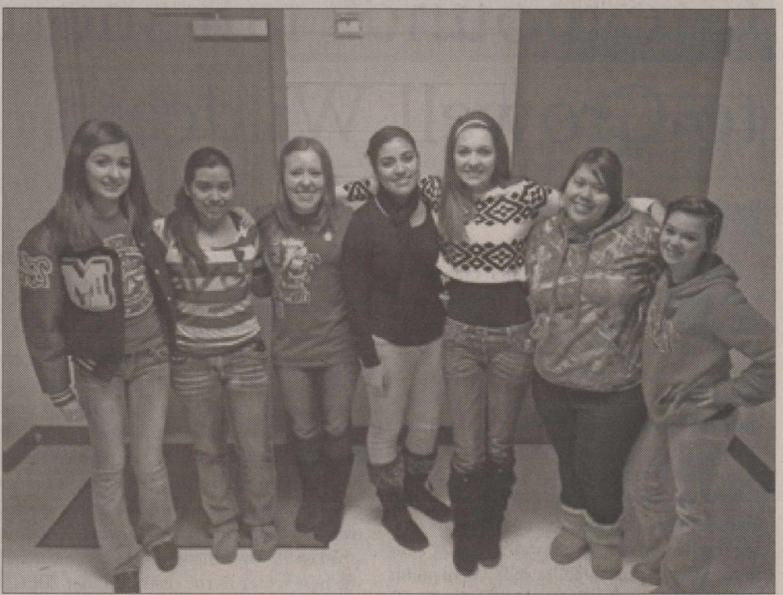
MUNDAY – Munday's Moguettes hosted the Lady Tigers this past week and needless to say, they blew-out the Anson for the second time in their last two meetings. While the heavy pressure defense that Munday applied kept the Lady Tigers off the board during the first quarter, they did eventually attempt to mount a comeback before the first half ended, but it was too little, too late. Even with Munday letting off their full-court press during the second half, the Moguettes continued to dominate eventually winning the game 35-11.

While it was not a particularly high scoring game, the Munday girls were still able to put up 14 points during the first

quarter, seven points during the second quarter, nine during the third, and five points during the fourth quarter.

Individual Moguette standouts for the Anson game were Tatum Bufkin with 11 points, one assist, five rebounds, and two steals while Raci Dillard netted nine points, two assists, 11 rebounds, and one block. Other major contributors for the Moguettes were Kaylan Urbanczyk with seven points, one assist, seven rebounds, three blocks, and two steals and Tiffany Serrato with five points, two assists, a whopping 12 rebounds, and one steal. Maria Vega also managed to put up two points, two assists, two rebounds, and one steal.

With this latest win, Munday finishes their regular season with 14-12, while their district record caps off at 6-4.



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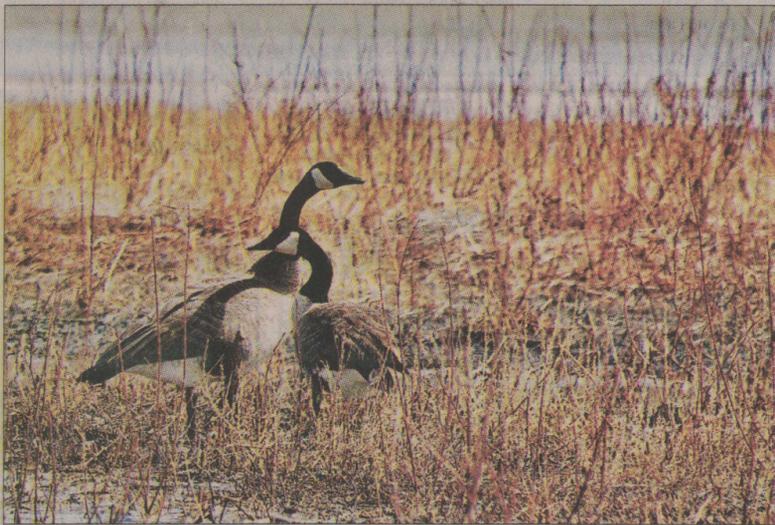
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Wilder's Nature Journal



S.J. Dahlstrom

Canada geese are remarkable creatures in that once they mate, the pair stays together the rest of their lives.

By S.J. Dahlstrom

I see these geese every winter, honking as they fly over my head.

Flocks of Canada geese always travel in "V" formations so each bird can rest when not in the lead. The front bird has to work the hardest, and his wing beat deflects some of the wind resistance for the next bird. This pattern deflects the wind one goose at a time, all the way back the last geese bringing up the rear of the formation.

If you watch for a while, you can see the front bird going from the front to the back as they swap the lead position with each other, each pulling its own weight and taking turns.

I wonder who taught them how to do this?

Another amazing thing about them is that the Canada goose mate for life. This is fairly unique in the animal world. Two geese can stay together their whole lives which can be as long as 25 years.

I wonder who taught them that, too? "Till death do they part" —Canada geese take their partnership pretty serious, I guess.

S.J. Dahlstrom is a Garza County resident and author of the young adult fiction book series "The Adventures of Wilder Good," based on a 12-year-old boy who enjoys hunting, fishing, cowboying and just about everything there is to do outdoors.

Dixie Divas

Don't wait on 'some day'

Some day," Daddy used to say often as I was growing up, "I'm going to the Holy Land. I want to walk where Jesus walked."

He talked about it a lot and dreamed about it even more. In those days before the world was presented to us wrapped up in a passel of knowledge known as the Internet, Daddy bought big maps of that storied land. They were gingerly rolled up and tied with a ribbon after each time he

spread them out on the kitchen table and studied them like a child studying a new game. Sometimes he carried the maps with him and showed them to other people, pointing out key points of interest in the life of Christ or the path that the Apostle Paul had traveled. He treated them as a precious treasure and so they were — they represented his

dream.

"How are you gonna get there?" I, twelve or thirteen at the time, asked one day from the back seat of the car as he talked to Mama about it. Daddy didn't fly. Never stepped on an airplane in his life and he wasn't about to start. Even for Jesus.

"I'll take a ship," he replied. In World War II, he had served in the Navy in the South Pacific so he liked ships — not a boat, mind you — a lot. Planes, he reasoned, just weren't necessary when you could drive, ride a train or a take a ship anywhere you wanted to go.

He said it often. "Mark my words, I'm gonna see the Holy Land before I die. Some day." It is the only time he ever laid down a declaration with "mark my words" that it didn't happen. I can't tell you why he never went except that I suspect it had to do with the cost. Whenever Daddy set his mind to something, he would work hard until the money had been earned to

do it. However, it would have taken a lot of dollars to take a ship to the Holy Land and most probably, my daddy, a survivor of what he often called 'Hoover Days' known to others as the Great Depression, just couldn't justify the expenditure. My parents, admirably now I realize, always lived as though another Depression lay just around the corner.

"What if times get hard again?" Mama asked repeatedly. "You gotta be ready."

I suspect that's why some day never came for Daddy's trip to the Holy Land. And that makes me sad. He wanted it so much. He worked so hard. And he gave so much to those around him that he deserved to have that dream. I wish I hadn't been so caught up in my life that I didn't realize that one day he just stopped talking about "some day." Though I was still struggling myself in those days, perhaps I could have persuaded him to keep looking forward to that "some day." Now, if he were still alive and wanted to go, I would give him my savings or work another job to make it happen.

I hate to say that I didn't realize then how much "some day" meant to him.

But really? Isn't it that way for us all? We each talk of something that we're going to do "some day." Mama left me a few dollars she had squirreled away and now I have tucked them away, saying often, "Some day I'm going to use that money to put in a little water fall on that hill behind the house so that every time I see it, I will remember how Mama flowed through my life."

I've been saying that for five years now. Every spring that rolls around, I declare that I need to do it but I put it off until winter's freeze rolls in and it's tabled again.

I sure hope that my some day doesn't wind up like Daddy's.

Ronda Rich is the best-selling author of *There's A Better Day A-Comin'*. Visit www.rondarich.com to sign up for her free weekly newsletter.

RONDA RICH



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I'm Travis Floyd and I'm asking for your vote for Knox County Judge in the Republican Primary on March 4th. There are many duties associated with this position. Some of these are:

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- Appellate jurisdiction from Justice Court (JP)
- All Probates in Knox County
- Temporary & Permanent Guardianships
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- Emergency Management Coordinator
- Represent Knox County on many Boards & Committees.

When looking at all the qualifications needed for the job, I believe I am the best-qualified candidate for this position. I will be full-time, committed, honest, and hard-working.

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SHOW

In addition to the quilt and cupcake competition, there will be 20 other vendors with a variety of cooking techniques. There will be over 100 quilts on display and there will even be a Best of Show prize awarded.

PAUL

From Page 1

Cumbie. According to Paul, he has had a good experience at the University and has loved it so far.

"No transfer here, I am very happy where I am right now. I miss my quarterback days in Munday, but really like playing defensive back here at Tech," said Paul.

He is also really looking forward to the upcoming track season and getting more playing time on the gridiron at Jones AT&T Stadium in Lubbock next

"Quilting is coming back and beginning to grow in popularity, with other quilt stores opening throughout the Big Country," Huffman went on to explain. There are not quilting stores located in the towns of Abilene, Benjamin, Haskell, and Clyde.

There will be an advertisement running in the newspaper and also in the

season.

"I cannot wait to start track here and Tech Play Coach Kevin Curtis (also a former Tech player) says that I have earned some extended playing time next year, which I am anxious to get," Paul exclaimed.

Even though Paul loves Tech, and wanted his cousin and current Munday star athlete L.J. Collier to join him at the university, he completely understands why he chose Texas Christian University instead.

"He was recruited by Cumbie, the same guy who recruited me from Munday and is following him to his new job at TCU, which I

Knox Prairie Classified flyer around town promoting the upcoming Quilt Show, so please take the time to read those and attend the event. Event coordinator Vickie Huffman can be contacted at 940-203-0463 for any questions regarding the show, which is again Feb. 22 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Knox Prairie Event Center in Goree.

completely understand. You have to go with whoever offers you a full scholarship. I am very proud of L.J. and wish him the best. We may end up seeing each other on the field as friendly rivals, because TCU recently joined the Big 12" Paul explained.

While Paul is now a Lubbock resident he still has family in Munday and is still very much a part of the community and was anxious to squash any rumors of a transfer, to Midwestern, TCU, or any other university.

"I like it a lot here, the weather can be crazy on the Cap Rock, but I still love it and am not going anywhere," Paul continued.

BOOK

From Page 1

The county courthouse and attendant power and prosperity, usually of a town reside in control of this institution. Our order of government is federal, state, county and city. The county government is holder and protector of all official documents, carries out numerous duties such as assessing the value of property, collecting taxes set by the county commissioners and organizes election sites and tallies votes. The courthouse is the closest contact to a governing body most people have and one that is near enough that they know what is going on and if someone needs to be voted out of office. This book takes a look at seats of government that are an anomaly. They survived while not prospering.

There are 59 towns and counties covered in this book. There is also a short history on each including fun and historical facts and humorous items. Most interestingly however, and is the fact that our county seat Benjamin, is featured in the book. A an interesting angle the book is taking is how the towns remain vigilant and maintain a sense of community with small numbers, as the towns featured are featured because of their small size. Even more interestingly, is the immense amount of history contained in the publication. Homesteaders are discussed in extensive detail. How they emigrated to the West, with several of them being from the East and seeking new opportunity. In addition it details how land was surveyed and prospected, and how the Great Plains and the West eventually came to become populated with state and county division lines being drawn.

The process is laid out from the formation of the state government down to the necessity of the county government with the selection of a county seat. The county courthouse residing within the county seat is vital as this is the most basic avenue in which the public accesses their government- especially in small towns such as Benjamin.

The Improbably Small County Seat Towns of the West can be purchased now with check or money order, \$25.70 to Chip Hines PO Box 469, Yuma, CO 80759. Or the book may also be reviewed and purchased through Amazon.com. The book is also available for the Amazon Kindle devices. Amazon and Kindle are instrumental in marketing independent authors and small town books to a broader public. With the book now on Amazon, people all over the country will be able to about Benjamin.