

# THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

HOME OF JASON EVANS

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2014

KCNEWSCOURIER.COM

75 CENTS

## Race for county judge heads to runoff

The Knox County News-Courier

**BENJAMIN** — In a field of four, the likelihood of avoiding a runoff among Republicans vying for a spot on the ballot for Knox County judge in November was a long shot.

Incumbent Travis Floyd did not receive enough votes to avoid such a scenario and will continue campaigning for his seat along with Jim Dillon, who led the field of candidates after Tuesday's primary election.

Dillon garnered 44 percent of the Republican vote to Floyd's 36 percent. To have avoided a runoff, a candidate must have received at least 50 percent of the vote.

Among the candidates vying for a seat as a commissioner, Republican Daniel Godsey won the nomination for Precinct 2 over challenger Craig Wilde, and Democrat Kim Sealy was

chosen over Fred Cash among voters.

For Precinct 4 commissioner, lone Republican Nathan Urbanczyk will face lone Democrat Robert Bowen for that seat in November as each was the only candidate in their respective parties to qualify to run.

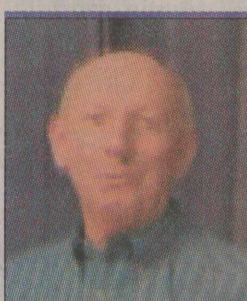
In other races, longtime County/District Clerk Annett Offutt, a Democrat, will face a challenge from one of her deputy clerks, Republican Lisa Cypert, to retain her seat in November.

Barring a grass-roots effort by any particular write-in dark horse, County Treasurer Rosie Ake, a Democrat, and political newcomer Augie Rodriguez, who qualified as a Republican to replace the retiring longtime Justice of the Peace Vonnie Ivey, are sure to be seated by Jan. 1, as each was the lone candidate to qualify for election among their party and neither facing

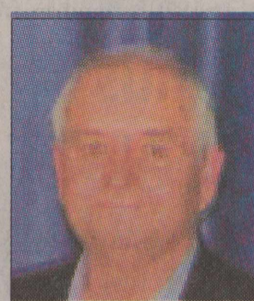
an opposing party candidate.

The runoff election will be May 27.

Since no Democratic party primary who go to a runoff, only those who voted in the Republican party primary — and those who did not vote in a party primary at all — will be allowed to participate in the Republican runoff election.



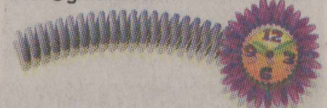
Dillon



Floyd

## 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 [knewsCourier@gmail.com](mailto:knewsCourier@gmail.com).



**Daylight Savings Time Begins March 9, 2014**

Spring Forward

## Child Safety Seat Distribution

Knox County Hospital District is proud to announce we are now a Child Safety Seat Distribution Site. We can provide child car seats to low income families at no cost. Classes are being held on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. and the 3rd Thursday at 10:00 a.m. Please contact Linda Hearn at the Knox City Clinic at 940.657.3906 for more information and to register for a class. Classes are held in Spanish and English.

## Brisket Dinner

Annual Fund Raiser for Liberty Church will be held in Knox City at the Liberty fellowship hall, 302 N. Aspen on March 8 from 11:00 am to 2pm. Ticket for adults, \$10.00 children under 12, \$5.00. Call 940-657-3284 for pre-sale tickets

## Support Group

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.

## 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](mailto: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.

## Sausage Dinner

The annual St. Joseph's Catholic Church Sausage Dinner will be held March 16 at the Knights of Columbus hall in Rhineland 11:00am-1:30pm. To-Go plates will be available. Country Store Gift Shop will be open. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children. Call 940-422-4501 for more information or pre-sale tickets.

## Corrections

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

## News on the go

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

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## MCISD board affords raises to top educators

The Knox County News-Courier

The Munday Consolidated Independent School District Board of Trustees met in regular session at 4 p.m. Feb. 24 in the Board Room of the Administration Building.

The following board members were present: Nancy Birkenfeld, Sam Hunter, Bill Longan, Bob Moore, Jason Redwine, Todd Thompson and Superintendent Robert Dillard. Absent: Rebecca Araujo

Guests present were John Berry, Trey Singleton, Kristi Bufkin, and Patrick Corcoran.

List of other guests: John Myers, Mayte Torres, Kimberly Shahan, Haley Ericson, Jenna Wertz, Maria Vega, Ana Vega, Denise Araujo, Rebeca Carranza, Grace Tidwell, Kamille Redder, Sonny Escamilla, Elizabeth Field, Paloma Perez, Annelle Welch.

An opportunity was provided for members of the community to view and hear an explanation of Accountability and Student Performance reports for the previous year. This yearly hearing is mandated by Texas statute.

During public comments, John Myers spoke in favor of the Administration and Directors.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by general consent.

The Board of Trustees on February 24, 2014, beginning at 4:17 p.m., convened in a closed meeting in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. Subjects discussed in the meeting closed to the public were personnel issues. The Board ended its closed meeting at 6:18 p.m. on Feb. 24, 2014, and reconvened into open session when the following recommendations were made by Superintendent Dillard:

See MCISD, Page 8

## Knox City FFA



Members of KC FFA team Cayce Camp, left, Kelsey Vasquez, Skylin Ledesma, Christian Abila, Tanna Moeller, Kayla Hunter, and Ag teacher Jason Evans.

## KC student net success in San Antonio Stock Show

By Geoff Baumgartner

The Knox County News-Courier

San Antonio — This past week the Knox City High School FFA students attended the San Antonio Stock Show, and a couple students managed to place well in the event.

Tanna Moeller managed to earn seventh place in the Hampshire breed category, earning the highest spot out of all of her schoolmates.

Skylin Ledesma was able to grab 10th place in the Spot category, also an impressive place in such a large, state-wide, and centralized

Texas stock show.

The Other exhibitors in from Knox City were: Kelsey Vasquez, Reylee Ledesma, Christian Abila, Ella Hunter and Cayce Camp

Knox City High School Ag teacher Josh Evans was very proud of all those who traveled and participated to represent their school.

"We had a great showing. Knox County was very well represented at the San Antonio stock show," said Evans.

The Knox City FFA program is currently showing at the Austin Stock Show now, and is looking forward to all future stock competitions.

## Family farm concept languishes with generation gap

By Kay Ledbetter

Special to the News-Courier

While tax laws may have made it easier to pass the farm from one generation to the next, changing times have some families looking at the end of a way of life, according to a 30-year veteran of agricultural estate planning.

Wayne Hayenga, professor emeritus and a specialist with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in College Station, has traveled throughout Texas for 30 years trying to help people pass their agricultural estates on to the next generation.

"Every time there are changes to the tax laws, we see more demand for these workshops," he said. "But the people basically just want to figure out how to keep the business going for one or two of the children and make sure all the rest are still taken care of."

Hayenga said estate tax laws have made that easier over the years. Forty years ago, a person could only pass on \$60,000 worth of property tax free and now that's up to \$5.3 million. Also, even if the property increased in value either because of inflation or demand, he said, "we don't have to pay any capital gains tax on it now when someone dies."

However, the continually changing tax laws and the dynamics of the agriculture industry itself are making estate planning anything but a one-size-fits-all deal, said the agricultural economist and attorney.

"Thirty years ago, I could throw something out to 10 farmers that seven or more of them would under-

stand and be able to utilize. Now as farming operations have gotten bigger and different, if you have the same 10 farmers, I could throw out something and maybe only three have the business design that could utilize that idea. The other seven we have to come up with a different plan."

Hayenga likened it to the medical world. "When I was a kid we had the family doctor, and he took care of you from your scalp to your toenails. Today we have the eye doctor, throat doctor, heart doctor, diabetes doctor, foot doctor and dermatologist. Everything is specialized these days."

And just as the operations have changed, so have the families. More often there may be no one interested in running the family farm, he said.

"You may have a 1,000 acres at Dumas and you live there and know the tenants and suppliers and everything there. But if you die and give it to three kids, one in Chicago, one in Houston and one who knows where, they don't know people who can properly take care of it for them. So they worry about that. That asset of yours becomes a worry or a liability for them."

Economies of scale for agriculture also have changed the picture, Hayenga said. Farming was a labor intensive operation in the 1860s when the Homestead Act was passed.

"For a family with a couple mules and some kids, it was a big job to take care of 160 acres of land and raise corn, cotton, oats or whatever. Now with the machinery, equipment, chemical applications and the irrigation systems required, for a lot of farmers, I'd say, it is



J.D. Ragland/Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service  
Wayne Hayenga, a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service economist and professor emeritus, addresses a crowd of more than 80 people during a recent estate-planning workshop in Randall County.

hard to make a living if you don't have 4,000 or 5,000 acres of land and some may have 15,000 to 25,000 acres.

"And rather than using a 40 horsepower Farmall M, the most recent tractor we bought had 485 horsepower, which is 10 times bigger. We can plant 300 acres a day; whereas back when I was a child, my father could plant 15 acres on a really good day."

Farms have had to consolidate to stay in business, and as a result, there are not always those one or two children who want to take over such a major operation, Hayenga said.

"The agricultural ladder I learned about back in college was: you start out farming as a hired man working for a parent or neighbor, then you leased the land,

See FARM, Page 8

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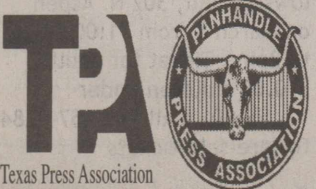
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The Knox County News-Courier

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  
Editorial: Noon Mondays

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



## Deaths

### Ina Mae Brown

Iowa Park — Ina Mae Brown, age 81, died Friday, February 28, 2014 in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Funeral services will be held at 2 pm Monday, March 3, 2014 at First Baptist Church of Iowa Park, with Rev. Glen Pearce officiating. Burial will be in Highland Cemetery under the direction of Dutton Funeral Home.

Ina was born May 4, 1932 in Goree, Texas to John William and Lula Mae (Weaver) Jones. She and John C. Brown were married January 23, 1954 in Munday, Texas. She was a homemaker and a member of the First Baptist Church of Iowa Park. She has lived in Iowa Park since 1970, coming from



**INA MAE BROWN**

Graham, Texas. She was a clerical worker for Shamburger Lumber Company for a while.

Her parents, a sister, Mary Wilson and 3 brothers Earl, Austin, and L.D. Jones pre-

ceded her in death.

She is survived by her husband, John Brown, of Iowa Park; children, Randy Brown and wife, Amy of Iowa Park, Suzan Bartow and husband, Lowery of Waco, Texas, and Scott Brown and wife Kathy of The Colony, Texas; a sister, Darlene Sims of Winters, Texas, a brother, Wincel Lee Jones of Wichita Falls, Texas; six grandchildren, Chasity, Johnna, Randy, Matthew, Clinton, Ashley and a great grandson, Braxton.

The family suggests memorials to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or Cal Farley's Boys Ranch.

Please share your memories with the family at www.duttonfuneralhome.com.

## Menus Week of Mar 10-14

**Knox City-O'Brien**  
Enjoy Spring Break

**Munday**  
Enjoy Spring Break

**Knox County Aging Center**  
Monday: Creamy mushroom steak, mashed potato, peas and carrots, whole wheat rolls, mandarin oranges  
Tuesday: Beef taco bake, Spanish rice, cauliflower, salad, peaches  
Wednesday: Beef goulash, navy beans,

broccoli, cornbread oatmeal raisin cookies  
Thursday: Baked chicken, baked potato with sour cream, peas, rolls, pineapple  
Friday: Sloppy Joes, country potato salad, carrots, zucchini, creamy fruit squares

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.

### Knox 4-H Club

February was a busy month for 4-Hers as we began practicing for the 4-H archery competition in Graham on March 21-22. Knox County 4-H club thanks Benjamin ISD for allowing us to use its gym to practice archery instead of shooting outside in the weather. The participation in the 4-H archery project has been encouraging as students learn the parts of the bow and arrows, archer safety and, of course, how to hit the bulls-eye. If you have any interest in 4-H archery, contact the Knox County Extension Service.

Pictures have been submitted for the 4-H photography contest, but results have not yet been posted. Contestants took photos to enter in a wide selection of categories. Winners of county categories will advance to district. From there, seniors may advance to state.

If you have questions about 4-H, contact Knox County Extension agents Lorrie Coop and Jerry Copland at 940-459-2651

Corrie Earthman

### Pink Ladies

The Hospital Auxiliary Pink Ladies met Feb. 19 with Judy Leaverton, Vice President, in charge. The need for a new heating and air-conditioning unit was discussed and a motion made to have a professional come to evaluate, then sell us a new unit. Judy was to see about stabilizing the racks and shelving on the north wall of the

front room. Donations have kept all three staffs of the week busy. For that we thank you. Glenda Huff has recuperated enough to work a couple of hours Feb. 21.

Billie Walker

## Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

Seems every week I start my column with weather news, but that's the main topic of conversation a big part of the time. After two or three days of unseasonably warm weather, today (Sunday) has brought us yet another change — It's cold, snowy, and just plain miserable out. When I left church it looked almost like a "blizzard in the making." It was snowing hard, blowing, and freezing as it fell; then by 2 pm, the sun came out, and things began to look better — But — again in a couple of hours, the skies "grayed," and here came the snow again! Now it has stopped, but it's still cold. We'll see what the morning brings. Should be interesting.

### Regarding Our Ill

Mike Young continues his stay in HMC in Abilene. He was released to stay at the League House (which he did for a while), but it was too hard for him to go back and forth to the hospital for treatment (wound care), so doctors felt he needed to be back in the hospital. Charles and Linda Griffith visited him on Saturday and said he seemed to be doing pretty well. Of course, he has some days more discouraging than others, and the latest "bomb shell" was the news from his doctors that he may be hospitalized for a year. But after the initial shock of hearing that, he has settled down and accepted the fact that if that's what it takes to get him "straightened" out, that's where he needs to be. He likes company, so if you are in Abilene and have time, go by to see him.

Judy Barnett said today that her mom, Philomae Roberson, is doing much better. She's had a pretty tough time but hopefully, things are leveling out for her. She's staying pretty close to home, and with this unsettled weather, I think that she's being wise. She sure doesn't need another "bout" with pneumonia. Philomae was always the one who took care of everyone else, and she doesn't know how to deal with herself "feeling" bad. But the main thing is that she's better now and maybe back on the road to better days.

Here it is Monday morning — I stopped writing yesterday (during the snow) and figured today would be really bad. But the sun is shining, and "tho it is cold, there's no wind, and it's actually pretty pleasant. As we've always heard, if you don't like the Texas weather, stick around. It'll change in a few hours, and that is so true.

### Cemetery Association News

Janice Tolson brought me news of the "goings on" of the Benjamin Cemetery Association over the past year. (April 2013 through February 2014). Last May they had a work day, and lots of folks showed up to do what they could to help clean up the cemetery. So many were there to help that she said that she and Buddy were afraid to try to list them, afraid they would leave someone out. There's still a lot to be done, and they plan to do more in the near future. The Association thanks all the volunteers who help to keep things looking good. Donations during the past year have come from Barbara Kilgore, Mary Carrico, Wayne Bufkin, Marty Griffith, Benny and Belle Grill, Bobby D. Burnett, Tillman Burnett, Larcie D. Burnett, R. E. Bowen, Danny and Ann Allen, Jackie and Jerry Snailum, Sue Moor, John H. Atterbury, Lynda Miller, Louis Baty, Kenneth and Ila Mae Benson, and Max J. Gardner. These donations go toward the upkeep and maintenance of the cemetery, and each one, regardless of the amount, is very much appreciated. If you would like to make a donation, send it to: Benjamin Cemetery Association, Box 292, Benjamin, TX 79505.

### Here 'N There

The Little Dribblers have done it again — They won (5 & 6 grade and 3 & 4 grade) both their games Saturday in the tournament here in town. Three Saturdays in a row, they have been in tournaments and were never defeated by anyone. That's a pretty good record. Between games Saturday the little and upcoming "little dribblers" — PreK-K, etc. — did some basketball drills getting them ready for competition. That's good for these kids, and they do enjoy it. Coaches for the teams were 5 & 6 — Michele Barrientez; 3 & 4 — Aaron Kuehler and Kaitlyn Acevedo; 1 & 2 — Aaron and Emily Cates.

I attended the funeral of Cecil Bingham in Haskell on Saturday. As everyone probably knows by now, Cecil was killed in an automobile accident last Monday morning on his way to work. He was the butcher at Lawrence Bros. — always kind and friendly to those he came in contact with. He will be missed by so many.

Lexie, Katy, and Blaze Taylor of Amarillo spent the weekend with grandparents, Mike and Debi Moorhouse and their dad, Cody, in Knox City. Little Noah Hutchinson of Abilene spent a couple of days and nights with Mike and Debi while his mom, Jessica, was recovering from a round of flu-like stuff and strep throat. She's better now, and Noah is back home, so all is well that that family.

Shelby Russell of Lubbock was here Friday and Saturday to visit her mom, Kim Moore, and other relatives. On Friday she and her mom enjoyed an afternoon of shopping and "browsing" in Wichita Falls. Samijo Russell and D.J. visited friends in Spur during the weekend.

Carol Dickson spent a couple of days in HMC in Abilene last week. At last report, she had been dismissed and was better. Still going to Abilene regularly for her treatments.

Did you watch the Oscar presentations Sunday night? I didn't. Not being too much up on what's in the movies these days, I had no idea who was nominated for what. All I know is that the "Oscar" show took up a lot of time on NBC Sunday night.

And by the time this is out, the primary will be over, and we'll know who's in the runoff (if there are any). And the campaigning will begin for the November matchup, which will be here before we know it.

I talked to former resident, Gilbert Navarez, today. He lives in Knox City now and still works as custodian at the courthouse. He said he's been having severe pains in his head and was going to see his local doctor today and felt like he would be going to a specialist soon. We hope and pray that Gilbert's problem can be "fixed" pretty easily.

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

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# Students in the News Allison Lynn named to President's List at HSU

ABILENE — Allison Lynn of Knox City was named to the Hardin-Simmons University President's List for the fall 2013 semester. Lynn is one of 218 students to receive this academic honor. The President's List is composed of students carrying 12 or more semester credits who have grades of A on all courses for the semester.

# The Paperboy The climate change scam

Just to be clear: global warming is now climate change.

Governments around the world use climate change to punish and reward in a game of greed.

Our own government has bilked billions out of U.S. companies and residents in the form of regulations and taxes in the name of manmade global warming and climate change.

The following is an opinion piece written by Lu Nelsen of the Center for Rural Affairs:



CHRIS BLACKBURN

*"Rural and small-town Americans work hard to make a living and adapt to changing times. It's an important tradition, maintaining a rural way of life while finding new ways to improve it. Farmers, ranchers and rural small business depend upon flexibility, entrepreneurship and innovative adoption of new practices to confront new challenges.*

*"Rural America's newest challenges will come in the form of a changing climate and the subsequent rise of pests, fires, flooding, and droughts. All will threaten the livelihoods of farmers, ranchers, and others in rural communities, making it necessary to seek methods to mitigate damage and adapt to the changes.*

*"In the summer of 2013, USDA officials announced the creation of regional climate hubs that will focus on aiding farmers and ranchers in adapting to impacts of climate change.*

*"The seven regional climate hubs will, hopefully, provide useful tools for farmers and ranchers to employ in their day-to-day operations, as well as in planning for the future. These hubs will translate data and research into real solutions and practices that can be put to use in the field. Their research will also provide ideas and direction for federal conservation programs.*

*"Climate hubs should also offer farmers and ranchers an opportunity to share what they learn and help drive development of innovative, practical solutions to the challenges they face. And the time has come for conservation programs to help farmers and ranchers adopt diverse agricultural systems that are more responsive to a changing climate."*

Normally, I agree with much of what the Center of Rural Affairs weighs in on. I mean it's nice to have an ally out here in the sticks, right?

But these climate hubs and opinion of climate change are a bunch of cow methane (if you catch my meaning).

Has man contributed to climate

change? Of course.

Does it matter? Now that's where I have an issue.

Of course, we should be good stewards of our planet. Do you know who the best stewards are? Farmers and ranchers. Their livelihood depend on smart and practical techniques.

I honestly don't see a climate hub as anything more than an unnecessary government waste of money. Furthermore, I'm guessing it's just another mechanism to bilk more money out of rural Americans — particularly farmers and ranchers.

One massive volcanic eruption can have a greater effect on the atmosphere than all the cars and factories have had on this planet for the past 100 years. And, by the way, there are several volcanoes erupting ALL THE TIME!

Obviously there is climate change. It's a planet.

Let's hark back to the ice age. Did man cause the ice age? No. Did machines? No.

You know what? Scientists really don't know what caused the ice age. There are many theories out there, but no one really knows what event caused such a long period of cold temperatures.

Millions of years ago the planet was much warmer. Did man cause that warming trend? There was no man. Did machines? There were no machines.

The climate has been changing since Earth was a baby. It will always change.

There could be a super volcano erupt next week that could send us into another ice age.

But we don't hear about those effects. We hear about man's negative effects. And it's a scam. It's a way to make certain people and governments wealthy.

If you want a clean planet, by all means, do your part. I do.

But if you're going to place climate hubs, at our expense, throughout the United States to curb emissions and "help" farmers and ranchers, that's plain dumb.

I'm tired of the schemes and scams perpetrated by our government, and you should be to.

Want to know the truth? Follow the money. Research who has the most to gain from climate change. That will tell you all you need to know in regard to how big of a rip-off it really is.

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

# Wilder's Nature Journal Western fence lizard

By S.J. Dahlstrom  
Wilder's Nature Journal

I've been catching this species of lizard since I was little. They are fast, but if you follow them around a bit, they will tire out and you can catch them. If the lizard would just stay still, you would never see it or catch it because they have great natural camouflage.

The Western fence lizard eats ants and small insects. I see them just about year round, usually in the shade. Lizards are reptiles and so are cold-blooded, which means they have to regulate their body tempera-

ture with the sun or by burrowing down away from the cold.

These lizards have a neat trick they play on predators that try and eat them like hawks, bobcats and coyotes. If the predator only grabs their tail — it will pop right off in their claw or paw! Kind of like a flag in flag football — the lizard runs off just fine and grows a new one. Ha-ha, touchdown!

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.



S.J. Dahlstrom

The Western fence lizard is commonly seen sunning on paths, rocks and fence posts. Belonging to the genus *Sceloporus*, or spiny lizards, the adult's ventral abdomen is characteristically blue and is also known as a blue-belly lizard.

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# The 501 Obesity pays at the Y

For the second time in my life, someone's offering me money to lose weight. I'm thinking about it.

First it was my mother; now it's the YMCA. The offer's the same — a dollar a pound. But back when Mother made the offer, the aim was for me to drop 10 pounds to get back to 115.

HANABA MUNN WELCH

more, if I lose just one pound, I

get a dollar. My mother's offer wasn't good unless I lost all 10. I never did.

No, the Y isn't handing out money, and I'm not sure the offer is good everywhere. Maybe it's just for us fat states. But here's the deal at my Y:

If you lose weight, they reduce your monthly membership fee a dollar for each pound dropped. If I lose more than 35 pounds, they should be paying me. Fat chance.

But even if I lose just one pound, saving a dollar a month sounds good. What have I got to lose? I think I'll sign up.

Would it work in a similar way for the government simply to throw money at childhood

obesity? Would the chance to earn dollars for losing weight be an incentive for fat kids to lose pounds? Probably not.

I'm recalling my own teenage self. I really wanted that 10 dollars. Really. And I would like to have lost the 10 pounds. But I didn't, and 115 remains a memory achieved on scales now rusting away in a pile of junk destined for the scrap dealer, who doesn't pay a dollar a pound. More like 9 cents.

Back to today's obese youngsters. I suspect our society has grown a bit too affluent for most kids to be motivated by the offer of a little folding money to do anything, weight loss included. But the more socialized our

medical system, the greater our collective worry should be that obesity is a growing problem, pun intended, that will test the nation's ability to treat all future medical problems associated with the disease. I'm thinking especially of knee joints, probably because my own would be happier if I lost weight. Especially my left one.

Think of all the kids whose knees are already overburdened. They'll need replacements at younger ages than previous generations. If I were a medical student, I'd be thinking knees.

Meanwhile, maybe schools should be turning the corners of their playgrounds into vegetable gardens to let children get up

close and personal with what they should be eating instead of junk food. Give each student a row to tend. Teach them to garden. Grade them. Make hoeing a sport.

Problem: School and the summer growing season don't jibe.

Solution: Let kids stay home in the winter and go to school through the summer. Trade the cost of winter heating for air-conditioning.

Side benefit: Juvenile vandalism would drop. No graffiti artist likes the chill air of a winter night, however bright the moon.

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

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# KC falls short in double-header Perfect Attendance

By Geoffrey Baumgartner  
The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — The Greyhound varsity baseball club kicked off their short season this past week with a double-header against both Rotan and Bryson. While the Hounds were not able to get the W's, they made some great plays and saw some good hitters get on base. They also had several runs scored during the games. Greyhounds lost 24-3 to Rotan and 15-5 against Bryson, in what was billed a closer match-up.

While it was a loss, there were some great hits made by several KC players against the Rotan Yellowhammers, who sought to derail their attempted shut-out. Chris Lewis scored one run. Zach Carter managed one hit and

one run, while Elias Nevarez also bagged one run and one hit. During the game against the Bryson Cowboys, Lewis scored two runs and two hits, while Skylar Neill managed one run. Pitcher Christian Abila had two runs and two hits also. While the double header did not go as planned the boys got some good practice and learned a lot during the first two games. Coach Jordan Carter saw value in the losses. "The games didn't turn out like we wanted as far as the score goes but the team is steadily improving and learning more each game and each practice. We are having a great time and really enjoying ourselves," Carter said. The Greyhounds will be competing in the Rotan tournament this weekend, and will get another crack at the Yellowhammers.



Catcher Sam Schnable works with pitcher Christian Abila for the out at home plate, not allowing the additional run. Abila ran to first in preparation to assist with the play, as is the custom in upper level play.



Students at Knox City Elementary were recognized for having Perfect Attendance for the 4th Six Weeks. Front Row: (l to r) Jonah Duke, Emily Shaver, Paisley Morrow, Coltan Cox, Gaven Favor. Second Row: (l to r) Kwame Collins, Gage Morrow, Tyiveo McCrary, Ryan Shaver. Not Pictured: Mia Flores, Jace Trevino, Valeria Zavala, Gabby Espinal.

## KC sees success at Roby relays

ROBY — The Knox City track team participated in the Cottonwood Creek Relays this past Friday. The team was successful on several levels in both girls and boys fields. Ultimately, the KC Houndettes girl's team placed third overall, while the boys Greyhound team finished second overall.

Head coach Colin Howeth praised a promising group of varsity athletes.

"Our boys track team is smaller than usual for Knox City, but we are not lacking talent," he said. "To be able to place second in a meet the size of Roby's is a testament to the talent of the students we have participating."

Geoffrey Baumgartner

### Girls Results

**Triple Jump:** Essence Ward 2nd Place, Kirsten Tuckness 3rd Place  
**2 Mile:** Shailee Manning 3rd place  
**Qtr Mile:** 3rd Kirsten Tuckness  
**100 Meter:** Essence Ward

**Sprint Relay:** Jordyn Eaton, Andrea Lynn, Essence Ward, Caitlyn Baxter, 3rd Place  
**800 Meter Relay:** Jordyn Eaton, Zinzilly McCurry, Essence Ward, Caitlyn Baxter, 2nd Place  
**100 Meter Hurdle:** Leighten Pepper, 3rd place  
**Discus:** Jordyn Eaton, 95 feet, 5th place.  
**Mile Run:** Shailee Manning, 6.40

### Boys Results

**Shot Put:** Kryos Campos 1st place  
**Discus:** Tylynnne Eaton 1st place, Kryos Campos 4th place  
**Triple Jump:** Jacoby Thomas 1st Place  
**4x100m Relay:** Sheldon Baty, Elias Nevarez, Israel Rodriguez, Jacoby Thomas 2nd Place  
**800m Run:** Chris Lewis 2nd Place  
**4x200m:** Relay Elias Nevarez, Ryan Heard, Skylar Neill, Israel Rodriguez 6th Place  
**400m:** Zach Carter 1st Place, Sheldon Baty 4th place  
**4x400m relay:** Sheldon Baty, Zach Carter, Elias Nevarez, Chris Lewis 3rd Place



Junior Leighten Pepper dashes over a hurdle during the Cottonwood Creek Relay at Roby last week. Pepper finished third in the event.



PreKindergarten Morning Perfect Attendance 4th Six Weeks: Jaylee Lowe, Taylor Soto and Kateleigh Carr.

# Go Hounds & Houndettes!

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# Industry experts plan farm bill education seminars

The News-Courier

Producers, bankers, and others in the agricultural industry will have the opportunity to learn more about the recently passed Agricultural Act of 2014, commonly referred to as the farm bill, at several meetings scheduled in the area.

The National Cotton Council and the Southwest Council of Agribusiness will host a number of meetings throughout the Cotton Belt, including 16 in Texas, over the next few weeks.

Following is a few meetings slated for the immediate region. A complete list is available at cotton.org.

**NCC Sessions**

• March 18 @ 9 a.m. at the Bayer Museum of Agriculture, 1121 Canyon Lake Drive,

Lubbock.

- March 19 @ 9 a.m. at the Roby Community Center, Roby.
- March 19 @ 2 p.m. at the Haskell Memorial Civic Center, 202 S. Ave., Haskell.

**SWCA sessions**

The Southwest Council of Agribusiness will host educational sessions on the farm bill featuring Joe Outlaw, co-director of the Agricultural Food and Policy Center at Texas A&M University and economist for the AgriLife Extension Service.

Events are planned for March 19 in Lamesa, March 20 in Lubbock and March 21 in Amarillo, among others.

A complete schedule is listed at southwest-council.org/farm-bill-forums.

Mary Jane Buerkle

# THC to conduct free WWII oral history training

SNYDER — Officials with the state agency for historic preservation will conduct a free training workshop for area residents to properly record oral histories pertaining to World War II.

The workshops, titled "Here and There: Recollections of Texas in World War II," are part of the Texas Historical Commission's national award winning "Texas in World War II" initiative, a program to honor and preserve the memories of Texans who served in the armed forces during the Second World War and the contributions made on the home effort.

The next workshop will be from 9 a.m. to noon March 15 at the Scurry County Museum, 6200 College Ave., Snyder. The museum is located on the West Texas Col-

lege campus near the softball complex.

Funded through a grant from the Summerlee Foundation of Dallas, this workshop is one of the last of a statewide series that began in 2006 and highlights real people telling real stories of Texas' involvement in World War II.

The public is encouraged to attend and learn more about the program. To pre-register for the event, contact William McWhorter at william.mcwhorter@thc.state.tx.us or 512-463-5833 or Daniel Schlegel at 325-573-6107.

More information is available online at thc.state.tx.us.

Wayne Hodgkin

# Federal court rules on same-sex marriage

By Ed Sterling  
Special to the Dispatch

AUSTIN — In the final week before Tuesday, March 4, Primary Election Day, candidates put on final pushes in hopes of getting enough votes to be their party's nominee for the general election in November.

A ruling by a San Antonio federal court on Feb. 26 moved a hot-button issue front and center, giving candidates a last-minute opportunity to delineate their stand. In a case brought by two same-sex couples, San Antonio U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia declared unconstitutional the Texas law and a related state constitutional amendment that prohibit same-sex marriage and the recognition of out-of-state same-sex marriages. On page 46 of his ruling, Garcia wrote, "Equal treatment of all individuals under the law is not merely an aspiration — it is a constitutional mandate. Consequently, equal protection is at the heart of our legal system and is essential for the existence of a free society."

Right away, however, Garcia placed a stay on his order preventing the state from enforcing those laws, pending an appeal filed by the Texas attorney general's office in the Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

Gov. Rick Perry reacted, saying, "It is not the role of the federal government to overturn the will of our citizens. The 10th Amendment guarantees Texas voters the freedom to make these decisions and this is yet another attempt to achieve via the courts what couldn't be achieved at the ballot box."

Texas Roman Catholic Bishops issued a joint statement expressing disappointment in the court's decision.

"There are good, well-meaning people on both sides" of the issue," said Texas Attorney General and GOP gubernatorial candidate Greg Abbott. But, he added, "The Texas Constitution defines marriage as between one man and one woman. If the Fifth Circuit honors those precedents,

then today's decision should be overturned and the Texas Constitution will be upheld."

Texas Democratic Party Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa, in a statement released after Judge Garcia's ruling, said: "The Texas Democratic Party believes that everyone should have the right to be with the person they love and we look forward to the day in Texas when everyone can marry who they love. This is a historic day for the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual) community and the state of Texas. As Dr. (Martin Luther) King (Jr.) once stated, 'The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.' Today, all Texans can celebrate that we are one step closer to justice and equality for all."

**Awareness day is proclaimed**

Gov. Perry proclaimed Feb. 27 as Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Texas, saying the key "to preventing and ending this horrible crime is public awareness that millions still suffer exploitation around the nation and the world."

He urged Texans to join him "in bringing awareness to this important issue as we continue to fight to bring justice to human trafficking offenders, and help to their victims."

**Schools achieve progress**

State Comptroller Susan Combs on Feb. 26 called attention to the new "Financial Allocation Study for Texas" available at the website fastexas.org which shows an increase in school districts earning the highest ranking of five stars.

"FAST" was created by the comptroller's office in response to 2009 legislation directing the agency to "identify school districts and campuses that use resource allocation practices that contribute to high academic achievement and cost-effective operations."

"I am pleased to see more schools being better stewards of our citizens' tax dollars while achieving better academic outcomes," Combs said.

Thanks for reading the News-Courier!

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tions must be delivered no later than close of business on March 14, 2014. For more information, contact Nancy Birkenfeld, County Executive Director at (940)658-3537 Extension 107. FSA is an Equal Opportunity Employer. 0306c

### PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF NORVAL JOHNSTON, DECEASED. Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the estate of NORVAL JOHNSTON were issued on February 24, 2014, in Cause

No. 2587, pending in the County Court of Knox County, Texas, to: MELBURN JOHNSTON. The address of the Independent Executor is: MELBURN JOHNSTON, 1301 Axtell, Clovis, New Mexico 88101. All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED March 3, 2014. BOBBY D. BURNETT State Bar No. 03434000, P. O. Drawer 390, Munday, Texas, 76371, (940) 422-4525, (940) 422-5544 (fax) ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE. 0306c

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**MCISD**  
From Page 1

Motion by Nancy Birkenfeld seconded by Jason Redwine to extend Kristi Bufkin's two-year contract as Elementary Principal until June 30, 2016. Motion by Todd Thompson seconded by Jason Redwine to set Mrs. Bufkin's base salary at \$69,636.00. Both measures passed unanimously.

Motion by Sam Hunter seconded by Bill Longan to extend John Berry's two-year contract as Secondary Principal until June 30, 2016. Motion by Bill Longan seconded by Bob Moore to set Mr. Berry's base salary at \$75,000.00. Both motions passed unanimously.

Motion by Bill Longan seconded by Jason Redwine to extend Patrick Corcoran's two-year contract as Athletic Director until June 30, 2016. Motion by Sam Hunter seconded by Bob Moore to set Patrick Corcoran's salary, including salary step base, AD's stipend, additional days supplement, at 68,646.37. Both measures passed unanimously.

Motion by Todd Thompson seconded by Bill Longan to extend band director Trey Singleton's two-year contract to June 30, 2016. Motion by Nancy Birkenfeld seconded by Bob Moore to set Trey Singleton's salary, including salary step base, band director's stipend, additional days supplement, at \$59,470.37. Both motions passed unanimously.

In other business, a motion by Jason Redwine, seconded by Todd Thompson, to continue to purchase extracurricular and in-school student accident insurance from Arnold & Associates as recommended by Superintendent Dillard. Measure passed with no objections.

Board President Bob Moore ordered that an election be held on May 10 to fill two 3-year terms and one 2-year term.

Motion by Nancy Birkenfeld seconded by Todd Thompson to appoint Freida Brown as election judge and Cheryl Berryhill as early voting clerk for the May 10, 2014 School Board election as recommended by Superintendent Dillard. All For, None Against

Motion by Sam Hunter seconded by Jason Redwine to approve the 2014-2015 School Calendar as presented and recommended by Superintendent Dillard. All For, None Against

Motion by Nancy Birkenfeld seconded by Bob Moore to approve a Low Attendance Waiver for days where attendance was below last year's average daily attendance by more than 10% as recommended by Superintendent Dillard. All For, None Against

Motion by Bill Longan seconded by Sam Hunter to approve the 2014-2015 KCAD Collection Contract as presented and recommended by Superintendent Dillard. All For, None Against

Motion by Jason Redwine seconded by Todd Thompson to approve the action by the KCAD Board to accept a bid and place trust property back on the tax roll as recommended by Superintendent Dillard. All For, with the exception of Nancy Birkenfeld who abstained

Motion by Bob Moore seconded by Bill Longan to approve the Financial and Investment Review and Report as presented by Superintendent Dillard. All For, None Against

Motion by Sam Hunter seconded by Bill Longan to approve the GT Policy as presented and recommended by Superintendent Dillard.

All For, None Against  
The administrators gave reports on student activities, student programs, student performance and facilities. At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Singleton recognized students who participated in the UIL Solo/Ensemble contest and gave special recognition to those who qualified for the State UIL Solo/Ensemble contest.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

**FARM**  
From Page 1

then you bought the land and were an owner or operator, and finally you retired to town and leased to a tenant or let one of your kids take over," he said.

"We don't have that anymore, because particularly in the 70s, a lot of farmers were doing well and they educated their kids — sent them off to college and they got a professional degree. When they were ready to come back in the '80s, it was a terrible economic time in agriculture. And the question became 'Why give up a good job in Dallas to take a terrible job back on the farm?'"

Also, Hayenga said, as more of the farm youth moved away and married someone from the big city, it wasn't as easy to get everyone to agree they wanted to move back to the farm.

"We want our kids to want what we give them, but that doesn't always work," he said. "What I have seen lately is the heirs have started to squabble — they just can't seem to agree. Instead of having land, they may prefer a larger retirement plan or to increase the size of their home, and prefer to just sell off the farm."

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