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# THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

HOME OF KRYS CAMPOS

THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2015

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## Knox will issue same sex marriage licenses

By James McAfee  
 The Knox County News-Courier

BENJAMIN — Judge Travis Floyd indicated that same sex marriage licenses would be issued here in Knox County if requested.

"It's the law," he said Tuesday. "But I will not perform any such marriages myself."

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton earlier issued a religious liberty-protection direction to county officials on same-sex marriage licenses, but law experts

don't see it as a way to avoid issuing them.

Rick Rosen, a Texas Tech School of Law professor, said the situation is different from a pastor being told to officiate a gay marriage. "I don't think this is a lawful basis on which to refuse marriage licenses to same-sex couples," he said.

As government officials, Rosen noted, they're bound by the U.S. Constitution, and that constitution is interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court. "It's the law of the land," he said. "That's it. Game over."

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 last Friday

that it is legal for all Americans, no matter their gender or sexual orientation, to marry the people they love.

Thirty-seven states and the District of Columbia had already recognized marriage equality, but these unions were banned in 13 states, including Texas.

The justices found that, under the 14th Amendment, states must issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples and recognize same-sex unions that have been legally performed in other states.

See MARRIAGE Page 6

## Knox Notes

**Benjamin public hearing**  
 BENJAMIN — The City of Benjamin will hold a public hearing at noon next Thursday regarding its 2015-2016 budget.

**Orient Lodge raffle**  
 KNOX CITY — The Grand Masonic Lodge installation of officers for this area is scheduled here at the Knox City Community Center at 6 p.m. July 18. The Orient 950 Masonic Lodge will hold a raffle for a Windham Weaponary rifle as a fundraiser for local scholarships and charity programs.

**Guitar, fiddle camp**  
 TRUSCOTT — Only a few openings remain for the Knox County Visioning Group and Circle Bar Ranch's annual guitar and fiddle camp to be held July 12-16 here at the Circle Bar Ranch Lodge.

**Dunbar reunion Aug. 7-9**  
 ABILENE — An all-school reunion for those attending Dunbar High School in Munday during the late 1960s and early 1970s is scheduled Aug. 7-9 here at the MGM Elegante Suites.

## Thornberry introduces bill to rein in EPA overreach

Special to The Knox County News-Courier

WASHINGTON — U.S. Congressman Mac Thornberry (R-Clarendon) introduced the Federal Regulatory Certainty for Water Act, H.R. 2705, to clarify the definition of "navigable waters" in the Clean Water Act (CWA) to help protect private property owners from regulatory expansion by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).

"Those who live and work in our part of Texas, especially the farmers and ranchers, understand the importance of clean water and work hard to be good stewards of the environment, but we also understand that personal property and water rights are fundamental to the American way of life, a family's business, and many people's livelihoods," said Thornberry.

For decades, the courts and the EPA have grappled over the scope of the CWA, which simply defines "navigable waters" as "the waters of the United States, including the territorial seas." In May 2015, the EPA and Corps finalized the "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rule, which could allow the regulation of almost any wet area on private land that has some arbitrary connection to a navigable body of water.

See BILL Page 6

## Groundwater Management Area 6 planning meeting today

Special to News-Courier

MUNDAY — Citizens in Groundwater Management Area 6 are invited to provide input today at 10:30 a.m. here at the North Central Texas Municipal Water Authority, 135 North Munday Ave.

Texas Water Code Chapter 36 requires groundwater conservation districts to conduct joint planning within groundwater management areas.

The groundwater conservation districts must meet at least annually to review groundwater management plans, accomplishments of the management area, and proposals to adopt new or amend existing desired future conditions for the relevant aquifers within the management area.

The TWDB will calculate modeled available groundwater values, based on the desired future conditions, which will be used for regional water planning, groundwater conservation district management plans and for permitting groundwater withdrawals.

Groundwater Management Area 6 consists of the following groundwater conservation districts: Clear Fork Groundwater Conservation District, Gateway Groundwater Conservation District, Mesquite Groundwater Conservation District and Rolling Plains Groundwater Conservation District.

Counties within Groundwater Management Area 6 include Archer, Baylor, Childress, Clay, Collingsworth, Cottle, Dickens, Fisher, Foard, Hall, Hardeman, Haskell, Jack, Jones, Kent, King, Knox, Motley, Palo Pinto, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Throckmorton, Wichita, Wilbarger and Young.

## KC residents warned about high grass

Special to The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — City administrator Sam Watson reminds Knox City residents about the ordinance, allowing 12-inch high weeds and grass on their properties.

"All the recent rains have definitely allowed weeds and grass to grow quickly, but we do need to enforce the ordinance," Watson explained



Tony Logsdon/The Knox County News-Courier

Knox City's Zachary Rodriguez provides block that gives Paducah's Oscar Mathis running room in the Brazos Bowl where the Red scored a 56-22.

## Red claims Brazos Bowl, 56-22

By James McAfee  
 The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — Just like the previous year, the third edition of the Brazos Bowl, featuring some of the top six-man players in North Texas, turned into a runaway. This time the Red scored a 56-22 victory at Greyhound Stadium here last Saturday night.

Led by coaches Dewaine Lee of Strawn and Mike Bingham of Motley, the Red all-stars assumed command early with a strong offensive and defensive effort, taking a 28-0 lead into halftime.

Jared Brown of Crowell, named the game's most valuable player, led the way, scoring three touchdowns on short gains and setting up one of his scores with an interception.

Oscar Mathis of Paducah then added touchdown scampers of 33 and 65 to an earlier one from 22 to finish the night with 201 yards rushing. He was named the game's offensive MVP.

The defensive MVP was Gaga Soedarsona of Highland, who was Johnny-on-the-spot for two fumble recoveries in the first half that provided the Red with short fields.

Knox City's Zachary Rodriguez was a

member of the Red team, getting in plenty of action and providing the kickoffs. Down wind, his kicks carried out of the end zone, leaving the Blue no chance to return them.

Zachary and father Augie left for Canada earlier in the week as he is scheduled to play in the Can-Am Bowl, matching the U.S. vs. Canada. The U.S. leads the series, 14-4.

Knox City's Kryz Campos performed well for the Blue.

Knox City High athletic director and football coach Charles Steele coordinated the third edition of the all-star game. "Every year it has grown," Steele said, pointing to an estimated attendance was 500 people. "The Brazos Bowl is a win-win situation for our community and those that come to town to watch the game," he continued. "The restaurants and stores in Knox City see an increase of business and the fans see good six-man football."

The Red got on the scoreboard first, going 55 yards in 10 plays after a 35-yard Zachary Digby to Jake Welch pass for a touchdown was wiped out by a holding penalty. Digby converted a fourth and 18 with a 37-yard connection with Mathis to the Blue 1. Brown then scored, but the PAT kick was blocked.

See BOWL Page 4

## News-Courier closed Friday

The Knox City News-Courier will be closed Friday for the Fourth of July holiday to allow staff members to be with their families.



## Knox on way to wettest year

Special to The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — With the latest 1.12 inches of rain this past week raising the June total to 3.50, Knox County was well ahead of its six-month average with a total of 20.79.

May was officially the wettest month since the USDA-NRCS started keeping records here in Knox County at the James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center. The 11.05 inches eclipsed the 10.81 from July 2010 and the 10.40 from August 1966.

The wettest year was the 39.77 that fell in 2004. The next wettest was the 36.49 in 2010.

The driest year was 2011 when only 8.13 of rainfall was recorded. Only .15 was recorded during June, July and August that year.

(See complete rainfall records on pg. 6)

## Corrections

If you spot an error of fact, contact kcnewscourier@gmail.com.

## News on the go

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

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# Obits

## Carolyn Middlebrooks

Carolyn Janet Middlebrooks passed away Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at the age of 70. A memorial service was held at Gillespie Baptist Church, located East of Knox City five miles out, last Friday under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Homes. Private inurnment will be held at a later date.

Carolyn was born July 15, 1944 in Sonora to Melvin Clarence and Ella Ruth

(Gamel) Parker. For the past 20 years, she was a Knox City resident. She enjoyed playing solitaire in her spare time.

She was preceded in death by her parents; Melvin and Ella Parker and her husband J.F. Middlebrooks. Carolyn is survived by her daughter Christy Siems of Lake Dallas; son Billy King of San Angelo; brother Melvin C. Parker, Jr. and wife Laura of Sonora; sister Betty

Parker of Phoenix, AZ; three nieces Katie of Ozona, Misty and Jeanene; and her dear friends Cheryl Daniel, Jan Frost and John Griffin.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be given to Knox County Aging Center, 107 North Avenue East, Knox City, TX 79521 and Pink Ladies of Knox City, 701 SE 5th Street, Knox City.

Online condolences can be shared with Carolyn's family at [www.smithfamilyfh.com](http://www.smithfamilyfh.com)

# Leadership program seeks applicants

**BENJAMIN**—The Knox-Haskell Rural Leadership Program is gearing up for round two! This eight-month leadership series will be packed with outstanding speakers, tours, workshops, networking and much more.

The Knox County Visioning Group (KCVG) and the Development Corporation of Haskell (DCOH) are sponsoring the program.

Each class will include curriculum elements such as communication, conflict management, dealing with difficult people/situations, diversity, leadership styles, customer service and team building to name just a few. In addition, there will be local tours of businesses, museums, and other places that make each county unique. These tours will help participants learn more about their community and the region.

The leadership series will be open to 20 people. Those participating will attend an orientation on Sept. 18. Monthly sessions will be held on the first Friday of each month from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., starting in October and going through May 2016 in Knox and Haskell County. The group will take a trip to Austin in February 2016. And, each group will launch a community project upon completion of the training in May.

The program costs \$275 and may be paid by the employer or by individuals. Each participant will receive 4.8 CEUs from Vernon College. This fee includes all travel, food, a t-shirt, the overnight trip to Austin and all supplies.

Applications are available to Knox County residents at the Knox County Visioning Group office in Benjamin or downloaded at <http://www.thescopofknoxprairie.blogspot.com>. The application deadline is Sept. 1, but sooner is better because space is limited.

For more information, call the KCVG at 940459-4121.

# Goree High School 50th reunion

The Goree High School class of 1965 enjoyed three days of cool weather, great seafood and sightseeing on Martha's Vineyard, Provincetown and Hyannis in Cape Cod recently. Shown (l-r) are Jan Roberts of Atlanta, GA, Roy Lee Russell of DeSoto, Robbie Cooke Forsberg of Orleans, MA, Donny Land of Comfort, Matilda Bryant Albridge of San Angelo and Lynell Jetton Williams of Spearman.



Courtesy photo

Chris Blackburn serves as CEO at Blackburn Media Group, proud owner of The Red River Sun, The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon, The Knox County News-Courier and The Post Dispatch. He can be reached by email at [chris@blackburnmediagroup.com](mailto:chris@blackburnmediagroup.com) and you can follow him on Twitter @WCSBlackburn.

# The Paperboy

## Liberal Christmas season

I'm not trying to anger anyone today so some of you may need to read this twice in order to really get the point of my observation, which is: Everyone expects their voice to be heard and their constitutional rights to be upheld.

This past weekend must have felt like Liberal Christmas for my friends on the left. The Supreme Court weighed in on the side of same-sex marriage and the Affordable Care Act. They also struck down Texas' new abortion laws.

So much for State's Rights, right? I think we can all agree that President Obama has delivered on his campaign promise. He has fundamentally transformed the United States of America. That was very evident this weekend.

But lost in the fog of elation is the fact that millions of silent voices have now been ignored their equal rights.

The vast majority of people from Texas, Oklahoma and other conservative states have voted in state elections against same sex marriage and Obamacare. That's a fact.

It's also a fact that despite those millions of voters voting in state laws, five to seven people overturned those laws: Obama and the Supreme Court justices who voted to overturn the laws.

Regardless of how you feel about the topics, you have to wonder if it's good for just a few people to cast aside the opinions and beliefs of millions and millions of people.

Look, I get it. We have states where like-minded people live. Texas is largely conservative while California is largely liberal. We're free to think how we want and live how we want. That's good in my opinion.

What's not good is when a few people, who are likely out-of-touch with an enormous amount of Americans, rule as if we all want to be like California. And the simple truth is, we do not.

What Obama, his cronies and the Supreme Court have done is begin a groundswell of opposition. Liberals may not want to hear this and may not even believe it, but power has an ebb and flow and politics is cyclical in this country.

Americans do not like things shoved in their faces - especially when it goes against their very belief system.

The talking heads in the mainstream media find it unbelievable that many of us actually believe in God and try and obey the teachings in the Holy Bible. That is a large miscalculation.

When you watch these morning shows, they speak to us as if we all think the same. The reality is that there are tens of millions of Americans that are angry. They are the silent majority and they will be out in force during the 2016 election.

By the time it is said and done, the Liberals and Progressives will be left wondering what in the world just happened.

In the meantime, we can expect the narrow-minded and radicals to react in negative ways.

For instance, I was traveling home from Austin (Yes - Austin was in a good mood) Sunday and saw a jeep full of white teens in Mineral Wells with a monstrous Confederate flag attached waving from the back.

My first thought was, "That's not good."

My second thought was, "They are well within their rights to think how they wish. This is America."

And that's just it. We know it's America. Just as some people find the Confederate flag repugnant, some find a rainbow White House repugnant.

Americans believe in their constitutional rights and freedoms and right now the majority of Americans think their rights are in jeopardy because of the actions of a very few. Meanwhile, they are watching people celebrate in their faces on television and on the streets.

Don't shoot the messenger, but that's a lot of people who think they do not have equal protection under the law and they too, will fight for their equal rights.

Their voices will be heard.

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Chris Blackburn serves as CEO at Blackburn Media Group, proud owner of The Red River Sun, The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon, The Knox County News-Courier and The Post Dispatch. He can be reached by email at [chris@blackburnmediagroup.com](mailto:chris@blackburnmediagroup.com) and you can follow him on Twitter @WCSBlackburn.

# Knox County Aging Center

Menus for week of July 6-10

**Monday:** Pork chop supreme, rice, vegetables, lemon iced cookies, rolls.

**Tuesday:** Summer chicken stew, turnips, salad, cornbread, fruit.

**Wednesday:** Turkey tetrazzini, peas and carrots, salad, garlic bread, cake.

**Thursday:** BBQ chicken, herbed corn, green beans, salad, rolls, pudding.

**Friday:** Chicken salad sandwich, macaroni salad, carrot stick, dessert.

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CLINT LEWIS Owner

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# Happy 4th of July

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# Greyhounds ranked No. 6 in state

Special to The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — The Knox City Greyhounds were ranked sixth in the state in Class 1A by Dave Campbell's Texas Football Magazine released last month.

However, the Greyhounds are not the favorites in District 8-1A. That honor goes to the Crowell Wildcats, the winners of the state titles for the past two seasons.

The question posed by Texas Football

was, "Can Knox City get off the snide with district foe Crowell and make a run for themselves in the postseason?"

The Wildcats, however, were not the magazine's choice to score three titles in a row. Border County got the nod, just ahead of Valley, Gordon and Abbott. The Wildcats were ranked fifth.

While the Greyhounds and Wildcats appear destined to make the playoffs, Rotan and Aspermont will likely be staying home.

## Brazos Bowl



Tony Logsdon/The Knox County News-Courier  
Knox City's Zachary Rodriguez prepares to kick off for the Red during the Brazos Bowl, getting plenty of chances after the Red score eight touchdowns.

## BOWL

From Page 1

The Red got another golden opportunity when Soedarson recovered a fumble on the Blue 18. However, Nathan Moya deflected a pass to Crowell teammate Brown in the end zone to stop the threat.

Then in the second quarter, the Blue went for it on fourth down and turned the ball over at its 31. Digby hit Korby Simpson for 23 yards and two plays later Brown made it 12-0. The PAT kick was blocked again.

The Blue appeared on its way to making a game of it, racking up three first downs and moved to the Red 12 before Soedarson came up with another fumble recovery.

On the second play, Mathis found daylight down the right side and scored on a 22-yard scamper. Michael Portillo's PAT made it 20-0 with 2:03 left in the half.

A minute later, Brown picked off a Cameron McCarley pass and returned it to the Blue 4. Brown scored on the next play and Portillo made it 28-0.

The Blue showed some life to start the second half, converting a pair of fourth downs in moving 60 yards in 10 plays. Colton Garrett went the final 15 yards. The key was a 21-yard run by McCarley after he picked up a bobbled ball on the previous play. McCarley added the PAT kick, reducing the deficit to 28-8.

Following a 12-yard run by Brown on third down, Mathis went the final 33 yards. Patillo's kick made it 36-8.

Justin Faulkner picked off a McCarley pass and got deep into Blue territory. However, an illegal block penalty moved the Red back to its own 15. On the second play, Mathis again found daylight and raced all the way to the end zone. Patillo's kick upped

lead to 50-8 early in the final period.

After converting another fourth down, McCarley narrowed the deficit to 56-14 by driving the Blue 57 yards in seven plays and scoring himself from four yards out.

Brown returned the failed on-side kick to the Blue 35 and then Caleb Clary went up the middle for the TD on the Red's first play from scrimmage.

A 36-yard pass connection from McCarley to Moya put the Blue into Red territory. Four plays later Moya went the final yard. McCarley's PAT left score at the final count, 56-22.

The Blue offense ran 29 plays as compared to 10 for the Red in the second half, but were still outscored 28-22.

The coaches for the Blue were Brandon Smith and Jacob Hancock of Valley and Bret Tyler of Sterling City.



Tony Logsdon/The Knox County News-Courier  
Knox City's Krys Campos saw plenty of action in a losing cause for the Blue during the third annual Brazos Bowl.

# Texas Football ranks Munday 19th in state

MUNDAY — Dave Campbell's 2015 Texas Football tabbed Munday at the 19th ranked team in Class 2A, pointing out that the Moguls always seem to find a way to reload.

However, the Moguls were selected second in District 7-1A, Division II behind defending champion Hamlin, ranked No. 11 in the state.

While pointing to the Albany, last year's state runnerup, as the likely favorite from region II, Texas Football did say not to

overlook Munday, Hamlin and Iraan. Texas Football named defending state champion Bremond as its choice for a repeat title with Seagraves as the choice for No. 2 ahead of Albany.

Electra was picked as the third playoff team from 7-1A with Haskell, Seymour and Petrolia in the bottom half.

Munday running back Dayveon Dockins, who rushed for 1,823 yards and scored 20 touchdowns as a sophomore, was labeled a "youngster to watch" by Texas Football while Temerick Reagins was named its choice as the district's defensive MVP.

# Youth leadership conference helps Texas students

STEPHENVILLE—A strong Texas demands high leadership standards. That's where Texas Farm Bureau's (TFB) Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) comes into play. For 52 years, the program has equipped students with leadership skills and economic knowledge, as well as boosted their confidence with goal-setting activities.

High school juniors and seniors from across the state attended the week-long conference, which was held here last month at Tarleton State University in Stephenville.

Cole Redwine and Julio Vitolas represented Knox County at the annual conference.

"Hundreds of students from across Texas—including Knox County—have been encouraged and inspired by the free enterprise economic system that our coun-

try was built on," said Tyler Thompson, County Farm Bureau President Knox County.

YLC participants heard from motivational speakers, learned about the free enterprise system and engaged in hands-on activities to build character and leadership abilities.

The students assumed the role of a freshman U.S. Congressman to pass legislation, represent constituents, work with other members of Congress and run a re-election campaign.

"These students are our future leaders, and we want to provide them with the skills needed to help them be successful," Thompson said. "The in-depth look at our free enterprise system and constitutional government, combined with their leadership and teamwork exercises, will help them travel the road of excellence."

# Thompson will compete in youth rodeo

Special to The Knox County News-Courier

SHAWNEE, Ok.—Tyson Thompson of Munday will participate in team roping as a heeler in the 23rd annual International Finals Youth Rodeo held here starting Friday at the Heart of Oklahoma Exposition Center.

Thompson will join more than 1,000 of the top high school rodeo athletes from across the United States, participating in the world's richest youth rodeo, hoping to win his share of more than \$200,000 in prize money and championship saddles and buckles.

Contestants will compete in nine other events running simultaneously in three arenas throughout the week. Events include barrel racing, pole bending, break-away roping, goat tying, tie-down roping,

steer wrestling, bull riding, saddle bronc riding and bareback riding.

The IFYR consists of two long go-rounds and a short go. All contestants compete once in each of the long go-rounds. The top 15 averages in each event will compete in the championship round short go for fame and prizes.

"Our main purpose from the beginning of the International Finals Youth Rodeo has been to provide high school athletes with a professional rodeo," said Michael Jackson, operations manager of Heart of Oklahoma Exposition Center and International Finals Youth Rodeo.

"It's a great opportunity for these young athletes to get an idea of what to expect if they continue to rodeo in college and beyond."

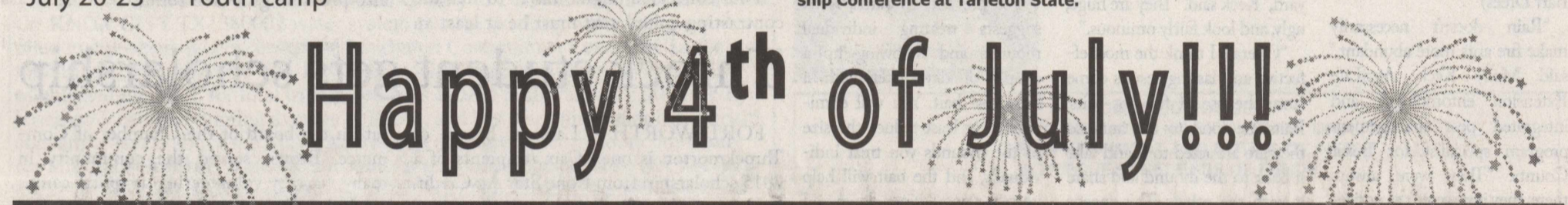
## Leadership Conference



Courtesy photo  
Cole Redwine and Julio Vitolas represented Knox County at the Texas Farm Bureau Leadership Conference at Tarleton State.

## FBC Munday youth schedule

- July 6 — Munday Night Madness, 3-6 p.m.
- July 8 — Sunshine Fun, messy games, 3-6:30 p.m.
- July 13-16 — Pre-teen camp, Lueders
- July 20-23 — Youth camp



# MOGUL & MOGULETTE SUPPORTERS

# Congratulations Zachary and Krys on your accomplishments during the Brazos Bowl!

# GREYHOUND & HOUNDETTTE SUPPORTERS

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MARRIAGE From Page 1

They wrote that the right to marriage is an inherent aspect of individual autonomy, since "decisions about marriage are among the most intimate that an individual can make."

They also said gay Americans have a right to "intimate association" beyond merely freedom from laws that ban homosexuality.

Sen. Charles Perry issued the following statement: "Regardless of what any court says, true marriage will always be between one man and one woman. This truth

is biblical and a super majority of Texans have affirmed this through the democratic election process. It is a shame that once again the Supreme Court has decided to ignore the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and decided to legislate from the bench and impose their will on the states."

BILL From Page 1

In addition to repealing the misguided EPA/Corps WOTUS rule, Thornberry's bill redefines "navigable waters" in the CWA as waters that are navigable-in-fact or are permanently flowing bodies of water that physically connect to navigable waters. H.R. 2705 also clarifies what types of waters are excluded from federal jurisdiction.

"This Administration, the EPA in particular, has shown total disregard for the rights of private citizens," Thornberry said. "No landowner should have to worry about whether the

federal government will get in the way of their business because of the bar ditch behind their house."

Thornberry has recently supported and the House has passed three other bills that would help rein in EPA regulatory overreach:

• H.R. 2028, the "FY 2016 Energy and Water Appropriations bill," with a provision that would bar the Corps from developing, adopting, implementing, or enforcing any change to rules or guidance pertaining to the CWA definition of WOTUS.

• H.R. 1732, the "Regulatory Integrity Protection Act," which would require the EPA and the Corps to develop a new WOTUS

rule by consulting with state and local officials and taking into actual consideration the public comments on the 2014 proposal and supporting documents.

• H.R. 2042, the "Ratepayer Protection Act of 2015," which would delay the compliance date of greenhouse gas emission standards for existing power plants until all judicial and administrative reviews are final and no longer eligible for appeal. The bill would also allow states to opt out of compliance if the governor determines that the rule would have an adverse effect on rate-payers or have a significant adverse effect on the reliability of the state's electricity system.

Use of baits best way to control fire ants

Special to The Knox County News-Courier

SAN ANTONIO - The recent rains have brought fire ants closer to the surface, both literally and as a matter of concern for area property owners, said a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert based here.

People in many parts of the state are seeing more fire ant mounds after recent rains, said Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service entomologist Molly Keck. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo by Dr. Bart Drees)

"Rain doesn't necessarily make fire ants more abundant," said Molly Keck, AgriLife Extension entomologist and integrated pest management program specialist for Bexar County. "They were always there; they just weren't as notice-

able. When it rains, the ground becomes saturated and the fire ants move their colonies higher, giving some people the impression there are more of them than there were during dry months."

Keck said unless homeowners have been treating regularly, it's a safe assumption they already have or will be getting at least one fire ant mound in their yard.

"I have found mounds when weeding my garden, in my vegetable beds, along the sidewalk, next to my newly planted fig tree and in the middle of the yard," Keck said. "They are huge, ugly, and look fairly ominous."

"Overall, I think the most effective and lasting results come from the use of fire ant baits. Baits are food to the ants, so they are attracted to it and take it back to the mound and share it with the others. This means

putting less pesticide into the environment while getting better long-term results."

For fire ants without visible mounds, baits are definitely the best solution.

Keck said your options are more limited if the ants are in your vegetable garden. Boiling water and oils will work, but depending on how close that mound is to the plants, you may kill some vegetable roots. "I suggest products containing spinosad as either a drench or bait, as it is labeled for use in vegetable gardens," Keck said.

For fire ants in yards, Keck suggests treating individual mounds and following up a couple of days later with a broadcast bait. You will eliminate or at least reduce the size of the mounds you treat individually, and the bait will help keep the populations down and knock out the mounds that you didn't see.

If you're having a party or outside gathering in a few days, or need to treat quickly for some other reason, Keck suggested using broadcast granules or individual mound treatments or both. If the ant population is really dense, treat individual mounds with a liquid drench or a dust labeled for fire ants. Then use a broadcast granule treatment to provide a barrier to prevent new mounds from popping up, as well as to treat any unseen mounds.

Rainfall totals

USDA-NRCS James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center Rainfall Amounts 1966-2015

Table with 12 columns (years 1966-1982) and 12 rows (months January-December). Total: 25.29

Table with 12 columns (years 1983-1999) and 12 rows (months January-December). Total: 28.25

Table with 12 columns (years 2000-2015) and 12 rows (months January-December). Total: 25.00

New gun law means increase in signage

Special to The Knox County News-Courier

AUSTIN — Texas' new open carry law will bring big increases in signage required for businesses asking for the gun owners to leave their weapons behind.

The concealed signs have to feature contrasting colors, text must be at least an

inch tall and the 38-word messages must appear in English and Spanish.

Hospitals, schools, bars and sporting events were deemed off limits by the new law that takes effect Jan. 1, 2016.

Private property owners and colleges can also promote gun-free zones.

Throck student gets scholarship

FORT WORTH - Lanham Brown of Throckmorton is one of six recipients of a 2015 scholarship from Lone Star Ag Credit. Brown and the other winners each received a \$2,500 grant.

Brown is a recent graduate of Throckmorton High School and plans to attend Texas Tech University in Lubbock this fall.

Throughout his high school career in Throckmorton, he was a member of a state championship football team, served in leadership roles in both FFA and 4-H as well as

sat on the board of the Chamber of Commerce. Brown served the community in many ways by volunteering at sports camps for kids, Christmas Angels, serving meals at the Faith Mission Homeless Shelter and participating in Planet Agriculture at the West Texas State Fair.

He is also a member of The Christian Center, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, Texas Junior Red Angus Association and the Ranch Horse Association of America.

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Legal Notice The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has notified the CITY OF KNOX CITY TX1380002 water system that the drinking water being supplied to customers had exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for total trihalomethanes.

Classifieds! Call today to place your ad! COMBINED NOTICE NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Notice of Bid Proposal INVITATION TO BID 1. INVITATION TO BID: Sealed Proposals will be received by Skip Casey, Interim Superintendent

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT The City of Goree has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON FINDING Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments for consideration to the City of Goree to the Office of the Mayor.

# Be careful with fireworks

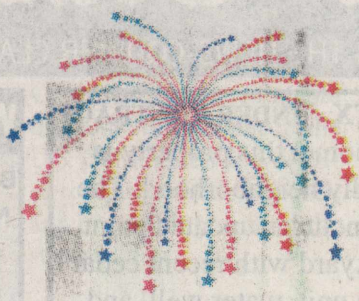
Special to The Knox County News-Courier

Shooting off fireworks is a tradition on the Fourth of July enjoyed by many.

Everyone should already know that it isn't legal to use fireworks within the city limits. It's also illegal to do so on a roadway or ditch. Before all the rain, there were bans in some counties.

For those planning to enjoy the custom, use good judgment to do so in a safe manner, following these common sense rules:

- Read and follow all warnings and instruction labels on fireworks.
- Use fireworks only under close adult supervision and in safe areas away from structures, dry grass and brush.
- Keep a hose, bucket of water and wet towels nearby in case of a malfunction or fire.
- Dispose of used fireworks in a bucket of water.
- Never ignite fireworks in a container, especially a glass or metal container.
- Consider wearing safety glasses.
- If you have a dud, leave it alone and wet it down with water.
- Be respectable and end your fireworks show before midnight.
- Clean up your spent fireworks afterwards.



# Mac's Views Texas Football magazine full of previews

The 56th edition of Dave Campbell's Texas Football magazine is now available, providing all kinds of interesting information with 400 pages previewing the upcoming fall football season. I've got my copy. Do you?



JAMES MCAFEE

The magazine is still the bible for high school football in the state just as it was when I was a sports writer and editor with the Wichita Falls Record-News, the Odessa-American and the Abilene Reporter-Newsback in the 1960s.

Elsewhere in today's issue are previews about the prospects for the three high schools here in Knox County. Knox City is ranked sixth

in 1A, but second in 8-1A, Division I behind Crowell. Munday is ranked 19th in 2A, but second in 7-2A, Division II behind Hamlin. Benjamin is expected to be improved, but picked fourth in 11-1A, Division II.

It's only 32 days until the high school players

report for the first day of conditioning drills on Aug. 3.

The cover story is all about Texas and Texas A&M needing to resume their football rivalry, having not played since 2011. I'd like to see that happen, too.

Texas Christian University is the magazine's choice to win the Big 12—actually the conference now has only 10 schools—followed by Baylor, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Texas, Texas Tech, Kansas State, West Virginia, Iowa State and Kansas.

In the event, two teams end up tied for the Big 12 title as it did last year with Baylor and TCU, the coaches earlier voted to make the tie breaker be the winner of the game between the two.

On a national level, the magazine goes with defending champion Ohio State as No. 1 followed by Alabama, TCU, Oregon and Baylor—much the same as it was last season.

High school football coaches in the state now are making plans to attend the Texas Six-Man Coaching School July 15-17 in Wichita Falls and the Texas High School Coaches Association convention and coaching school July 19-22 in Houston.

# Obamacare saved by Supreme Court

Special to The Knox County News-Courier

WASHINGTON — In a 6-3 decision, the Supreme Court saved the controversial health care law that will define President Barack Obama's administration for generations to come.

The ruling holds that the Affordable Care Act authorized federal tax credits for eligible Americans living not only in states with their own exchanges, but also in the 34 states with federal marketplaces.

It staved off a major political showdown and a mad scramble in states that would have needed to act to prevent millions from losing health care

coverage.

"Congress passed the Affordable Care Act to improve health insurance markets, not to destroy them," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in the majority opinion. "If at all possible, we must interpret the Act in a way that is consistent with the former, and avoids the latter."

Roberts was joined by Justice Anthony Kennedy -- who is often the Court's swing vote -- and the four liberal justices.

Justice Antonin Scalia wrote the dissent, joined by Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito.

As expected, Republican presidential candidates denounced the ruling.

## Golf schedules

### Lake Creek Knox City C.C.

July 11-12--3 person scramble

Aug. 9--Guys & Dolls

Aug. 23--1 person scramble

Sept. 12-13--3 person scramble

July 4--Bill Baker Memorial Tournament, 2-person scramble, \$100, 8:30 a.m.

July 5--July 4th Scramble, blind draw, \$15, 1:30 p.m.

July 25--Knox City Festival, 3-person scramble, \$75, 8 a.m.

Aug. 8--Knox City CC Ag-Oil, 4-man, \$240, 8 a.m., 2 p.m.

Aug. 22--Glow Ball Scramble, 4-person, \$25, 5 p.m.

Sept. 7--Labor Day Scramble, blind draw, \$15, 1:30 p.m.

Sept. 12--Knox City Fall Classic, 3-person, \$75, 1:30 p.m.

Sept. 19--Knox City Chamber of Commerce Scramble, 3-person, \$120, 1:30 p.m.

Oct. 3--Glow Ball Scramble, 4-person, \$25 (includes meal), 5 p.m.

Oct. 10--Guys & Dolls Scramble, 2-person scramble, \$75, 1:30 p.m.

To enter tournaments, call 940 658-3911 after 6 p.m. or send to PO Box 734, Knox City, TX 79529

# DPS reminds Texans about dangers of leaving children in vehicles

AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) reminds Texans that as summer temperatures increase, so does the potential for vehicular heatstroke deaths in children. Every year, children die from heatstroke after being left in a vehicle or entering a vehicle unnoticed.

"Children should never be left unattended in a vehicle regardless of the weather; however especially in warmer temperatures, the likelihood of serious injury or death increases exponentially when a child — or anyone — remains in a hot vehicle for too long," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "DPS urges parents, caretakers and the public to do their part to prevent vehicular heatstroke by never leaving a child inside a vehicle without an adult present, and by notifying emergency personnel if they see a child alone in a car."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, temperatures inside a car can rise more than 20 degrees in only 10 minutes; and even with an outside temperature of 60 degrees, the temperature

inside a car can reach 110 degrees. Leaving windows partially rolled down does not help. In addition, young children are particularly at risk since their bodies heat up faster than an adult.

DPS offers the following tips for preventing vehicular heatstroke deaths and injuries:

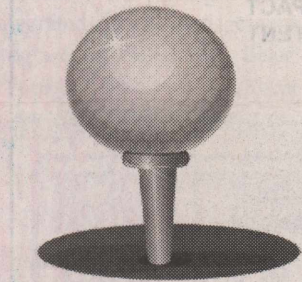
Always check the back seats of your vehicle before walking away.

Establish reminders that help ensure you remove children from the vehicle. For example: leave your bag, lunch or cell phone in the back seat with the child's car seat.

Call 9-1-1 if you see a child alone in a car and emergency personnel will instruct you what to do next.

If a child goes missing, open the doors and trunks to every vehicle in the area. One-third of all of the deaths occur when a child accesses a parked car unnoticed.

Teach children not to play in vehicles and make sure to place the keys out of reach when not being used.



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Worship: 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.  
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Youth: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.