

THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

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THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2015

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Knox County gets distinguished service award



Members of the Knox County Historical Commission received a distinguished service award from the Texas Historical Commission at Monday's meeting of the Knox commissioners. Shown (l-r) are Homer Lowrance, Bryan Gass, Mary Birkenfeld, Charles Griffin, Mary Jane Young, Doris Crownover, Susan Cartwright and Ben Grill.

Special to The Knox County News-Courier

AUSTIN—The Texas Historical Commission (THC) honored the Knox County Historical Commission (CHC) with a Distinguished Service Award for the 2014 year of service.

The THC issues Distinguished Service Awards each year to CHCs that exemplify exceptional service and dedication to the state of Texas.

This award was presented during a meeting of the county commissioners court last Monday, to acknowledge the CHC's stewardship of our state's unique cultural and historic sites.

"County Historical Commissions are valued partners of the Texas Historical Commission," said THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe. "We present Distinguished Service Awards each year to high-perform-

ing County Historical Commissions that strive for organizational excellence and illustrate the best of what preservation can accomplish for Texas communities."

Texas CHCs provided more than 375,000 volunteer hours in 2014, which is an in-kind donation to the state of Texas that carries a monetary value of \$8.8 million.

The THC empowers CHCs across the state through programs and ser-

vices that preserve Texas' heritage for the education, enjoyment, and economic benefit of present and future generations. The THC's advisory role to CHCs is outlined in the Texas Local Government Code, the statute that allows county commissioners courts to establish CHCs. These unpaid appointees, as directed by county officials, initiate and conduct programs that preserve the historic and cultural resources of Texas.

Knox Notes

Please notify the News-Courier to add or update your events and meeting times. Emailed submissions to kcnewscourier@gmail.com are preferred, but will also be accepted by phone at 940 422-5350. The deadline for inclusion in the next week's issue will be 5 p.m. on Fridays.

Tidwell new Lions president

MUNDAY—Doug Tidwell has been elected as the new president of the Munday Lions Club while David Kuehler and Shan Newton will assume roles as first and second vice presidents. New committee chairmen include James McAfee, publicity and Jeff Robertson, tail twister.

Kidz fundraiser Tuesday

MUNDAY—Hiz Kidz will hold a fundraiser at 5 p.m. Tuesday here at the downtown park, offering brisket burritos for \$6. Proceeds will be used to send kids to camp later this month.

Benjamin pre-K roundup

BENJAMIN—The Benjamin ISD has announced its pre-K roundup will be held from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday, allowing parents of children age 3-4 as of Sept. 1, 2015 to register for all-day classes.

Dunbar reunion Aug. 7-9

ABILENE—If you ever attended Dunbar School in Munday during the late 1960s and early 1970s, you are invited to a reunion Aug. 7-9 here at the MGM Elegante Suites.

Thornberry cites risks on Iran deal

WASHINGTON—Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-TX), Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, made the following statement on the Iran Deal announced by the White House Tuesday morning:

"Even if this deal works out exactly as President Obama and Sec. Kerry say it will, I do not believe it is a good deal for the U.S. and our allies. The Iranian regime will have about \$140 billion more because of sanctions relief and unfrozen assets, but there is no sign that the Ayatollah plans to reverse course on Iran's destabilizing, aggressive agenda throughout the Middle East. The better option is to continue pursuing the President's original goal to dismantle and stop the Iranian nuclear program."

He also said, "whatever the claimed gains we get from this deal, it clearly does not outweigh the risks to the security in the region and to the United States and its interests."

Corrections

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

News on the go



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Thornberry votes for education overhaul

Special to The Knox County News-Courier

WASHINGTON—U.S. Congressman Mac Thornberry (R-Clarendon) voted last week in support of a bill that would return many of the decision-making responsibilities in education back to the states by reauthorizing and reforming the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, currently known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The Student Success Act, H.R. 5, passed the House by a vote of 218-213.

The bill would remove one-size-fits-all federal education standards, eliminate a number of federal mandates, empower local schools and officials, and enhance school accountability. It gives local schools more flexibility in using the federal funds they receive for the district's individual needs.

"Bureaucrats in Washington cannot replace the first-hand experience and understanding that our local teachers and parents have of the needs of students throughout our area," said Thornberry.

"Education standards should be determined by the individual states and school districts to ensure that the academic standards are best tailored to local schools and their students. Too often, Washington thinks it can and should dictate policy at all levels of government, and those policies often come at the expense of our communities and the American people."

The Student Success Act improves K-12 education by:

Returning responsibility for measuring student and school performance to the states and school districts rather than using the current national system based on high stakes tests;

Repealing more than 65 ineffective, duplicative, and unnecessary programs and replacing them with a Local Academic Flexible Grant for schools to better support students;

Prohibiting the Secretary of Education from coercing states into adopting Common Core or any other common standards or assessments, as well as reining in the Secretary's regulatory authority; and

Strengthening existing efforts to improve student performance among targeted student populations, including English learners and homeless children.

Quade named TCASE administrator of year

Special to The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY—Marsha Quade, principal of Knox City Elementary School, has been named the winner of the 2015 TCASE Campus Administrator of the Year Award.

Quade's colleagues and supervisors praised her involvement with her learning community and campus. She knows every student by name and speaks to each one throughout the day.

District employees know Quade as someone who is willing to do anything that she would also expect her staff to do for a student or family. She has worked alongside the cafeteria staff, janitorial staff and can fill in for any of her teacher's classrooms at any point in time.

She has a passion for learning and participates actively in all in-service trainings, book studies and SSA workshops that her faculty attends.

Quade, an active member of the Beta Chi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, was recognized as the "Teacher of the Week" by the Wichita Falls Record News when she was teaching.

The TCASE award is presented to a campus administrator who supports the special education program, the students served in the program and the professionals who provide special education and related services. This administrator actively promotes a climate of inclusion in both academic and extracurricular activities on the campus or throughout the district.

"No one is left out. If there are special needs, they are met with grace and without fanfare. She loves and cares for her learning community," said Jeanne Snyder, the direc-



Marsha Quade

tor of special education with Haskell-Knox SSA.

"In order for a special education program to excel within a school or district, it is vital that campus administrators recognize the importance of the programs for students with disabilities. It is obvious that Ms. Quade is a true advocate for special education students at Knox City Elementary School," said Theresa Parsons, TCASE Executive Director.

The Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education, Inc. is a professional society comprised of nearly 1,200 members, who support special education programs throughout Texas. In principle and in practice, the association values and seeks diverse and inclusive participation within the field of special education.

Munday takes stand on nuisance properties

By James McAfee
The Knox County News-Courier

MUNDAY—The Munday City Council approved a motion to start a stricter enforcement of ordinances related to trash and weeds in yards within the city during its regular meeting Tuesday night.

Fines up to \$2,000 may be levied if residents don't comply after getting registered letters detailing the violations.

City attorney Lina Trevino provided council members with legal

advice on how to handle cases involving nuisance properties, including sample letters that could be sent to the owners.

The council members approved making the 100 block of Bowie a one-way street (west to east) so that a drainage ditch can be widened. This will help eliminate the standing water at the corner fronting Munday Tire & Appliance and the First Texas Bank drive-up facility.

They also OK'd spending up to \$1,000 to rent a Bobcat to assist

with the widening and the cleaning of other drainage ditches.

A land swap with Lou Cartwright, giving the city eight acres that now is the driving range at the Lake Creek Golf Course in exchange for 25 acres owned by the city east of Munday, also was approved.

In other business, the council decided to renegotiate an agreement with the golf course for the use of city water; tabled plans to require roof permits until looking into just widening current per-

mit requirements already on the books; and decided to move some dumpsters around the city to sites needing more capacity for trash.

The city received a "clean" opinion from King, Moore, Truelove and Pharis in regard to its audit. "That's the best we give," said Scott Myers. "The city has definitely improved its financial position."

Myers did reveal that a few adjustments did need to be made to reconcile the accounts, including adding a new bank account to separate funds in one case.

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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: Noon Mondays
Editorial: 5 p.m. Mondays

SUBSCRIPTIONS
\$36 a year in the county
\$42 a year outside the county



Obits

Sandra Blacklock West

Sandra Sue Blacklock West was born March 4, 1941 in Littlefield, Texas to Jefferson Carroll Blacklock and Mauryse Genevieve Smith Blacklock. Sandy peacefully joined her Lord and Savior on June 29, 2015 at the age of 74.

She was a lifelong caregiver for her family and friends and worked for Dr. Hooker and Dr. H. Wayne Walker as well as an aide for Community Action Family Planning. She retired in January 2015 as a Private duty caregiver.

She married Thomas Rattliff West on March 7, 1959 in Munday, and he preceded her in death on Jan. 15, 2005. They were farmers from 1968 to 2005 and in 2006 she made the move to Lubbock, Texas.

Their ashes were interred



SANDRA WEST

together in the Abilene Veteran's Cemetery Monday. Visitation was held at the Perry Patton Community Center in Munday.

Those left to cherish her memory are her son Thomas C. West and wife Carla of Rochester, Janice Lynn Jackson and her husband Tom of Lubbock. Her five

grandchildren Jessica and her husband Jeremy Sanders, Cody and his wife Laci West of Munday, Jennifer and her husband Jeremy Webb of Lubbock, Jamie Jackson of Campbell and Aaron Jackson of Lubbock.

Her greatest joys were her great-grandchildren Hadleigh, Piper and Hagen Sanders, Timber Thomas West, and Ty Webb. She is survived by her sister Bettye Moore of Tyler and many cousins, nieces and nephews. Rachel Gray of Munday and Joel Glidewell of Wichita Falls are two that she chose as her own and were very special to her.

Memorials can be made to Hospice of Lubbock, Meals on Wheels of Lubbock or the American Cancer Society.



James McAfee/The Knox County News-Courier

Blake Thomason, Matt Porter and Callan Coltharp claim title at Lake Creek.

Coltharp, Porter, Thomason win Lake Creek event

By James McAfee
The Knox County News-Courier

MUNDAY — In a runaway, the threesome of Callan Coltharp and Matt Porter of Seymour along with Blake Thomason of Archer City captured the championship flight of the Lake Creek 3 Person Scramble here last weekend.

The trio posted rounds of 54 and 57 for a 29-under par 111 total on the par-70 layout to outdistance themselves from three other teams tied for second place with 117 totals.

The winners in the First Flight all dipped into the 50s to move into the top three positions with the Porter threesome shooting the day's best score of 56.

A total of 31 teams from all over North Texas participated.

During Saturday's opening round, Oliva Johnson and Cameron Montgomery took long drive honors on Nos. 3-12 while Scott Porter was closest to the pin on Nos. 5-14 at seven foot, 6 inches and Tom Clinton closest to pin on No. 9-18 at 3 foot and one inch.

Angela Herricks and Kelly Morre had the longest drives on Sunday while Jack Howell (7-11) and Mark Everett (2-10) had the closest approach shots on the two selected par 3s.

The winners:

Championship Flight	
Coltharp-Porter-Thomason	54-57-111
Anderson-Baldwin-Smajstrla	59-58-117
Abell-Angerer-Angerer	59-58-117
Howell-Miller-Miller	60-57-117
First Flight	
Porter-Porter-Porter	62-56-118
Abila-Acree-Casillas	61-58-119
Meador-Meador-Meador	62-58-120
Second Flight	
Bevel-Rowe-Rowe	64-61-125
Burbank-Webb-Webb	64-64-128
Buffkin-Crawford-Crawford	65-64-129
Third Flight	
Byrd-Holsey-James	66-62-128
Eaton-Mendoza-Zeissel	68-60-128
Arismendez-Arismendez-Harlan	67-61-128
Hayes-Hayes-Lane	67-62-129

*Ties were broken by scorecard playoffs except for Championship Flight

Dorothy Myers hosts Hill family reunion

Special to The Knox County News-Courier

JONESBORO—Descendants of Richard and Addie Cathey Hill celebrated the 50th annual family reunion at the Jonesboro Community Center on July 4. The reunion was hosted by their daughter Dorothy Hill Myers of Munday and family. All 78 relatives and friends enjoyed the fellowship, food and the traditional auction.

Family gathered around the pool at the Best Western Motel in Gatesville both Friday and Saturday evenings as all watched the grandchildren and great-grandchildren having fun swimming.

The Hills had nine children. Only the four "little girls" remain; Dorothy along with sisters June Hill Adams, Virginia Hill Flippen and Carrie Hill Tabers plus one sister-in-law Ida Mae Hill.

Those attending were Dorothy Hill Myers, Diane Parchman, Todd, Brittany, Austin, Katy, Annie and Averie Parchman, Tami and Zach Tonsi, Howard, Helen, Hunter and Harrison Scheffler, Greg, Joan and Jessica

Myers, Mary Kim and Greg Gilmore, Jonathan Phillips, Tyson Phillips, June Hill Adams, Kathy Adams, Barbara and Gary Bob Sanders, Carrie Hill Tabers and Tom and Dianne Tabers.

Descendants of Willie Hill Marshall attending were Patricia Laird, Lisa, Joey, Emma and Addie Martin and Chris, Starr, Copper and Sky Laird.

Descendants of J.W. Hill attending were Mike and Dorinda Hill, Joshua and Bronwyn Dower, Annette Snodgrass and Paul, James and Rachel.

Descendants of Royal Hill attending were Ida Mae Hill, Shirley and Charles Nelson, Kevin, Natalie, Chase and Mariah Nelson, Brooke Wiggins, Judy Simpson, Matt and Cyndi Simpson Frances, Jessica and Josh Simpson, Chelsea, Bell, Ethan and Easton, Alex and Amelia Simpson, Erica Garza, Janet Beggs, Valerie and Colton Conce, Natalie Sochman, Jennifer and Genevieve Hill and Jason Inge.

Descendants of Frank Hill attending were Robert Hilland Karen and Max Carr.

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Aging Center Menu

Menus for week of July 20-24

- Monday: Hamburger steak, corn, mixed vegetables, rolls, banana pudding
- Tuesday: Baked chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, gelatin
- Wednesday: Chicken spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert
- Thursday: Crunchy fish, potato wedges, coleslaw, bread, peach crisp
- Friday: Ham salad, potato salad, lettuce & tomatoes, cake

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WATERMELON FESTIVAL
July 24-25
Presented by Knox City Chamber of Commerce

Friday, July 24

- 3 p.m. Booths open, City Park
- 6 p.m. Parade, Downtown
- 8 p.m. Music by local musicians

Saturday, July 25

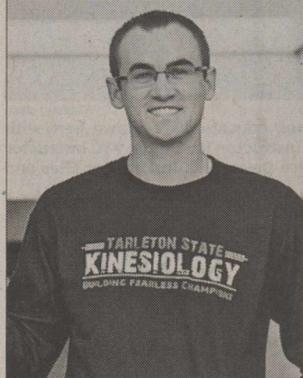
- 8 a.m. Golf tournament, KCCC
- 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Booths open, City Park

Live music throughout the day
Free swimming at city pool

Propps named girls coach at Benjamin

Special to The Knox County News-Courier

BENJAMIN—Cody Propps, former graduate of Benjamin High School, has returned home to become the new head girls' coach and fifth grade teacher.



Cody attended Tarleton State University where he graduated with honors this past May with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology in the College of Education.

While in college, he was intensely involved in organizations on campus and off-campus, coaching many youth teams during his four years at Tarleton.

He found a true passion in helping foster kids by volunteering at Foster's Home for Children in Stephenville, managing the livestock show program through 4-H, built relationships and supported the kids at their school functions while taking on the role as a sponsor of a group of high school boys.

Propps completed his student teaching at Hico Independent School District.

Before graduation, he was awarded the Robert H. Elliott Memorial Award for outstanding All-level practicum in teaching.

"I'm excited about starting my coaching career and proud to be in my hometown to continue build-

Commissioners approve retirement funding

By James McAfee
The Knox County News-Courier

BENJAMIN — The Knox County Commissioners Court approved investing 7% to the Texas County and District Retirement System to cover the costs of its matching funds for employee retirement benefits during a regular meeting here Monday afternoon.

In addition, the commissioners approved a resolution to authorize the county to apply for a

Texans Feeding Texans grant.

Knox county Judge Travis Floyd praised Aging Center Director Maggie McGhee for her work on the funding, which will help with transportation costs.

A \$100 bid from Jordan Wren was accepted for a corner lot in Munday. "This gets it on the tax rolls," Travis said.

Reports from the various county departments were heard and financial matters also addressed.

Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

I believe the heat of summer is here. Monday was quite warm, and the TV guy said we may see 100 degrees real soon. Well, it's mid July, so I guess we can't expect it to stay "cool" all summer. So far, it has been pretty nice—rain and cool temps have been greatly appreciated.

The news of those who are not feeling too well these days varies. Fred Carver says he feels pretty well—some days better than others. He goes back Wednesday for his third chemo treatment. I am told that usually makes one feel pretty weak and bad for a few days after.

Betty Lyles was in Wichita Falls last Tuesday to see her doctor. She got a good report and doesn't have to go back for six months unless some new problem occurs. She was proud of that report.

Deanne Lamb is in the Munday Nursing Center, having some back problems. She said if it keeps hurting she would see her doctor and get something to relieve the discomfort. Her brother Mike Young is going to have some surgery soon—something regarding the nerves in his back, I believe. He's in the Seymour Nursing Home and

was hoping to be able to return home soon, but it looks like now it may be three or four months, at least, before he's released.

Here 'n there

Jimmy and Bobbie Leach of Midland spent the weekend with their daughter Jeannie Clark and her husband Ricky and with relatives in Knox City.

My sympathy to the family of Roy Rodriguez in Knox City. Roy passed away last week. His health had been failing for a while, but he was always full of life when you saw him. His memorial service was Thursday in Knox City.

I saw Betty Poe Saturday. She's from Knox City but has been living in the Munday Nursing Center for some time now. She looks good and says she feels well. It was good to see her.

James and Jill Jackson and sons Daniel and Grant

returned home Sunday night after a week's vacation in Colorado. They said they did a lot of things while out there and thoroughly enjoyed it.

Sharon and Karson Bivens of Tatum, NM were here a couple of days the last of the week doing some moving and just looking things over at both sets of parents' home places. They planned to leave on Friday and go back to Tatum and be back in Seagraves for her granddaughter's wedding on Saturday. I had a brief visit with them on Thursday night. They are both doing pretty well.

Lots of out of town relatives and friends were here for the funeral of Imagen Young last Monday. I had a chance to visit with several of them. Among those here were Jessica Lamb of Bowie, Jack and Cindy Young of Round

See **BENJAMIN** Page 6

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NOTICE FOR BIDS

Bids will be received by North Central Texas Municipal Water Authority until 2:00 P.M., August 13, 2015 at North Central Texas Municipal Water Authority, 135 N. Munday Ave., Munday, Texas 76371 and then publicly opened and read aloud for the following project.

PROJECT: WATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS

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FUNDING: Texas Water Development Board

PROJECT INCLUDES: This project includes construction of a 4.0 MGD membrane filtration building, piping, fittings, and incidentals. Membrane filters and other associated equipment, valves and instrumentation are to be supplied by Siemens Corporation and installed by the Contractor. See Siemens submittal package for scope of Siemens supply. Equipment, valves and instrumentation to be supplied by Siemens will be directly paid for by the Owner to Siemens. Contractor will be responsible for installation of the Siemens supplied materials.

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Watermelon Festival scheduled July 24-25

By James McAfee
The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY —The 27th edition of the Knox City Watermelon Festival, presented by the Knox City Chamber of Commerce, is scheduled here July 24-25.

Vendors will man booths starting at 3 p.m. Friday. A parade is scheduled at 6 p.m. and local musicians will provide music at 8 p.m. at the city park.

There will be a golf tournament starting at 8 a.m. Saturday at the Knox City Country Club. Booths will be open 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Sat-

urday. There will be live music by local musicians throughout the day. In addition, free swimming, kiddie train rides and watermelon will be provided at the city park.

The festival was started 27 years ago as a point of community pride since the seedless watermelon was developed here in Knox County.

In fact, Knox City was designated by the Texas Legislature as the "Seedless Watermelon Capital of Texas," thanks to crops from Donald Johnson. After his death in 2005 and then after his son left the business a few years later, not many seedless watermelon have been grown around Knox City.



Courtesy photo
Four welding students who are moving on to continue their education are shown here with instructors. Pictured (l-r) are TSTC/Brownwood welding instructor Jay Burks, VTC instructor Monty Moeller, VTC grads Nathaniel Reid, Luis Diaz, Justice Dever and Christopher Elias and TSTC/Breckenridge welding instructor Michael Reddin

4 welding students enroll at TSTC in Breckenridge

Special to The Knox County News-Courier

ROCHESTER —After the first year of offering dual-credit welding classes through TSTC at the Rochester VTC, four local graduates, make the decision to continue their education by enrolling in the Welding Program at TSTC- Breckenridge Campus.

Justice Dever and Nathaniel Reid of Haskell,

Christopher Elias of Paint Creek and Luis Diaz of Rule will all begin classes this fall.

"This is a unique self-paced, competency-based program," said TSTC Welding Instructor Michael Reddin. "When students master one part of the curriculum, they then may move right on to the next. This allows the quick learner to get out at a much faster pace."

Six-man all-star games set Friday, Saturday

Special to The Knox County News-Courier

WICHITA FALLS —The Six-Man Association all-star football and basketball games will be played here Friday and Saturday, winding up the group's annual coaching school.

The division I football game is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Memorial Stadium.

Lane Jackson, Robert Kyle and Jay Bingham of Ropes will coach the West while Craig Steele, Chad Dail and Derek Stephens of May will coach the East.

For the first time ever, a female athlete has been selected to play football. Alexandra Thompson, a kicker for the Kopperl Eagles, will be a member of the East. She is an accomplished player, earning all-district as a kicker in 2012 and all-district special teams in 2014.

No Knox City players are included, but Mitchell Parsley of district rival Crowell will play for the West.

The division II football game will be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Memorial Stadium.

Coaching the West will be Craig Hamilton, Justin Rucker, Tommy DeLeon and Dylan Cox of Southland while Mike Bingham and Isaiah Archer of Motley County will coach the East.

Denzel Graves and Dominick Ross of Chillicothe and Jake Welch of Harrold will play for the East.

The girls basketball game is scheduled at noon and the boys at 2 p.m. on Saturday at the D.L. Ligon Coliseum at MSU.

Chris London and Brenda Krnavek of Calvert along with Bobby Smith of Coolidge will coach the East girls while Tiffany Potts and Karen Martinson of Rankin will coach the West girls.

Coaching the East boys will be Bryan Jones of Coolidge and Jeff Shavers of Gholson while Nathan Branum, Taylor Schulte and John Stanaland of Nazareth and Taylor Wilson of Ropes will coach the West boys.

Knox City C.C. golf schedule

- 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

The 501 Make-believe friends

Do children still have imaginary friends? Have electronic devices taken their places?

Mary was the name of my first pretend friend. Being an only child, I needed a friend. My husband remembers no such companions. He had two little brothers and neighborhood kids to play with.

My grandson Cutter is 8. I must ask him if he had any fantasy sidekicks. Maybe I can ask his 13-year-old sister the same question. I must hurry. She may slip without a word into the zone of incommunicability (between adolescents and adults) that characterizes the early teen years. Or maybe not. I hope not.

Imaginary friends strike me as a good subject for a doctoral thesis in psychology. You'd have to interview a lot of children, no doubt. The primary task might be to complicate their statements. Or to travel the world in search of a no-exposure-to-the-Internet control group, depending on how the subject is dis-

sserted. (Lucky guess for me that "disasserted" turned out to be a verb. Who knew?) What do I know about psychology? I remember little from the two basic courses forced on me in college. We didn't cover imaginary friends. I just remember Mary. She got replaced with another imaginary friend whose name escapes me. He was a guy. We played outdoors.

Then I got on with my life, never expecting

to have another imaginary friend.

Never say never.

My new imaginary friend is a bit different from his predecessors. He's real. The imaginary part is that he's with me when I dig grassburs. Believe it or not, he's my above-referenced grandson.

If you've never "dug" grassburs, it's the common term for extracting them from everywhere they are not wanted. They're wanted nowhere. I've been digging them for days. Cutter is my companion, helping me every step of the way, working even in the heat of the day, digging the hateful clumps up right alongside me, soaking up all the information I convey about all the other weeds and grasses and insects - Colorado grass, buffalo bur, the funny grass that looks like it has burs on it but they aren't burs, the scurrying black beetles, the caterpillars that will be something else eventually, and so on.

Yes, I'm delusional. You can't even pay regular people, much less grandchildren, to dig grassburs. And in real life, I'd have to break my unending lecture into digestible sound bites.

Only in my dreams does Cutter listen and toil by my side. Only in my imagination does he go on to discover and develop a deadly herbicide to target grassburs.

I envision him eulogizing me at my funeral, describing me as the person who sparked his interest in native grasses, the grassbur included. He credits me with spurring him on to his renowned and lucrative accomplishments. Yea!

Does anyone else have an imaginary version of a real grandchild? If you've got one that will dig grassburs, send him my way. He can join my imaginary grandchild. If nothing else, I'd have a greater audience.



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Visiting teens will assist with VBS

By James McAfee
The Knox County News-Courier

MUNDAY — There will be a lot more teenagers here next week when Cody Speer, the youth minister at the MacArthur Church of Christ, brings a group of 27, including 21 teens, for a mission trip.

They will be joined by a smaller group of seven, including five teens, from the Camp Verde, AZ Church of Christ on Tuesday to set up to assist the Munday Church of Christ with its Vacation Bible School, scheduled from 9 a.m. until noon for three days, Thursday, July 22 to Saturday, July 24.

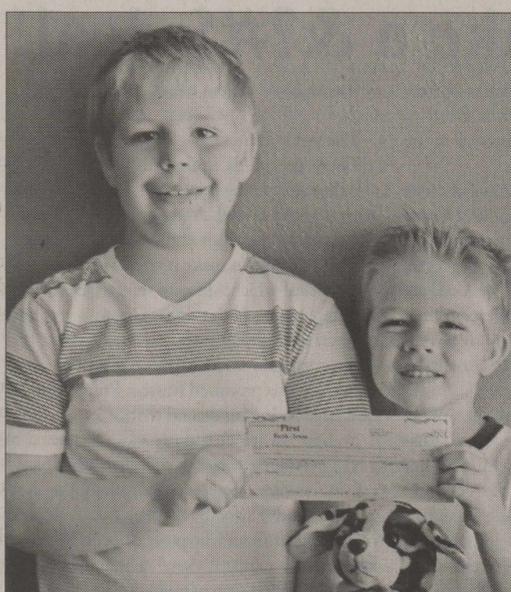
Wayne Speer, Cody's father and the minister at the Munday church, and summer intern Ross Ransleben are looking forward to having more than 100 youngsters attend VBS just as they did last year.

The visiting teens also plan to do some service projects while in town.

Other activities include a mystery night for teens at 6:45 p.m. on Thursday, an outdoor movie (23 Blast) with free popcorn and drinks for everyone in front of the church at 8:30 p.m. Friday and a kids carnival from 7-8:30 p.m. on Saturday.

The teens will be staying with members of the Munday Church of Christ.

Helping sick children



Vonda Carter/The Knox County News-Courier
Grant and Gabe Bonham, sons of Mike and Kammi Bonham of Munday, went around the neighborhood to collect \$41.55 for St. Jude Children's Hospital. "We just wanted to help the sick kids in the hospital," both said.

MCISD approves bids for new roofs, pickup

By James McAfee
The Knox County News-Courier

MUNDAY —The Munday Consolidated Independent Board of Trustees accepted a bid of \$473,500 from Booe Roofing in Munday for a new roofs at Munday Elementary School and Munday High School during a special meeting Monday. It was the only bid submitted correctly.

In addition, the trustees also approved a bid of \$40,500 from Robert Hall Chevrolet of Jayton for a 2015 LT pickup. Bids from Bailey

Toliver Chevrolet in Haskell and Lawrence Hall Chevrolet in Anson were also submitted and considered.

Interim superintendent Skip Casey indicated to the board that approval was given to Coach Patrick Corcoran's recommendation to renovate the weight room for high school athletes at a cost in the neighborhood of \$20,000.

No action was taken on personnel matters. The board is scheduled to meet Monday, at which time a contract may be finalized with Troy Parton as the new superintendent. He's the lone finalist.

Pre-teens leave for camp



Vonda Carter/The Knox County News-Courier
Eleven pre-teens from the Munday First Baptist get some last-minute rules as they prepare to leave for camp in Lueders Monday morning.

Bake sale a success



Vonda Carter/The Knox County News-Courier
Tammie Trainham of the Goree Baptist Church is all smiles after a bake sale at Lawrence Brothers in Munday met its goals of raising funds to send kids to the Oakridge camp in Anadarko, OK later this month.

FBC Munday youth schedule

- July 20-23 — Youth camp, grades 7-12
- Aug. 5-8 — Rock the Desert for Youth, grades 7-12
- Aug. 10 — Munday Night Madness, 8-10 p.m.
- Aug. 12 — Sunshine Fun@ the Park, 5:30-6:30 for kids, 7-8 p.m. for youths
- Aug. 19 — Sunshine Fun @ the Park, same time schedule
- Aug. 26 — Back 2 School Block Party, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Area notes

StarWalk set Saturday
QUANAH — Copper Breaks State Park, now an International Dark Sky Park, will continue its 20th year of the StarWalk program on Saturday at sunset, or around 9:00 p.m. The StarWalk starts with a naked eye tour of the night sky over Copper Breaks State Park fol-

lowed by a closer look through telescopes and binoculars.

Crowell Ranch Rodeo
CROWELL — The seventh annual Crowell Ranch Rodeo will be held here starting at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday with 24 teams competing.

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The Paperboy Let's make a deal!

I challenge any Democrat or supporter of President Obama or Secretary of State Kerry to explain to me how the U.S. fared well in the Iran deal.

I'll wager I won't get a visit, phone call or email explaining why it was a good deal for us. Do you know why? Because it sucks, that's why.

Iran will now get cash, get to trade oil for food, get to continue to develop their arms program and will wind up with nuclear arms in as little as five years.

You know who it smiling over the deal? Iran, Russia and China. In fact, they are laughing their collective heads off. AT US!

As Rep. Mac Thornberry said a couple of weeks ago in Childress, the U.S. is weaker than it was before Obama took office - both defensively and on the world stage. Thornberry is Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and his viewpoint comes with great knowledge.

Look, I don't have to tell you that the world is in a terrible mess and hasn't improved under Obama. Even his most loyal supporter would be fooling themselves to disagree. Now we just got weaker.

I don't want my sons to have to answer to bad policy because the President believes that our adversaries will come around to reason and behave.

The fact is that the U.S.A. is only great because we've had a big stick and we've shown we will use it.

I wish the world was a sweet and kind place

BENJAMIN

From Page 3

Rock, Billie Fay Cummings

of Henderson, Wendy and Bubba Benson and girls of Royston, Ivalene and Jimmy Pierce of Megargel, Sue Terry, Summer and Jake of Dallas, Joe Reid Jones of

where we could all join hands and drink a Coke-Cola.

The fact is it's not.

There are evil dictators with wicked weapons and they are gaining power by the week and their hunger grows as well. And now we've just handed over all of our chips at the table without even playing a hand. To make matters worse, Obama made a deal which, despite the fact Democrats and Republicans both think it's lousy, is very hard to reverse and shoot down.

I'm starting to wonder if this is part of the "flexibility" Obama promised Russian Prime Minister he'd have during his second term.

So here we are. A country more distracted by gay rights than getting our collective heads blown off. A country more worried about the Kardashians and Taylor Swift than Isis. A country more worried about who posts what on Facebook rather than a raging national debt and a growing number of single-parent and homeless children.

Well, I really hate to say this, but here it is: The distractions are by design and the populous has been lulled to sleep. All the while, the most evil men on the planet have seized power and control of natural resources.

Next time we have a presidential election, I sincerely hope people pay attention to OUR most basic needs as a country. National security matters. Defense matters. Morale of our armed forces matters.

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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 and you can follow him on Twitter @WCSBlackburn.

Brownwood, Kenneth and Ila Mae Benson of Wichita Falls and Butch and Letha Young of Saginaw.

There were so many more I would have liked to visit with, but there just wasn't enough time.

We had a chance to visit with many of Truman Brown's family on Wednesday before his funeral. It was good to see Stanton and Penny Brown of Early and Shari Brown of Brownwood. They are doing fine. Shari was elated over seeing everyone. She's doing great. Doug Brown of Teague was also here. He's doing fine after getting his strength back after his wreck of a year or so ago.

Sheriff's report

Arrests June 21-July 9

1. Thorne, Aysia, 6/21/15, Dob 1/21/89, MTR: Possess Controlled Substance, (F-3) Knox County warrant, (arrested by Cleburne PD)
2. Castorena, Osiel, 6/23/15, Dob 11/3/82, FTA: Criminal Non-support (SJF), Knox County warrant, (arrested by Abilene PD)
3. Ford, James, 6/23/15, Dob 12/27/70, Bond revocation/DWI w/child under 15yoa (SJF), Disorderly Conduct x 2, (M-C) Knox County warrants
4. Tole, Katie, 6/23/15, Dob 1/27/91, MTR:

- Possess Marijuana, (M-B)Knox County
5. Bohannon, Jamie, 6/25/15, Dob 10/26/78, Speeding (M-C), Disorderly Conduct-Fighting (M-C) Knox County
 6. Harlan, Zachary, 7/2/15, Dob 6/7/87, MTAG: Bail Jumping, (F-3), MTAG: Delivery of Marijuana, (SJF), (Fannin County warrants) Knox County
 7. Courvier, Joseph, 7/7/15, Dob 2/20/78, TBC <500.00, (M-B) Knox County
 8. Zuniga, Alexander, 7/8/15, Dob 5/19/71, DWI 3rd or more (F-3) Knox County

Dean W. Homstad Sheriff Knox County



CHRIS BLACKBURN

Just Jeff Why Trump getting all the press?

Well we are only 16 months away from our next presidential election. Thank you Jesus and I pray we don't jack it up as bad as this past one.

I will give everyone a pass on Obama the first time. He talked a good game—all bills to be posted online before being voted on, all meetings on C-span to see how transparent of administration he had and of course he was against gay marriage and open borders and tried to appease the independent and conservative voter.

Then he got in the office and I guess something happened on Air Force One getting him to DC because he forget all he promised those poor independent voters. So today we get the next professional politician to pitch us his spill. I looked online at the latest poll and guess what, it's a Clinton versus a Bush. "Winner, winner chicken dinner" for the illegals and the liberals. We get to vote for either an out-of-touch Republican or Obama round 3.

Hillary should be going to jail for still breathing. Of course, she did that insider trading, we had Whitewater and of course we have those emails that she lost on her server and the Benghazi debacle.

We had four people die and she says, "what difference does it make?" Well, if my son had died and that was her excuse, I would be pissed and at every speaking engagement she had. We had four Americans die and it's a big cover up that she and Obama lied about during the last election. Remember it was because of a youtube video. Then we find out after the election it was about covering up arms smuggling and they both knew about it and lied. I am not sure if I will vote for the Republican because I will not vote for Jeb and I will not vote for Hillary.

So my question is, why is the candidate that is getting all the press the one with zero political experience? Donald Trump. What did he say that pissed off the liberals and some Mexicans?

"When Mexico sends its people," Trump

said during his presidential announcement, "they're not sending the best. They're not sending you, they're sending people that have lots of problems and they're bringing those problems. They're bringing drugs, they're bringing crime. They're rapists and some, I assume, are good people, but I speak to border guards and they're telling us what we're getting."

Folks what he said may not be popular with everyone, but it has lots of truth to it. If it wasn't close to the truth, then why do we have border patrol at all? If everyone coming across the border was just here for a job and working for their families, why the need for drug dogs?

In Los Angeles, they had 17,000 warrants for felony fugitives and over 12,000 were for illegal immigrants. Now tell me why Trump is wrong? Here is another interesting stat—27% of all prison inmates are illegals.

OK, lets put a spin we can relate to. One out of every four people that are victims of a violent crime would never have had to deal with it if we had a closed border. Trump might be a arrogant, smug, cocky jerk, but he has some really good points and that is why he is second in the polls. We have a border problem. That's why we spend millions of our own tax dollars with beefed up highway patrol to stop the flood, which is killing our medical care and schools and other tax funded services right here in Texas.

I have nothing against the hard working migrant farmer and I am friends with many, but I also think everyone should go through the proper procedures and do it the right way. Texas and the United States cannot feed our own hungry and house them. So how are we suppose to provide for 100 million more mouths to feed and medicate?

I don't know if I will vote for Trump, but I sure would hang his sign in my yard before I put one up for Jeb Bush or Hillary Obama.

(These expressed opinions are the views of Jeff Stanfield and do not necessarily reflect the views of Blackburn Media Group.)

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Dancers collect many trophies



The Movement Space Dance Company earned numerous High Gold and Platinum awards as well as high point trophies in the Stage One Regional and Dance Competition last week. In addition, director Cori Corcoran indicated the dancers got to share their passion by performing at Cook's Children's Hospital in Fort Worth. Shown (l-r) are Tess Decker, Kendall Thompson, Kayla Jo Hunter, Rebecca Serrato, Brenley Waters, Taylor Thompson, Corcoran, Madison Edgar and Bergen Waters. Kristen Kuehler is not shown.

Courtesy photo

Celebrating 90th birthday



Vonda Carter, The Knoxville News-Courier
Jack Nuckols and wife Dyne celebrated his 90th birthday party with friends and family last Sunday in the Goree Memorial Building.

Record number of farmers, ranchers certified

Special to the Knoxville News-Courier

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that over 98.2 percent of producers have met the 2014 Farm Bill requirement to certify conservation compliance to qualify for crop insurance premium support payments.

Implementing conservation compliance is expected to extend conservation provisions for an additional 1.5 million acres of highly erodible lands and 1.1 million acres of wetlands, which will reduce soil erosion, enhance water quality, and create wildlife habitat.

"This overwhelming response is a product of USDA's extensive outreach and the commitment of America's farmers to be stewards of the land," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "By investing in both American farmers and the health of our productive lands, we are ensuring future generations have access to fertile soil, healthy food supplies and a strong

rural economy."

Of the small number of producers who have not certified their conservation compliance, USDA records suggest the majority are no longer farming or may have filed forms with discrepancies that can still be reconciled.

"I've asked the agencies to contact the producers again before their sales closing date," said Vilsack. "I want to ensure that every producer that turned in an AD-1026 by June 1, 2015, knows they can still make corrections and remain eligible for premium support."

USDA is providing additional flexibility to help the newly insured producers to certify their conservation compliance. For example, producers, who began farming or ranching after June 1, or producers who have not participated in USDA programs prior to June 1, can file an exemption to the conservation compliance certification for reinsurance year 2016 and still be eligible for the crop insurance premium support.

Mac's Views

My fellow Blackburn Media Group editor Kent Mahoney had an interesting column last week about the "Great give-a-way" here in America that was passed along to him that I believe is worth repeating as I was not aware of all the welfare perks.

While Mahoney indicated he was not supporting or endorsing it, he outlined a plan that 47% of single mothers are practicing in some ways.

THE 2015 USA WELFARE PLAN

A guy and his girlfriend with two kids could do the following:

1. Don't get married.
2. The guy use his mom's address to get mail.
3. The guy buys a house.
4. Guy rents out house to his girlfriend, who has two of his kids.
5. Section 8 will pay \$900 a month for a 3-bedroom home.
6. Girlfriend signs up for Obamacare so the guy doesn't have to pay for family insurance.
7. Girlfriend gets to go to college for free being a single mother. (Available in some states)
8. Girlfriend gets \$600 a month for food stamps.
9. Girlfriend gets free cell phone
10. Girlfriend gets free or reduced utilities.



JAMES MCAFEE

11. Guy moves into home, but continues to use mom's house to get mail.

12. Girlfriend claims one kid and guy claims one kid on taxes. Now each gets to claim head of household at \$1,800 credit.

13. Girlfriend gets disability for being "crazy" or having a "bad back" at \$1,800 a month and never has to work again.

This plan is perfectly legal and is being executed now by millions of people.

A married couple with a stay at home mom yields \$0 dollars.

An unmarried couple with stay at home mom can net: \$21,600 disability, \$10,800 free housing, \$6,000 free Obamacare, \$6,000 free food, \$4,800 free utilities, \$6,000 pell grant money to spend, \$12,000 a year in college tuition free from pell grant and \$8,800 tax benefit for being a single mother. That adds up to \$75,000 a year in benefits.

"It is exactly the same philosophy why wildlife managers tell you not the feed wild animals," Mahoney wrote. "If you feed wild animals long enough, they lose their instinct to hunt and provide for their families. We have the same basic instincts."

"We have two or three generations out here who have no ability to take care of themselves. Not only that, they don't have the desire to take care of themselves."

I agree that we can no longer encourage this type of behavior, but, like Mahoney, do not see our current elected leaders correcting the problems.

In closing, allow me one personal note: Happy anniversary today to my wife Betty

Late filing fees apply for spring seeded crops

Special to The Knoxville News-Courier

KNOX CITY—Knox County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Nancy Birkenfeld reminds producers who missed yesterday's acreage reporting deadline for spring seeded crops to call her quickly.

"In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements and avoid late file fees, all producers are encouraged to visit the Knox County FSA office to file an accurate, timely crop certification report," she said.

The following acreage reporting dates apply for producers of beans, CRP, cotton, grain sorghum, guar, peanuts, sunflowers, sorghum forage and any other spring seeded crop.

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

If the crop has not been planted by the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.

If a producer acquires additional acreage after the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must have been reported by July 15.

DPS warns about vehicle burglaries

Special to The Knoxville News-Courier

AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) reminds Texans that vehicle thefts and vehicle burglaries tend to increase during the summer months, especially July and August, and encourages individuals to take necessary precautions to protect their vehicles from potential thefts.

"The summer months in Texas typically are one of the busiest times for vehicle thefts, and DPS is urging Texans to take preventative measures to secure their vehicles and avoid possible thefts and burglaries," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "Individuals can do their part to help ward off criminals this summer by always locking their cars and keeping valuables out of sight."

DPS offers the following tips that Texans can follow to help guard against vehicle theft:

Never leave your car running unattended,

even for a quick visit to a business or store.

Never leave keys in the car or ignition, inside a locked garage, or in hide-a-key boxes.

Always roll up your windows and lock the car, even if it is parked at your home.

When possible, always park in high-traffic, well-lighted areas.

Install an anti-theft device that locks the steering wheel, column or brakes, especially if your vehicle is considered to be at increased risk for theft.

Never leave personal documents, vehicle ownership title or credit cards in your vehicle.

Always keep valuables or property hidden out of sight or locked in the trunk.

If your vehicle is stolen, report it to the police immediately. DPS also encourages individuals to keep a copy of their license plate and vehicle identification number on hand in case of theft, since police will need this information to take a report.

THE FIBERMAX AND KNOX COUNTY NEWS-COURIER FARMER OF THE MONTH RICKEY AND AMY REDDER



Farming family Rickey and Amy Redder
Born and raised Rickey grew up in Munday and Amy grew up in Goree. Both of their families have lived here for several generations back.
Years in farming Rickey started farming with his Dad in 1988. He and Amy married in 1992. He took sole ownership of the farming business after his father retired in 1998.
When did you know you wanted to be a farmer? Rickey knew at a very young age he wanted to farm, like his dad, grandfather, and great-grandfather before him.
Crops raised We grow cotton and wheat—approximately 800 acres of cotton.
Best thing about being a farmer The best thing about farming is the off-season after a great harvest.
Challenges of farming The biggest challenges are getting through the growing season.
Advice for future farmers Plan on a lot of hard work!

The Knoxville News-Courier and FiberMax are proud to recognize the farmers of our area. We salute them for being the backbone of our communities and our economy. For the next four months, we'll feature farmers and their families. Look for them here.



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 IN THEATERS OCTOBER 24, 2014

Everyone is invited to come see this movie at 8:30 Friday night, July 24 at Munday Church of Christ. Free popcorn and drinks!