

THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2016

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Five teams in playoffs

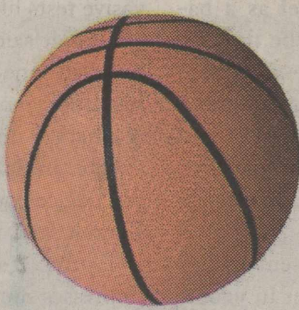
Five Knox County basketball teams appear headed for the playoffs starting with girls bi-district and area games next week and the boys the following week.

The Munday girls wrapped up the District 8-1A title and the boys were two games up and expected to do the same with a win Tuesday night.

The Knox City boys also have won the District 7-1A title and the girls are assured of third place.

The Benjamin boys had a two-game lead over Harrold and were assured of third place in District 8-1A with one win this week.

(See stories on pgs. 3, 4, 5)



Sons to speak at KC banquet

Special to The News-Courier

KNOX CITY – Janice Ralston Sons of Wichita Falls will be the featured speaker at the annual Knox City Chamber of Commerce Banquet, scheduled at 6 p.m. next Thursday here at the Knox City Community Center.

Ralston has been an elected official in Wichita County since 1988 and is actively involved in the community, serving as officers on many boards, including ARC Wichita County, the YMCA, Partners in Education and the Susan B. Komen Wichita Race for the Cure. She also is past president of the Peace and Constables As-

sociation of Texas.

Among the awards she has received include the T.A. Vines Award presented by the JPCA of Texas, Woman of the Year in Business and Professional Women, Hirsch High School Alumni of the Year, induction into the North Texas Women's Hall of Fame and twice winner of the Distinguished Leadership Award.

The E. Hob Smith Most Appreciated Citizen of the Year will be named. Glen Dell Large, who operates the 57 Heaven Museum, claimed the honor last year.

Tickets to the banquet will be \$12 and will be available at the chamber office or from any of the board members.



JANICE RALSTON SONS

District Champions



Terry Messer/The Knox County News-Courier

The Munday Mogulettes celebrate a repeat District 8-1A title, earning a bye in bi-district.

Knox Notes

Please notify the News-Courier about your upcoming events. Emailed submissions to kcnnews@knoxcountytexas.com are preferred. The deadline for inclusion will be the Friday before the following week's issue.

Museum fundraiser

BENJAMIN – Plan to be at the Benjamin Memorial Building on Sunday, Valentine's Day for a fundraising meal for the Wichita Brazos Museum, a chance to win a nice door prize and also bid on any gifts you might like to have plus visit with friends you haven't seen in a while. The museum will be open 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Willison benefit

MUNDAY – A benefit lunch is planned for Feb. 21 at First United Methodist Church here for the family of Charles Willison, whose house was damaged by a fire. Individuals wishing to contribute to a special fund can do so at First Bank Texas.

Valentine dance

GOREE – The Goree Volunteer Fire Department will host a Valentine dance from 8 p.m. until midnight on Saturday here in the Goree gym. The cost will be \$10.

Public hearings set

MUNDAY – A public meeting concerning the District TAPR is scheduled at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the Munday CISD administration building. Another public hearing regarding the district's Title 1 program will follow. The regular board meeting will follow the two public hearings.

Driver's license hours

MUNDAY – The Texas Department of Public Safety driver's license office here at Munday City Hall will be open Feb. 24 from 9:15 a.m. until noon and from 1-3:45 p.m. on a temporary basis. The schedule is subject to change when a permanent person is hired.

Quilt show Feb. 27

GOREE – The annual Cotton Pickin' Quilt Show and Cookin' Show has been scheduled from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Feb. 27 here at the Knox Prairie Events Center. More than 100 quilts will be on display. One will be selected to earn the viewer's choice award. There will also be a pound cake cooking contest.

Predator contest

MUNDAY – Feb. 19 will be the deadline for entering the Hoof and Horns Taxidermy predator hunting contest, scheduled Feb. 27-28.

News on the go



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

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Rodriguez, Wojcik candidates for judge

Special to The News-Courier

Two Knox City residents are running for the position as the judge of Knox County in the March 1 Republican primary.

Stan Wojcik was appointed by the Knox County commissioners in December to fill the position left vacant by the resignation of Travis Floyd and wishes to continue in that office.

Augustin Rodriguez previously served as the justice of peace for Knox County before resigning to run for the judge's position.

Wojcik started his own business in Knox City, Air Ag, in 1984 and served several terms on the city's economic development corporation, served on the North Central Texas Water Authority Board and was a past president of the Knox County Appraisal Review Board.

Rodriguez graduated from Knox City

High School in 1990 and has been a life-long resident of the county. He served on the Rolling Plains Child Facility Review team, as president of the Parent and Teachers Board for Rolling Plains Management, as a member of the Knox Welfare Board and has been involved in Career Days, the Green Pasture wind development, the emergency response team and the Shattered Dreams program.

"As your judge, my goal is to help maintain a balanced budget, uphold the letter of the law by using fair but strict jurisdiction and represent our county with integrity," said Wojcik.

"My plans are to bring more opportunities for employment to the county," said Rodriguez. "I also want to unite all the cities as one and treat them equally and work closely with all the offices in the courthouse as well as the commissioners to obtain the goal of a prosperous county."



STAN WOJCIK



AUGUSTIN RODRIGUEZ

Commissioners OK fixing air conditioning

By James McAfee

The Knox County News-Courier

BENJAMIN – The Knox County Commissioners Court approved a motion to fix the air conditioning system for the courtroom contingent on getting possible grants and/or insurance money during its regular monthly meeting Monday afternoon.

Judge Stan Wojcik indicated that Garlington-Brown of Seymour had given an estimate of \$15,700 to provide two new units and all the ducting work.

The commissioners heard an audit report from Debra Goodyear of Jerry Love, CPA, hearing that "it went well" and the county had gotten a clean opinion. She also mentioned that pension disclosure had

been added.

Sheriff Dean Homstad informed the commissioners that the jail had passed inspection with the inspector calling it one of the best in the state. He also noted receiving a favorable racial profiling report.

The commissioners heard an estimate from Randy Bob Cypert of Booe Roofing for a new roof on the Sheriff's office, but no action was

taken; approved the sale of fireworks for the Texas birthday celebration; OKed a bid from Greg Fix for a tax resale deed; and approved a resolution to cancel the Brazos River Ranch subdivision.

They decided to research more a letter from Diane Robnett about standing water on her property and voted no on a resolution to not have a say on tax resale bids

Feb. 19 deadline for candidates

Special to The News-Courier

Feb. 19 will be the deadline for Knox County residents to file for positions on their respective city councils or school boards as candidates for the May 7 election.

Applications can be picked up at the city halls or school administration offices.

Three positions, currently held by Ryan Cottingham,

Karen Longan and Trey Singleton, will be open for the Munday city council.

Knox City also has three openings for positions currently held by J.D. Hodges, Logan Morrow and Gary Schnable.

Benjamin has openings for two-year terms for mayor and two council members. Ronnie White, Charles Jones and Fred Carver currently hold these

positions.

The Munday CISD has two places currently held by Nancy Birkenfeld and Jason Redwine open.

The Benjamin school board has two three-year term openings, currently held by Kathy Rainwater and Jimmy Barrientez, plus a one-year unexpired term open.

The Knox City school board has two seats open.

Weather Whys

Blizzard a severe storm

How strong does a snowstorm have to be before it's called a blizzard?

There are some specifics regarding blizzards, says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "In meteorological terms, a blizzard is a severe storm that has below-freezing temperatures, winds of at least 35 miles per hour and heavy snowfall, with visibility reduced to just 1/4 of a mile, and all of these conditions have to last at least three hours," he explains. "So just a heavy snowfall is not always a blizzard. Blizzard conditions occur most often in the Great Plains, North Central United States and parts of the Northeast."

What are some of the country's worst blizzards?

The blizzard that hit the Northeast in recent days may well wind up in the record books, he notes, as it shut down Washington, D.C., Baltimore and other cities. In previous years, Buffalo had a blizzard that paralyzed the city for days in 1999, Colorado had a similar situation in 1997 and Boston suffered terrible blizzard conditions in 1978. Although records tend to be sketchy, perhaps the country's worst blizzard occurred in 1888. In parts of the Midwest, the temperature fell from 74 degrees to minus 28 within hours, and the Colorado River froze solid throughout much of Texas. That blizzard claimed 235 lives.

You sometimes hear the See WEATHER, Page 2

Late Scores

Boys

Munday 80, Northside 10
Knox City 69, Guthrie 48
Crowell 46, Benjamin 31

Girls

Munday 47, Northside 22
Crowell 67, Benjamin 11

Knox City 44, Guthrie 34

Girls bi-district schedule

Knox City vs. Crowell at Wichita Falls City View, 6:30 p.m., Tuesday
Northside vs. Paducah at Vernon, 6 p.m., Monday

Knox County Aging Center Menus

Menus for week of Feb. 15-19
 Monday: Closed Happy Presidents Day
 Tuesday: Beef stew, cornbread, salad, brownie
 Wednesday: Meatloaf, Blessed potatoes, green beans, breadsticks, cake
 Thursday: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, country gravy, seasoned corn, cookies
 Friday: BBQ sandwich, tater tots, carrots, zucchini, dessert

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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

WEATHER
 From Page 1

term "Alberta Clipper." What is it?

An Alberta Clipper is a winter storm that forms over regions of Canada near the province of Alberta and sweeps in a southeastern direction over the northern United States, says McRoberts. "It is believed the name comes from the big sailing ships of the 1800s, the ones with the huge sails that could travel quite quickly for vessels of that time period and were among the fastest ships on the seas.

Are the storms considered blizzards?

No, says McRoberts. "An Alberta Clipper usually has very cold temperatures and gusty winds, but because of its quick movement, tends to produce small snow totals," he explains. "If snow does occur, it's usually just a light dusting to a few inches."

Weather Whys is a service of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at Texas A&M University.

Obituary policy
 The Knox County News-Courier will post an obituary in the next possible issue for \$65. If a photo is wanted, add \$10. Death notices are free, containing name, date of death, date of service and survivors.

Letter to the editor policy

The Knox County News-Courier welcomes letters to the editor from readers on topics of local, state and national importance.

All letters must include a first and last name, street address (no post office boxes) and a daytime phone. Please limit to 250 words or less.

Letters sent by mail should be addressed to Box 151, Munday, TX 76371, but the preferred way is by email to kcnewscourier@gmail.com.

Letters may be edited as to content and will be printed or not printed at the discretion of the editor.

Area News

Magic show
 SEYMOUR - Mike Bliss, a comedian-illusionist from Branson, MO, will perform at 7 p.m. Saturday here at the Whiteside Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children and entitle you to free admission at the Whiteside Museum of Natural History.

Home, garden show
 WICHITA FALLS - The Arts Alive 2016 Home and Garden Festival on Feb.

The Paperboy
 Read this if you have skin!

One of the benefits of the Internet is the ability to learn new things. Such was the case Monday.



CHRIS BLACKBURN

I was doing a little net surfing when I ran across this topic and since cancer is so common in our society I thought I'd share it. Do you like bananas? Well even if you don't you're about to like what they might be able to unlock.

The black spots that develop on the peel as a banana ages, could be the clue to a faster, easier diagnosis of human skin cancer, boosting survival chances, scientists said Monday.

As bananas ripen, their skin becomes covered in small, round black spots caused by an enzyme known as tyrosinase.

That very same enzyme is present in human skin, and in greater quantities in people who suffer from melanoma, a potentially deadly form of skin cancer. Scientists at the Laboratory of Physical and Analytical Electrochemistry in Switzerland concluded that the enzyme is a reliable marker of melanoma growth. They have since used this information to build a cancer scanner. The scanner has evolved and was tested at length on banana peels before moving on to human tissue.

The enzyme is not very apparent in stage 1 of cancer, but becomes more widespread and evenly distributed in stage 2, and unevenly

distributed in stage 3, when the cancer has started spreading to other parts of the body.

As you know, the earlier the cancer is detected, the greater the chances of survival.

According to the American Cancer Society, you have a 10-year survival rate of 95 percent if the melanoma is detected in stage 1, and that falls to 43 percent by mid-stage 3.

"By working with fruit, we were able to develop and test a diagnostic method before trying it on human biopsies," said team leader Hubert Girault.

"This system could obviate the need for invasive tests like biopsies," the team said.

Girault said he believes the scanner could be used one day soon to destroy tumors, hopefully rendering biopsies and even chemotherapy unnecessary.

"Our initial laboratory tests showed us that our device could be used to destroy the cells," Girault said.

To me, it's amazing. I don't know what impresses me more, the fact that they found the enzyme in common with the banana peel spots and human tissue or that they actually invented a scanner which could detect it.

Either way, it's great news!

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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.

Key elected president of cemetery board

Special to The News-Courier

James and Shirley Smith stepped down as president and secretary and recognized for all their leadership efforts.

Elected as new officers were Key, president; Robert Hosea, vice president; and Brenda Floyd, secretary.

In other business, the board accepted a bid from Charles Willison for maintenance and learned that Steve Anderson had voluntarily set the tombstones damaged by a pickup in the cemetery.

A memorial gift to the Munday Cemetery Association is a kind and dignified way to honor a friend or loved one. It pays tribute to the deceased and provides support for the continuing care of the cemetery.

"We truly appreciate all that has been given to this cause and encourage others to consider giving a donation," said Floyd.

Contributions may be sent to Johnson Memorial Cemetery in care of Brenda Floyd, 10294 County Road 4485, Munday, TX 76371.

Other members of the board are Shirley Amerson, Leona Elliott and Shawn Cude

American Legion post. Admission is \$5. Children under 10 are free. All under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Food manager training

ABILENE - March 7 will be deadline for registering for a professional food manager certification training course, scheduled here March 21-22 at the Taylor County Extension office.

Gun, knife show

HASKELL - The Haskell Gun & Knife Show is scheduled March 5-6 here at the

HASKELL GUN & KNIFE SHOW
 AMERICAN LEGION FUNDRAISER
 Roger-Cox Post 221, 507 S Ave E, Haskell, Texas

Saturday, March 5
 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 6
 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Admission \$5 per person
 (Children under 10 free)
 Persons under 18 MUST be accompanied by an adult.

****Drawing for Henry Golden Boy at 2:00 p.m. Sunday.****
 Tickets \$10.00 each or 3 for \$25.00

For info call Ernest Frye
 940-864-2363

No signs in right of way

Special to The News-Courier

CHILDRESS - Political elections are usually accompanied by an increase in the number of campaign signs placed along roadways this time of year. State transportation officials want to make sure citizens and candidates are aware of the laws regulating their placement on state highway right of way.

Under Texas law, it is a class C misdemeanor to place any sign on state highway right of way. The penalty for violating this law is a fine of up to \$500 per sign. It is legal to place a campaign sign on private

property adjacent to state highways with the landowner's permission. Restrictions require that signs be constructed of lightweight material and limited to 50 square feet in size. Signs may be placed as early as 90 days prior to an election and must be removed within 10 days after an election.

TxDOT officials say the laws are intended to reduce clutter along highways so that official traffic control signs and vehicles approaching intersections are clearly visible for the safety of the traveling public. TxDOT's regulatory authority allows the immediate removal of a sign placed on state highway right of way without prior notice, if the sign is not authorized by the department. Signs posing potential safety hazards will be removed as soon as possible.

Texas is subject to the Federal Highway Beautification Act of 1965. Under the federal law, if the state fails to control signage visible from interstate and other federally funded highways, Texas may be subject to sanctions of up to 10 percent of its federal transportation construction funds.

We ♥ Knox City

Janice Ralston Sons of Wichita Falls will be the featured speaker

The winner of the Citizen of the Year will be honored!

Knox City Chamber of Commerce banquet
 6 p.m., Feb. 18, Knox City Community Center

Tickets: \$12 (Available at Chamber office or any board member)

THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

DEADLINES

Display ads - Friday @ Noon
 Legals - Friday @ 8 a.m.
 Classified ads - Monday @ Noon
 Editorial - Monday @ 5 p.m.

E-mail: kcnewscourier@gmail.com
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 Address: P.O. Box 151
 Munday, TX 76371

These deadlines must be met in order to guarantee your ad or editorial is placed in The Knox County News-Courier on the date requested.

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56.7+/- Ac SW of O'Brien - (\$800/Ac) NEW
1407 N Ave E - Historic 4/2 with shop (\$190,000) NEW
401 S. Hillmar, Weinert - 3/2 on large corner lot (\$58,000) NEW
909 Railroad, Rochester - 3/2.5 on 4+Ac. (\$189,000) NEW
162.9+/- Ac - NW Haskell Co. - (\$1050/Ac) NEW
219.5+/- Ac - West of O'Brien - (\$1050/Ac) NEW
135+/- Ac - Stonewall Co. - (\$1200/Ac) NEW
79.54+/- Ac - West of O'Brien - (\$1,650/Ac) NEW
600 N. Munday, Munday - 2/1 on corner lot (\$29,900) NEW
158.6+/- Ac - West of O'Brien - (\$1,650/Ac) NEW
167.31+/- Ac - West of O'Brien - (\$1,350/Ac) SOLD
159 FM RD 2976, Lake Stamford - 2/2 Lakefront property (\$25,000) NEW
380+/- Ac SE Knox Co. - New fences & Minerals (\$1,400/Ac) NEW
48.2 Ac North of Rule - with Minerals (\$1,300/Ac) NEW
7734 Hwy 6-Rule Drive - Rule Drive-In theater on 4 Ac. (\$49,900) REDUCED
18394 CR 4180, Seymour - 3/2 on 412 Ac. (\$600,000) REDUCED
1008 SE 5th St, Knox City- 3/2 with open floor plan (\$59,900) REDUCED
30 +/- Ac, West of O'Brien. Perfect home site with water well (\$1500/Ac)
608 Sunny Ave, Rule 3 or 4/2 with pool (\$62,000) PENDING
160 +/- Acres NW Corner of Haskell Co. Hunting (\$1,000/Ac)
231.3 +/- Ac. in Haskell Co. (\$1200 / Ac) REDUCED
355+/- Ac. on Hwy 6 and 1225 (\$950/Ac)

People are DYING to hear from you. Really.

You are TWENTY THREE TIMES more likely to crash when you text while driving. Is sending an LOL text message really worth killing someone? Park the phone when you drive.

TALKTEXTORASH
 Save a Life

District Standings

8-1A boys Standings

Team	W	L
Munday	8	0
Crowell	7	2
Benjamin	5	3
Harrold	3	5
Chillicothe	2	7
Northside	0	9

Results
Munday 50, Crowell 38; Benjamin 52, Harrold 51; Chillicothe 49, Northside 43; Benjamin 65, Chillicothe 33; Munday 70, Harrold 39

Schedule
Feb. 9: Benjamin at Crowell, Munday at Northside, Harrold at Chillicothe
Feb. 12: Harrold at Munday, Benjamin at Chillicothe,

8-1A girls Standings

Team	W	L
Munday	9	0
Crowell	7	2
Northside	6	3
Harrold	3	6
Chillicothe	2	7
Benjamin	0	9

Results
Munday 50, Chillicothe 25; Crowell 73, Harrold 42; Munday 52, Benjamin 3; Crowell by forfeit over Chillicothe; Northside 67, Harrold 65

Schedule
Feb. 9: Benjamin at Crowell, Munday at Northside, Harrold at Chillicothe

Shifting to forage-based system tips

By Kay Ledbetter
VERNON — A growing interest in shifting out of crop production and into a forage-based system in the Rolling Plains has Stan Bevers, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service economist in Vernon, consulting his crystal ball.

And he has some advice for those who are contemplating the move, "Have a multi-year plan and have a chunk of equity, because you can't borrow your way through this."

He said there are a lot of variables and a lot of factors involved in the transition. And while he has seen a number of acres go into pasture over the past two years at the peak of the cattle market, things are changing.

"I think there were people thinking there wouldn't be another bad day in cattle," he said. "They have quickly found out there will be."

"You have to have a multi-year plan, because no one can predict prices and production levels. This forces you to consider what might happen."

What are the projections for calf prices in the next few years? And what about wheat prices; how long will there be below break-even-point wheat prices?

"With the cattle prices that have been projected for the next few years, transitioning doesn't look like a good option, especially with wheat prices expected to move up over the next five years."

Bevers said it has been a combination of the continual increase of input prices and market happenings — high beef cattle prices for several years and falling wheat prices — that have prompted the move by producers out of annual production and into a more permanent pasture situation.

"In areas such as the Rolling Plains where there is marginal crop production, specifically on wheat where costs of production have consistently been rising and the price falling, the average production of 20 bushels per acre just doesn't work anymore," he said. "We can even go to the \$5 to \$5.50-a-bushel wheat and still not make it work."

"So now we have producers saying they are willing to bear the one-time pain — the cost of putting in a permanent pasture

See AG, Page 4

Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

The wind was blowing hard this past Monday morning. I'm not much of a fan of wind but guess I'll deal with it as I don't have much choice.

Regarding our ill Wilma Smith spent the early part of last week in the Knox County Hospital. She had not felt well for several days, and doctors discovered she had a collapsed lung. There's a medical term for that, but I don't know what it is. Anyway, she's better and came home last Wednesday night. She does have oxygen, which I'm sure will be a great help to her. We do wish Wilma well.

No other illnesses that I'm aware of. Seems everyone is pretty well holding their own. The seasonal allergies are bothering lots of folks, but that sort of comes and goes.

Here 'n there
Joy Nunley Yancey of Wichita Falls passed away last Wednesday in Wichita Falls. Her health had been failing for several months. She was the last living child of Grover and Thelma Conner Nunley, the sister of Imogene Young, Jane Gideon, Darlene Benson and Jack and Joe Nunley. She was 89. Graveside rites for her were Monday in Wichita Falls. Of course, my sympathy to that family.

Eva Flores of Knox City called to tell me of the death of her youngest brother Eddie Martinez. Eddie went to school in Munday and after graduation went to California, where he had lived several years. He was married to the former Alyse McGuire of Gilliland. Services are pending at this time. Eddie was 74. My sympathy to his family also. Eva also told me that Mary Escobar has had another stroke. She is the wife of former resident Ralph Escobar. They live in San Antonio. Mary is in the hospital at this time. I ask your prayers for them during this time.

Ernest D. and Barbara Phillips Cagle LaFrance were in Benjamin on Friday. They live in Wichita Falls and were here on business and came by the museum for a visit and a brief "walk through."

They said they were coming back when they had longer to stay as they were very impressed with all the exhibits. It was good to see them.

Also dropping by the museum Friday were Bob and Evelyn Harrison Shropshire of Lub-

bock. She's a former resident, but has been gone for several years. They also enjoyed looking at all the displays.

I had my girls, Deb and Diana and their families on Saturday. We enjoyed a good day of visiting. Here for the weekend were Lexie, Katy and Blaze Taylor of Amarillo, and Will Moorhouse, who has been living in Big Spring but has accepted a job in Knox City and will be moving back in a few weeks.

I have noticed (from the street) that the house that formerly belonged to Deann Lamb is undergoing some remodeling. Looks like a complete renovation is taking place, but since I haven't been inside, I'm not sure just what all is going on. I am saying one thing though, I bet it will be really nice when completed. Also, I see Ronnie and Susan White's house is getting a new roof—something a lot of us may need if this high wind keeps up.

No late word of the progress of the "water line laying" project that has been going on for several weeks here. I think it may be nearing completion, but I have no official word to back up my thoughts—just thought it looked like it's about done.

The junior high basketball teams are finished for the year. I understand the girls finished second in the district, and the boys finished first in district. They are already out running track. I wish them well in that endeavor. The high school boys need one win this week to make the playoffs. They have had a pretty good season, and we are proud of them.

Linda and Charles Griffith were in Lubbock one day last week for her to see her doctor. She is having some knee problems and got a shot in each knee. Her doctor mentioned that there is probably a knee replacement in her near future.

Barbara Ryder is doing OK. She has had most, if not all, of her pre-op tests and is now just waiting for March 1, and her surgery. She's in good spirits, and I feel everything is going to go well for her.

Liddy Brumley of Vernon spent last weekend with grandparents Roger and Betty Bohannon and other family members. Liddy moved to Vernon in December to live with her dad and his wife.

One more reminder—Don't forget the museum fundraising dinner on Sunday. Serving starts at 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. The silent auction ends at 1:30. There are door prizes galore. We hope to see you there.

The 501

Less is minimal

A Facebook friend of mine keeps bombarding me with minimalist propaganda. I like it. If I can't be a minimalist, I can at least read about minimalism and pretend.

If you don't know about minimalism and minimalists, you probably aren't her friend on Facebook. Her name is Dana.

I'm glad we don't live close. Dana is probably throwing out stuff left and right. I'm a sucker for free stuff.

Her latest post was "Your Life Is Too Valuable to Live Like Everyone Else" by minimalist Joshua Becker.

Warning: If you're bored by discussions of English grammar, skip the next three paragraphs.

It's hard for me not to capitalize the "t" in "to." Aren't infinitives supposed to be capitalized in their entirety? I'm asking. If not, I've been wrong for decades.

RESEARCH.
I'm wrong. Have I always been wrong? I don't have time now to check the history of the rule. Meanwhile, I'll conform, although I suspect a minimalist lowercase "t" conspiracy, possibly started by e. e. cummings.

As for Becker, he writes about not keeping up with the Joneses, even using that line. He's for being yourself, staying out of debt, realizing the "better life" is a myth (meaning having more stuff doesn't do the trick) and so on. I'd paraphrase all six principles, but I already feel like a plagiarist.

Meanwhile it's the illustration for Becker's article that caught my eye. It's a path with a stile — a doodad my husband and I would like to have.

If you don't know about stiles, they're the A-frame steps that enable you to climb up and over a fence. They're also for getting into and out of aboveground swimming pools. Back before roadside parks had restrooms, stiles enabled travelers to climb over barbed-wire fences to relieve themselves. Today's generation misses a lot.

Here on the farm we need a stile west of our cow pen for climbing over the fence from either direction, either to pen an animal quickly or to escape one. A gate would work too, but it would be easier to install a stile. What's more, if we ever get an aboveground pool, we'll be ready.

Obviously, anyone (me) inspired by a picture of a stile to go out and buy one when the stile was supposed to symbolize the path to non-materialistic minimalism isn't cut out to be a minimalist. I give up.

Meanwhile, I've traced my weakness for stiles to a nursery rhyme I heard before I could read:

"There was a crooked man, and he walked a crooked mile,

He found a crooked sixpence against a crooked stile;

He bought a crooked cat, which caught a crooked mouse,

And they all lived together in a little crooked house."

The lilting rhyme makes it sound like they were happy living the quintessential minimalist lifestyle. Just reciting it makes me want to buy a crooked little house too.

Seriously. If I just had one such charming little dwelling I could live like a minimalist on the side. Hmmm.

Thanks for Reading

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Mustangs eye playoff spot

Special to The News-Courier

BENJAMIN — Just as they did in football, the Benjamin Mustangs are on the verge of making the playoffs in basketball after a convincing 67-24 victory over Northside last Friday night.

The Mustangs held the Indians scoreless in the first quarter and quickly extended a 10-0 lead to 30-7 at halftime and 52-14 after three periods, allowing valuable playing time for the two reserves on the bench.

Justin Rainwater connected on 11 of 16 field goals and 12 of 17 free throws to finish with 34 points. Caleb Barrientez added 16 points, hitting three of five 3-pointers.

The victory improved the Jacob Navarro-led Mustangs' record to 5-3 in District 8-1A, good for a two-game lead over the Harrold Hornets, who they beat twice in district play.

The Mustangs need one win or one loss by Harrold this week to assure themselves of a bi-district game against either Spur or Guthrie.

"I'm proud of our guys and the work they put in," said Navarro. "People had us to finish last in football and not make the playoffs and the same thing in basketball, so hopefully we prove the critics wrong again and make the playoffs as well."

Go Stangs Go!

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District Standings

Houndettes advance to bi-district

Special to The News-Courier

7-1A boys Standings

Team	W	L
Knox City	9	0
Spur	6	3
Guthrie	5	4
Motley County	4	5
Paducah	3	6
Patton Springs	0	9

Results
Knox City 73, Motley County 25; Knox City 59, Spur 36

Schedule
Feb. 9: Guthrie at Knox City, Motley County at Spur, Patton Springs at Paducah

7-1A girls Standing

Team	W	L
Spur	9	0
Paducah	7	2
Knox City	5	4
Guthrie	3	6
Patton Springs	2	7
Motley County	1	8

Results
Knox City 39, Motley County 26; Spur 52, Knox City 43

Schedule
Feb. 9: Guthrie at Knox City, Motley County at Spur, Patton Springs at Paducah

AG From Page 1

— rather than the annual pain of the cost of putting in wheat," Bevers said.

The problem, he said, is the cost of establishing a pasture is only the first step in the change to a forage-based system. Once the pasture is established, they have another pain to bear — determining whether to run cows or put stocker cattle on it.

"You need to be able to fund that with a chunk of equity. If you have to borrow the money to seed the grass and then borrow more to stock it with cattle, the way it is penciling out, you won't have that paid off on a five-year note."

Run the numbers, create a multi-year plan, he advised.

"This isn't something you will do overnight," Bevers said. "It will be a two- and three-year process. You usually don't get 100 percent utilization the first year or two, so have an alternate plan."

KNOX CITY — The Knox City Houndettes earned a spot in bi-district against Crowell, runnerup in District 8-1A, with a 46-29 victory over Motley County last Friday, assuring themselves third place in District 7-1A.

"It wasn't pretty, but we got the win," said Coach Dylan Ballard. "Motley County came out ready to play, so I give credit to their head coach and their girls. They played with heart. I am really proud of my girls though as they pulled through even though they knew they were having an off night. That takes a lot of courage and mental toughness."

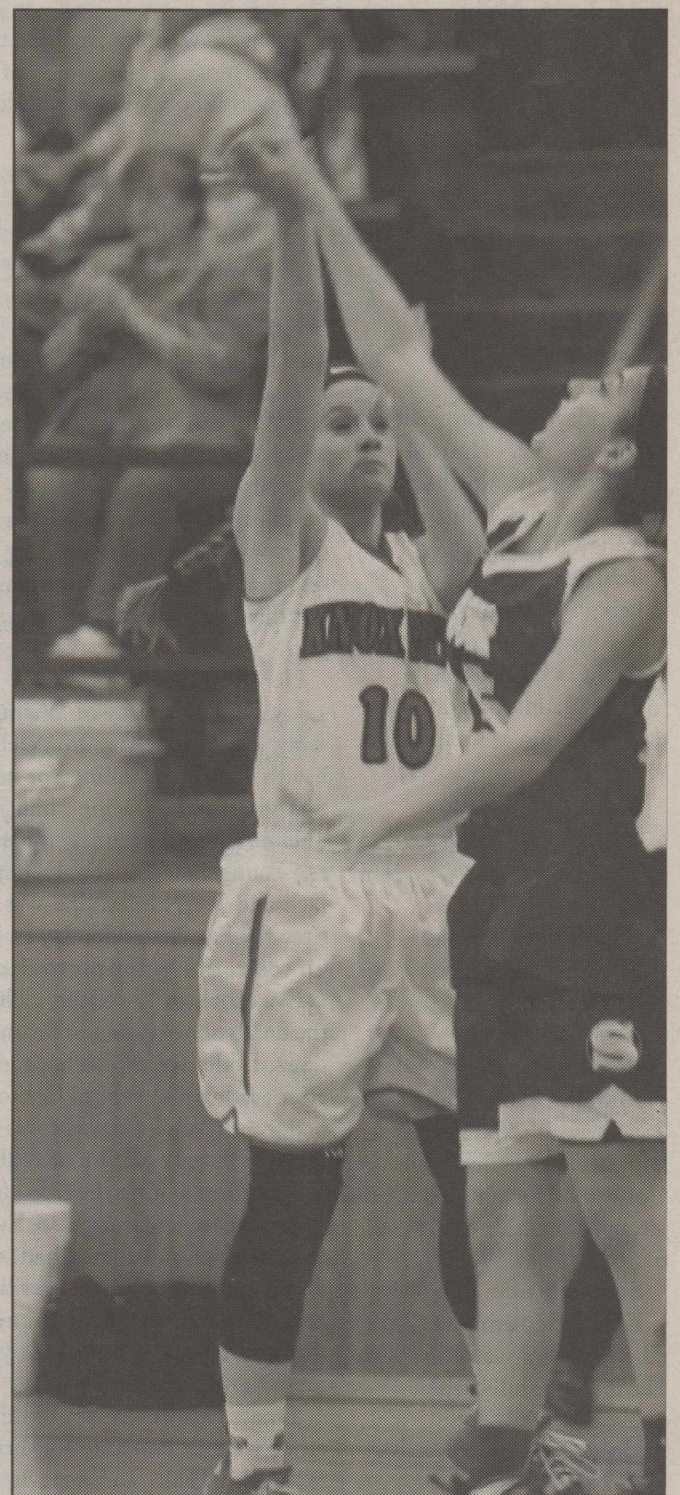
Kaylie Steele led the Houndettes with 22 points, 12 rebounds and 5 blocks. Brooke Jones added nine points five rebounds and five steals while Myca Flowers had eight points and 10 rebounds.

The Hounds wrapped up district play against Guthrie on Tuesday and will play a warm up game on Friday, tentatively against McLean at 5 p.m. in Valley.

Earlier last week, Knox City dropped a 52-43 decision to 7-1A champion Spur as Steele scored 23 and Jones 10.



Sheri Baty/The Knox County News-Courier
Knox City's Kaylie Steele scores from close range.



Sheri Baty/The Knox County News-Courier
Brooke Jones connects from long range against Spur.

Hounds claim 7-1A crown

State Rankings

Special to The News-Courier

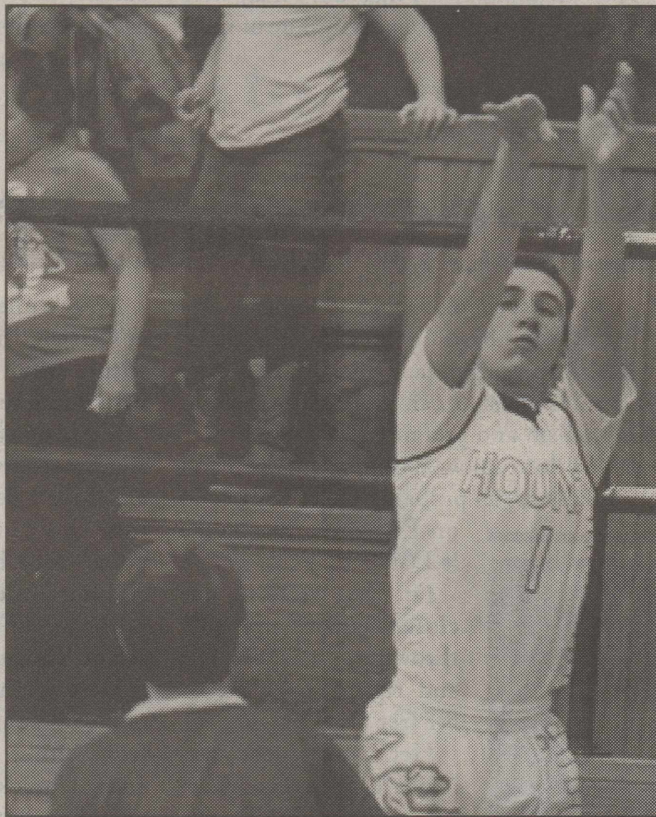
KNOX CITY — The Knox City Greyhounds wrapped up the District 7-1A boys title last Tuesday with a 59-36 victory over second-place Spur and then improved to 9-0 with a 73-25 romp past Motley County last Friday.

The Hounds assumed command early against Motley County, racing to a 24-9 advantage after one quarter and extending it to 47-15 at halftime.

Five Hounds finished in double figures, led by Anthony Estrada's 16. Skylar Neill added 13 while Ryan Heard had 11, Tyler Harvey 10 and Brady Hawkins 10.

The Greyhounds, ranked 16th in the state with a 23-4 record, closed the regular season Tuesday against Guthrie.

They will get a bye in bi-district and will play the winner of the game between the second-place team in 5-1A and the third-place team in 6-1A in the area round.



Sheri Baty/The Knox County News-Courier
Anthony Estrada scores in earlier game against Spur

Class 1A Boys Rankings

- Lipan (28 - 0)
- Avinger (25 - 2)
- Grady (21 - 4)
- Coolidge (24 - 3)
- Nazareth (17 - 10)
- Happy (20 - 5)
- Laneville (16 - 10)
- Texline (17 - 9)
- Jayton (23 - 4)
- Menard (22 - 4)
- Calvert (19 - 3)
- Chireno (20 - 8)
- Waelder (21 - 7)
- Dime Box (22 - 6)
- Valley (15 - 9)
- Knox City (22 - 4)
- Lingleville (18 - 7)
- Lometa (23 - 3)
- Borden County (16 - 3)
- Meadow (17 - 6)
- May (19 - 3)
- Whitharral (19 - 3)
- McMullen (24 - 5)
- New Home (19 - 5)
- Campbell (19 - 10)

Class 1A girls ratings

- Dodd City 27-1
- Garden City 24-2
- Nazareth 24-5
- Richland Springs 23-2
- Lipan 25-6
- Roby 26-2
- May 25-1
- Chireno 27-3
- Valley 22-2
- Leakey 23-6
- Coolidge 20-4
- North Zulch 19-3
- Saltillo 23-8
- Goodrich 23-4
- Nueces Canyon 23-3
- O'Donnell 24-7
- Abbott 16-5
- Whitharral 16-5
- Newcastle 25-4
- Lorenzo 22-8
- Ira 21-4
- Huckabay 20-8
- Grady 17-9
- Slidell 26-5
- Robert E. Lee 21-5
- Roscoe Highland 18-7

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District Standings

8-1A boys Standings

Team	W	L
Munday	8	0
Crowell	7	2
Benjamin	5	3
Harrold	3	5
Chillicothe	2	7
Northside	0	9

Results
 Munday 50, Crowell 38; Benjamin 52, Harrold 51; Chillicothe 49, Northside 43; Benjamin 65, Chillicothe 33; Munday 70, Harrold 39

Schedule
 Feb. 9: Benjamin at Crowell, Munday at Northside, Harrold at Chillicothe
 Feb. 12: Harrold at Munday, Benjamin at Chillicothe,

8-1A girls Standings

Team	W	L
Munday	9	0
Crowell	7	2
Northside	6	3
Harrold	3	6
Chillicothe	2	7
Benjamin	0	9

Results
 Munday 50, Chillicothe 25; Crowell 73, Harrold 42; Munday 52, Benjamin 3; Crowell by forfeit over Chillicothe; Northside 67, Harrold 65

Schedule
 Feb. 9: Benjamin at Crowell, Munday at Northside, Harrold at Chillicothe

Youth schedule

Feb. 11: Jazz vs. Clippers, T-wolves vs. Cavs-North, Warriors vs. Spurs, Thunder vs. Magic, Wings vs. Wizards, Heat vs. Mavs

Feb. 13: Clippers vs. Nets-North, Pacers vs. T-wolves, Cavs vs. Knicks-South, Magic vs. Warriors, Spurs vs. Lakers, Mavs vs. Kings, Wizards vs. Heat

Feb. 18: Lakers vs. Magic, Jazz vs. Nets-South, Khicks vs. Pacrs-North, Warriors vs. Thunder, Mavs vs. Wizards, Kings vs. Heat

Feb. 20: Heat vs Mavs, Kings vs. Wizards, Magic vs. Spurs; Thunder vs. Lakes, T-wolves vs. Knicks-South, Cavs vs Packers-North, Jazz va. Clippers-North

Thursday games start at 5 p.m., Saturday games at 8 a.m.

Mogulettes earn repeat title

Special to The News-Courier

MUNDAY – The Munday Mogulettes repeated as champions of District 7-1A, assuring the title last Friday with a 50-25 win over Chillicothe and an earlier 52-3 victory over Benjamin.

The Mogulettes took a 9-0 record into a regular season-ending game at Northside Tuesday.

They get a bye in bi-district and will take on the winner of the game between the runnerup in 5-1A Whitharral, and the third-place team in 6-1A, either Meadow or

Ropes, in the area round on Feb. 19.

"I'm proud of the girls," said Coach Cory Stephenson. "Sometimes it's a lot harder to repeat as you have a target on your back."

In an effort to stay competitive, Stephenson indicated he was trying to arrange for a practice game next Monday

Crowell and Northside claimed the other playoff spots and will head to the playoffs to go up against Knox City, third in District 7-1A, and the 7-1A runnerup Paducah, respectively.

Moguls control 8-1A title race

Special to The News-Courier

MUNDAY – The Munday Moguls took firm control of the District 8-1A race last Friday night with a 64-22 victory over the Chillicothe Eagles. The victory left the Moguls with an 8-0 district record as compared to a 7-2 mark for the Crowell Wildcats, who they beat twice earlier.

They were scheduled to play Northside (0-8) on Tuesday and end the season Friday at home against Harrold, needing just one win to assure the title.

Continuing their tenacious defensive efforts and getting well-balanced scoring, the Moguls assumed command early against Chillicothe,

leading 22-2 after the first period and 32-12 at halftime.

Four Moguls finished in double digits, led by Brady Weaver with 12. Day'veon Dockins added 11 while Holt Bivens and Dane Leija each scored 10.

Earlier last week, the Moguls scored a 58-33 victory over the Benjamin Mustangs, breaking open a 22-18 half-time lead with a 21-8 run in the third period. Cole Parten scored 16 while Dockins and Weaver added 13 and 11, respectively.

The Moguls will get a bye in the first round of the playoffs as district champions and will play the winner of the 5-1A runnerup and the 6-1A third-place team in the area round Feb. 26 or Feb. 27.



Terry Messer/The Knox County News-Courier

Munday's Ana Vega triple teamed by Chillicothe defenders.



Terry Messer/The Knox County News-Courier

Kathrine Cude escapes defender for closer shot.

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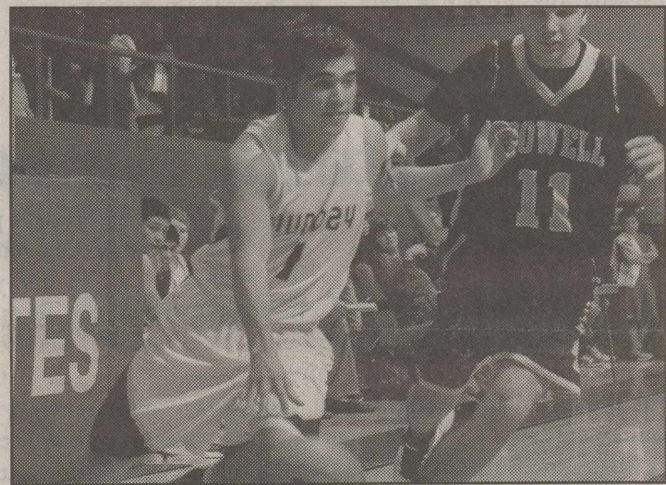
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Terry Messer/The Knox County News-Courier

Bryan Castorena beats his Crowell defender to the basket.



Terry Messer/The Knox County News-Courier

Munday's Holt Bivens goes in for a layup against Chillicothe.

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Historical home burns



A historical two-story home on Munday Avenue burned to the ground recently, leaving only a chimney standing.

Vonda Carter/The Knox County News-Courier

Recycling 2016

Recycling to temporarily close

By Bunny Norville

The harder we work the behinder we get.

We have worked hard to get where we are and citizens close and afar have helped us get here. Thank you citizens for your hard work and your benevolent attitudes toward our cause. We appreciate every one of you. Seriously, in order for us to get out from under the avalanche of cardboard we need to shut down at least until spring time. Presently we are short-handed, first Angel, then myself, awaiting back surgery. That leaves only two, Steve and Exa Lee, who are hard workers but the work load is too great. We're not complaining, yet we are complaining.

We don't have great working conditions, with our building wide open to the

unfriendly elements. Frequently we can't work when the wind blows through at 40 mph. Or, when the thermostat dips so low.

The Munday City Council has approved a baler, but we don't have it yet. It is still in Brownwood, but we are going to get it here. We are sorry to have to do this, but we ask everyone to please be patient with us. We do want/plan to reopen in the spring, but to do so we need more help and the baler in place. Without a baler the cardboard controls us. By adding the baler we can take control of the cardboard!

We will officially close Feb. 15. However, we ask our patrons who get this paper, do not bring any more plastic, tin or paper. That leaves aluminum and cardboard.

If anyone has a question. Please call Bunny at 203-0221.

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Safety seat check up planned

Special to The News-Courier

MUNDAY — The Texas Department of Transportation (Tx-DOT) will hold a car safety seat checkup event from 12:30-3 p.m. on Feb. 26 here at First United Methodist Church.

Inspections are by appointment only. Please call Jolie Person, Tx-DOT Traffic Safety Specialist at 940-937-7179 to schedule an appointment, and allow 30 minutes for each seat.

Did you know that three out of four kids are not buckled correctly? This is an opportunity to learn how to buckle your child in correctly and get your safety seat check by a registered technician.

USDA will offer commodity certificates

Special to The News-Courier

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced last week that producers who have crops pledged as collateral for a marketing assistance loan can now purchase a commodity certificate that may be exchanged for the outstanding loan collateral. The authority is provided by the 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act, legislation enacted by Congress in December.

Commodity certificates are available beginning with the 2015 crop in situations where the applicable marketing assistance loan rate exceeds the exchange rate. Currently, the only eligible commodity is cotton.

USDA's Farm Service

Agency (FSA) routinely provides agricultural producers with marketing assistance loans that provide interim cash flow without having to sell the commodities when market prices are at harvest time lows. The loans allow the producer to store and delay the sale of the commodity until more favorable market conditions emerge, while also providing for a more orderly marketing of commodities throughout the marketing year.

These loans are considered "nonrecourse" because the loan can be redeemed by delivering the commodity pledged as collateral to the government as full payment for the loan upon maturity.

Commodity certificates are available to loan holders having outstanding nonre-

course loans for wheat, upland cotton, rice, feed grains, pulse crops (dry peas, lentils, large and small chickpeas), peanuts, wool, soybeans and designated minor oilseeds. These certificates can be purchased at the posted county price (or adjusted world price or national posted price) for the quantity of commodity under loan, and must be immediately exchanged for the collateral, satisfying the loan.

Producers may contact their FSA office that maintains their loan or their loan service agent for additional information. Producers who do business with Cooperative Marketing Associations (CMA) or Designated Marketing Associations (DMA) may contact their respective associations for additional information.

Vehicles to have one expiration

Special to The News-Courier

AUSTIN — As Texas steps into the second year of the "Two Steps, One Sticker" program for vehicle inspection and registration, vehicle owners can look forward to a simpler process for these two important annual vehicle requirements.

Beginning on March 1, the transition year ends, and vehicles will have one convenient expiration date for inspection and registration. Here is what Texans need to do from that point forward: Take a look at the date on your vehicle registration sticker and then follow the two steps.

Step 1: Pass a vehicle inspection no earlier

than 90 days prior to your registration expiration and retain your vehicle inspection report. To find your nearest inspection station, visit the Texas Department of Public Safety's (DPS) website.

Step 2: After your vehicle passes inspection, renew your registration online, by mail or in person at your county tax office, and your inspection status will be verified electronically.

Remember that your vehicle inspection and registration will expire on the last day of whatever month is indicated on your sticker. You will have plenty of time to complete the two steps. Just be sure to pass inspection and renew your registration no earlier than 90 days before your sticker expires.



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News, Pictures, Ideas, Suggestions! Send to the Editor!

Vonda's Recipe Corner

By Vonda Carter



Did you watch the Super Bowl? I have just one thing to say, OMAHA! Okay, now that I have that out of my system, let's move on to Valentine's Day, coming up this weekend. First I would like to encourage everyone to attend the Goree Volunteer Fire Department Valentine Dance on Saturday night. It's sure to be a lot of fun. Second the Wichita Brazos Museum is having its annual dinner on Valentine's Day and I think that's the place to be for some really good food and community fun. I plan to be there, as do James and Betty and we hope to see you there as well. Here are this week's recipes. Monkey Bread Muffins is from my good friend Jennifer in our Childress office. She sent it to me this week and it sounds yummy. She makes it for weekend breakfasts for her family and I plan to make it myself this weekend for Valentine breakfast. It looks so easy and I'm always looking for easy, I know you are too. As you know, I love my crock pot, so I've included a recipe for an easy dessert you can make in your crock pot? Who knew? Now we do. Just set it and forget it, and yummy goodness just happens.

Monkey Bread Muffins courtesy of Jennifer Eubanks **Optional Icing**

1 cup sugar	1 tbsp. milk
1 to 2 Tbsp. cinnamon	1 cup powdered sugar
Pecan bits (optional)	Stir together

2-4 cans of biscuits (2 cans makes 12 muffins)

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Place sugar, cinnamon and pecan bits in a gallon baggie. Shake the baggie until mixed thoroughly. Cut each biscuit into four pieces, drop in baggie. Shake the mixture of sugar, cinnamon and pecans. Spray muffin pans with cooking spray. Place five to six pieces of biscuits in each muffin cup. Bake 10-12 minutes. Drizzle with icing.

Slow Cooker Apple Cinnamon Cobbler

6 cups sliced peeled apples	½ cup sugar
1 box Betty Crocker™ Supermoist™ yellow cake mix (dry)	¾ tsp. ground cinnamon
½ cup cold butter, cut into cubes	Whipped cream if desired

Spray crock pot with cooking spray. Add apple slices, sugar and ½ teaspoon of the cinnamon; toss. In a large bowl, mix dry cake mix and remaining ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon. Cut in butter with pastry blender or two knives until size of small peas. Dump on top of apple mixture. Cover; cook on high heat setting two and half to three hours or until fruit is bubbling and cobbler is light golden brown. Serve with whipped cream.

If you're enjoying my little recipe corner, let me know, and send some recipes of your own to kcnewscourier@gmail.com or mail them to P.O. Box 151, Munday, TX 76371.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**CITY OF BENJAMIN
 TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
 GRANT PROGRAM STEP GRANT
 CONTRACT #713036
 FINAL PUBLIC HEARING**

City of Benjamin will conduct a final public hearing on its 2013 Texas Community Development Block Grant STEP Grant, on February 16, 2016 at 5:30 P.M. The meeting will be held at Benjamin's City Hall, 303 S. Hinton St, in Benjamin, Knox County, Texas. Topics to be discussed are completion of water improvements and expenditure of grant and local funds.

The City encourages recipients of the project as well as other interested citizens to participate in the hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and comments to Tami Gaddis, City Secretary, PO Box 286, Benjamin, Texas 79505, (940) 459-3131. Handicapped individuals that wish to attend this meeting should contact Tami Gaddis, City Secretary, to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact Tami Gaddis, City Secretary at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Si alguien está interesado en asistir a la audiencia pública requiere un traductor, póngase en contacto con Tami Gaddis, City Secretary, secretario de la ciudad en (940) 459-3131 antes de la audiencia pública para que los arreglos se pueden hacer. Se abordarán todos los comentarios escritos por escrito dentro de quince días después de la audiencia pública.

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The City of Knox City will be accepting sealed bids for grader work until 5:00 p.m. February 19, 2016. Bids will be opened at a called Council Meeting at 12:00 noon on February 23, 2016. Specifications may be picked up at Knox City City Hall during regular business hours. The City of Knox City has the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

The Munday Housing Authority (MHA) and the Knox City Housing Authority (KCHA) have apartments available to eligible applicants for immediate occupancy. Renters may choose flat rent or income based rent, and rent includes some utilities. Come by 131 West Cisco Street in Munday or 203 SW 4th Street in Knox City, or call 940-422-4941 for more information. It is the intent of MHA & KCHA to rent vacant apartments to high income applicants when there are no eligible low or very low income applicants on the waiting list. Both are equal opportunity providers and employers.

It is the intent of the Munday Housing Authority to temporarily rent USDA-RD apartments to all persons without regard to income restrictions when there are no eligible applicants on the waiting list. Call 940-422-4941 for more information. The MHA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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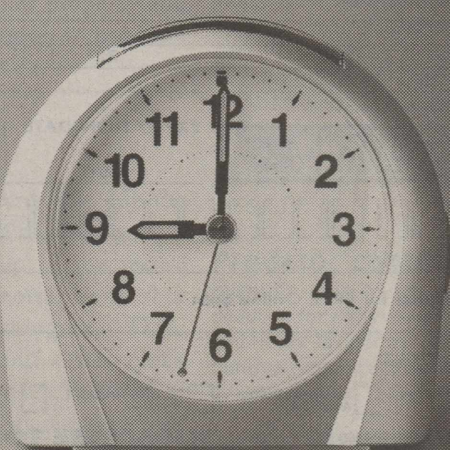
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Mac's Views

While at Kell West Hospital in Wichita Falls awaiting a sleep test for my wife last Friday, I discovered considerable research has gone into developing guidelines and



JAMES MCAFEE

tips to allow all of us to get much-needed shut-eye through sleep hygiene, which begins hours before bedtime. Any physical exercise will improve your sleep habits since it boosts your immune system and clear the stress hormones from your body, but do not try to do strenuous exercises in the four hours before bedtime. Morning walks are a great way to start the day re-

freshed. A healthy, balanced diet also will help you sleep, but timing is important. That's why some people find a light snack and a glass of milk helps induce sleep. However, a heavy meal soon before bedtime can interrupt sleep.

While some people believe that alcohol is relaxing and helps them get to sleep at first, it can actually interrupt the quality of sleep.

Avoid caffeine and nicotine hours before bedtime also as they act as stimulants and interfere with the ability to fall asleep.

A hot bath or shower raises your body temperature and research shows sleepiness is associated with a drop in body temperature.

It is also important that your bed and bedroom are quiet and comfortable for sleeping. So a cooler room with enough blankets to stay

warm is best. Consider wearing an eyemask to block out morning sunlight if necessary or using earplugs if there is noise outside the room.

Try not to use your bed for anything other than sleeping so that your body associates it with sleep and not with watching television or other things. Of course, sex is OK. My wife like to read a little before going to sleep.

One good way to train your body to sleep well is to go to bed and get up at more or less the same time each day, even on weekends and holidays. I do break this rule sometime.

Some people find it useful to do relaxing stretches or breathing exercises for 15 minutes before bed time. An exercise to try. Inhale through your nose for 10 seconds, then exhale completely. Repeat 10 times. Next, close your left nostril and breathe in through your right. Switch sides and

repeat five times on each.

If you try too hard to fall asleep, you never will do it. If there's too much on your mind, get up and take care of a specific task. Sure, it'll interrupt your time in bed, but by the time you return to bed you'll have acquired some sleep-inducing peace of mind.

Many people, like myself, sometime struggle sleeping because we tend to watch the clock too much, especially when there is something important like a deadline for the newspaper. Rely on a good alarm clock.

Trying to sleep on a recliner last Friday while Betty was hooked up to all those monitors certainly wasn't too relaxing for me, but the tips I learned should help me in the future.

We'll find out in a few days the results of Betty's test and I'll know more about obstructive sleep apnea at that time.

Motivational Speaker



Tyson Dever of Kingland delivered a motivational talk about quitting is not an option last week at Munday High School. Dever was injured in a car accident that left him paralyzed at the waist.

Industry healthier than in 2014

By James McAfee

The obvious concern for those attending the PGA Merchandise Show each year is what is the state of the game and the health of the golf business.

The National Golf Foundation, more of a cheerleader for the golf industry, always seems to paint a rosier picture than what actually exists.

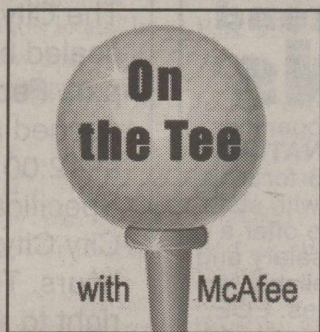
The presentation of the state of the industry by Jim Koppenhaver and Stuart Lindsey of Pellucid during the week in Orlando comes closer to reality, pointing to better weather conditions for gains in revenue and saying

that "2015 was healthier than 2014, but far from healthy."

They noted that the number of golfers in the U.S. was down 3% in 2015 to 23 million. "The biggest problem is retaining current golfers," said Koppenhaver. "Too many re leaving by the back door." The NGF reported a bigger number of golfers, 25 million.

Lindsey mentioned that golf course owners and op-

erators needed to train their staffs better in customer service and needed to learn how to get e-mails from customers.



I also heard that sales for golf equipment was down in 2015 and that more mergers, changes in ownership and even bankruptcies might be upcoming. Nike, for example, let go 70 of its sales reps.

One of the reasons for the drop in club sales is that consumers tend to keep sets of irons and even woods longer than they did in the past, waiting until the prices tend to drop to make their purchases. Just maybe, new products do not always need to be added each year.

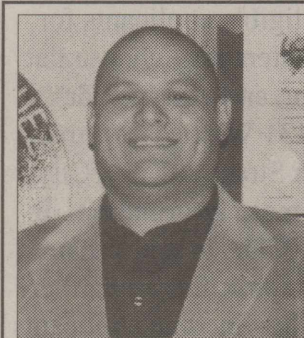
The merchandise show itself is definitely the place to be each January and this year marked my 43rd time to at-

tend, missing only once in 2006 when my brother-in-law was on his death bed. It's a great place to renew old friendships, too, but sadly a few old cronies are missing each year.

More than 42,000 industry professionals from 91 countries around the world were in attendance and there were more than 1,000 exhibitors, including 284 first timers, showing off their products.

One of the highlights is the preliminary demo day where more than 100 companies showcase their products on 200 hitting bays on the 42-acre circular range at Orange Tree National Golf Club plus the chipping and putting greens. Buyers like to test out the new equipment. They can also do that in a special area of the show.

To celebrate its 100th anniversary, the PGA of America kicked off demo day with paratroopers, bagpipers and ceremonial tee shots from representatives of each of the 41 sections of the PGA.



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From the Preacher's Desk

God's mixing

Some people watch cooking shows on TV and love to watch them! Some of these people tell me, including my wife, what great recipes they find there. I saw this and want to share it:

One Sunday morning at a small southern church, the new preacher called on one of his deacons to lead the opening prayer. The deacon stood up, bowed his head and said, "Lord, I hate buttermilk."

The preacher opened one eye and wondered where this was going. The deacon continued, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the preacher was totally perplexed. The deacon continued, "Lord, I ain't too crazy about plain flour. But after You mix 'em all together and bake 'em in a hot oven, I just love biscuits."

"Lord help us to realize when life gets hard, when things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what You are doing, that we need to wait and see what You are making. After You get through mixing and baking, it will probably be better than biscuits. Amen"

We need to put more trust in the Lord, read His Word daily, pray to Him daily and allow Him to mold us into the person He wants us to be. Romans 8:28 clearly tells us that "all things work together for those who love the Lord and are called according to His purpose."

When we try to "do our own thing" and not allow the Lord to lead us, we become "mixed up" and get ourselves in trouble.

The Word clearly tells us how to become a child of God and how to live for Him in this life. It does not matter what "we feel" is right, it only matters what He says is right. Start the new life by being baptized into Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins and receive His Holy Spirit to lead you in His way for you.

—Wayne Speer, Munday Church of Christ

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