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THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2013

KCNEWSCOURIER.COM

75 CENTS

KC sets fees for community center use

By Hanaba Munn Welch
 The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — A regular session of the City Council lasted longer than usual last Thursday night, thanks mainly to a lengthy deliberation over rates for renting the Knox City Community Building, still under construction but nearing completion at Knox City City Park.

The council ultimately decided to charge a basic rate of \$350 for use of the building and \$500 for dances, plus additional cleaning charges of \$150 and \$250, respectively, and \$100 for police presence when required. Discounted rates will apply for local school use of the facility on a limited basis.

An executive session under the heading of "Deliberate and Act on the Municipal Court and Police Reports and Procedures" punctuated the session at mid-point. City Manager Chad Roberts described the purpose of the session as informational. The council took no actions relative to the information presented.

The council accepted the findings of a financial audit by the accounting firm King, Moore, True-love and Pharis.

The representative of the firm described the city's revenue and expenditures as a "break-even for the year."

The audit described the city as being in "great shape overall" regarding financial procedures but produced a recommendation that more attention be paid to documentation of expenditures.

"Credit card receipts were always signed by individuals," he said. "It didn't always say the department and the purpose."

The council voted not to contribute \$3,000 to the support of the Knox County Visioning Group Partnership and discussed other possible uses for the expenditure, including ways to enhance the yearly watermelon festival.

A statewide warrant roundup was a point of discussion. Knox City isn't officially participating, but the concerted effort of law enforcement to round up people who owe warrants could snag Knox County residents.

"If they'd just pay off something," Roberts said, expressing his wish that people with outstanding fines would make an effort to pay what they owe.

People who owe past-due fines risk arrest and incarceration.

In his role as municipal judge, Stanfield said he would work with people who are unable to pay what they owe all at once.

"Anyone that comes in here and makes an effort to pay a fine, as long as they come see us, we'll do something," Stanfield said.

Police Chief Caleb Hodges commented Tuesday on warrants in general.

"Warrants are ongoing 24 hours a day, seven days a week," he said. "We have files and files of people who haven't even appeared. It does not go away."

In other business, the council authorized Roberts to gather more information about a street

See FEES Page4



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier
The next-to-the-last piece of interior siding goes up Tuesday morning in the Knox City Community Building, with Martin Hernandez watching his brother Juan Hernandez, left, and Joseph Rowland fit the piece into place. The building is nearing completion.

Knox Notes

Events are listed free of charge for nonprofit civic organizations, schools and community events. Submit listings at least two weeks ahead of the date. Listings will run through the date of the event. Emailed submissions are preferred to kcnewscourier@gmail.com.

Town hall meeting

U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry will visit with local constituents during a town hall meeting from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. March 8 at the Knox City Clinic, 702 S.E. Fifth St., Knox City.

One-Act fundy

Drama students at Knox City High School are selling handcrafted KCHS metal keychains for \$7. All proceeds benefit the One-Act Play production. For information, contact Terra Martinez at terra.martinez@esc9.net.

KCVG grant

The Knox County Visioning Group (KCVG) is looking for individuals who have an interest in pursuing a trade in Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC). The KCVG is rolling out a grant for \$1500. This grant is available to a Knox County senior in high school or a Knox County resident who is already out of high school and wishes to pursue this training. The grant will require the student to return to Knox County for one year and work in an HVAC field.

Walk Across Texas

Knox County Hospital is hosting the third annual Walk Across Texas, a family friendly competition designed to promote a healthy lifestyle. Teams of five will monitor and report miles walked each week until the first team reaches the 895 miles that it takes to trek across Texas. Individuals who want to participate but are unable to put together a team of 5 should register anyway and you will be assigned to a team. A kickoff party is slated for 5:30 p.m. March 7 at Knox County Hospital, 701 S. Fifth St., Knox City. All registration forms and fees are due at this time. Cost is \$5 per member. T-Shirts will be available for \$10 for those who wish to purchase them. Contact Jamie Caldwell at the Knox City Clinic at 940-657-3906 for more information.

Annual parish dinner

St. Joseph's Catholic Church annual Parish Sausage & Fried Chicken Dinner will be from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 17 at Columbus Hall in Rhineland. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and younger. The Country Store will also be selling homemade baked goods and arts and craft items. To order bulk sausage, contact Billie (940-256-2973) or John (940-256-3113).

Windthorst sausage dinner

The Windthorst Sausage Dinner will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 3 at St. Mary's Parish Hall in Windthorst. Plates include sausage, sauerkraut, dessert, and all the trimmings. Cost is \$10 adults; \$5 children under 12. Contact Lesler Anderle at 940-423-6310 for more information.

Passport day

The Seymour post office, 210 N. Washington, will host Passport Day in the USA from 8 to 10 a.m. March 9. No appointment is necessary. For information, visit travel.state.gov/passport.

Corrections

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

News on the go

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

Knox County News-Courier
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 Volume 36 No.07
 USPS 439-620



Qualifying for May elections ends Friday

The Knox County News-Courier

The deadline for filing to run for mayor, a place on a city council or a place on a school board is 5 p.m. Friday.

Early in the week, some races had drawn no candidates, including the Knox City Mayor's office, and only one race, Goree City Council, was contested.

The elections will be Saturday, May 11. Status of filings as of Tuesday:

- City of Benjamin**
 - Three places on council — three candidates; incumbents Dick Dickson, Jerry Parker, Ronnie White.
- City of Goree**
 - Two places on council — four candidates; incumbents Glenna Decker, Tammy Trainham; non-incumbents Brenda Burns, Caroline Garcia.
- City of Knox City**
 - Mayor — no candidates.
 - Two places on council — one candidate, incumbent Ezekiel "Zeke" Duke.
- City of Munday**
 - Mayor — one candidate, incumbent Robert Bowen.

See ELECTIONS Page4

How-dee!



Michele Fetch/The Knox County News-Courier
In the role of the late Minnie Pearl, Stacia Propps wears the classic hat with the price tag Saturday night for Benjamin's version of "Hee Haw," a fundraiser for Benjamin School. Standing next to her is Sheila Kuehler, taking on the persona of LuLu Roman.

Recent moisture boosts hope of local wheat farmers

By Hanaba Munn Welch
 The Knox County News-Courier

Recent moisture, especially the rain and wet snow at the first of the week, are boosting hopes for this year's area wheat crop.

"It will really help the wheat," said Baylor County farmer Bill Bland. "The wheat was in terrible shape. This will stabilize the wheat for a while."

Bland and his wife, Judy, were dining Monday evening in Munday, celebrating the rainy weather with a meal at the Dairy Queen.

At a nearby table, Bernard Brown and his wife, Frances, had made a similar excursion from Rhineland.

Bernard Brown reserved judgment on how much good the rain would do.

"Wait and see when it ends," he said.

Brown acknowledged that enough rain has fallen to keep drought-struck farmers from giving up hope.

"We keep getting a little," he said. "It

keeps us a going."

"We're just grateful for every drop we get," Frances Brown said.

The rain and snow didn't fall hard enough or long enough to provide runoff needed to fill earthen tanks for cattle or significantly raise the level of Millers Creek Reservoir, source of water to several municipalities and other entities.

Wheat-growers who depend on rainfall for stock water are facing difficulties this year.

"A lot of it (wheat) can't be grazed out because there is no stock water," Bland said, describing the situation in much of Baylor County south of Seymour.

If a wheat crop can't be grazed through winter and spring, options are reduced to harvesting the wheat for grain (not profitable if yields aren't good enough to pay for harvesting) or

See WHEAT FARMERS Page4



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier
Soggy cattle at Gillespie turn their tails to a strong wind from the northwest Monday afternoon and line up with their noses against a barbed wire fence, bunched together against the weather.

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76371

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

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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 ownership of property are the cornerstone of freedom. Government's sole purpose is to enhance our liberty and freedom. Therefore, we hold every elected and appointed agent of government accountable to that standard.

DEADLINES
Advertising: 5 p.m. Fridays
Editorial: Noon Mondays

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

Our views

Springer should keep focus on home issues

Last week, Rep. Drew Springer, R-Muenster, filed House Bill 1568 that would target action within the Pflugerville Independent School District to curb its employees from extending benefits to domestic partners.

The school board voted 5-1 on the issue in December, becoming the first school district within the state to offer health benefits for domestic partners.

"I think the money we give to educate our kids should go to the kids and not trying to expand social benefits that we decided in 2005 was unconstitutional," Springer told Texas Tribune, referring to the Defense of Marriage Act of 2005, which defined marriage in the Texas Constitution as between one man and one woman. "We're not taking away all the funding, just the 7.5 percent that goes to the health benefit plan."

According to the bill's opponents, it mischaracterizes the school's health plan policy.

"No tax dollars are being used," said Chuck Smith, president of Equality Texas. Smith said that no money is taken from funding the classroom, but rather the policy "allows access to the benefit plan, but the employee still pays the premium."

Plugerville, a city of about 50,000 people, is a suburb of Austin that straddles the Travis and Williamson county lines.

Springer was elected this past November to serve House District 68, an area that not only includes Knox County but also stretches from west of Dallas and up through the Panhandle — a district that even at its closest point is still 300 miles north of Plugerville.

The move by Springer is an overzealous and overreaching act by a freshman representative seeking to undermine local control.

If Springer's intent of the bill is to keep other areas throughout the state from following suit, he'd be too little too late. The cities of Austin, El Paso and Dallas already offer domestic partnership benefits to employees.

Regardless of the issue and regardless of where Springer's values lay on the moral compass of society, speaking on behalf of his constituents, we would urge our representative to keep his eye on issues that directly effect House District 68 not those of other districts.

Springer's campaign platform was filled with only boilerplate topics and no real problem-solving ideas. So it's no surprise that this piece of legislation serves no other purpose than to energize base voters.

While the novice representative did campaign on education reform, this bill hardly counts as such.

We urge the representative to keep his focus on his own district — the largest in the state. There should be plenty of issues for him to concentrate on here.

Deaths

J.B. Booe

J.B. Booe, 86, lifelong resident of Munday passed away Friday, Feb. 22, 2013, in Seymour.

Mr. Booe was born May 1, 1926, in Knox County to James and Ella Booe.

Mr. Booe is survived by his wife, Evelyn, of Munday; one

daughter, Phyllis and husband, Rickey Barrick, of Seymour; one sister, Gladys Hunter of Knox City; five grandsons, Stacy James of Dalhart, Chad James of Wichita Falls, Jay Barrick of Seymour, Dustin Barrick of Seymour and Eril Barrick of Fort Worth; also, five

great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Services were Monday at First United Methodist Church in Munday. Burial was at SPJSP Cemetery in Seymour the direction of McCauley-Smith Funeral Home of Munday.

Ruby Meers

Ruby Mullican Meers passed away Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013, at Knox County Hospital at the age of 95.

Ruby was born Jan. 8, 1918, in Knox County to Emery and Delia Mullican. She and Boyd Meers were married, July 23, 1937, in Haskell. Ruby lived her entire life in Munday.

Ruby was preceded in

death by her husband, infant son Charles Emery Meers, and son Jerry Wayne Meers.

She is survived by one son, Boyd Lynn and wife, Christine, of Munday; daughter-in-law, Karen Meers of Lubbock; two grandsons, Todd and wife, Lezli Meers, of Munday, Kyle and Kelli Meers of Lubbock; three granddaughters, Angela Herricks

of Munday, April Meers of Munday, and Dawn-dra and husband, Calvin Sechrist, of Lubbock; five great-grandchildren, Jacob Herricks of Munday, Kay-len and Kason Meers of Lubbock, Brice and Tatum Sechrist of Lubbock.

Services were Monday at First Baptist Church under the direction of McCauley-Smith Funeral Home in Munday.

Knox County Aging Services

Menus for the week of March 4th- March 8th

Monday March 4th Charbroiled Beef Patty/Onions/Peppers Garlic Mashed Potatoes Beets Sliced Bread Mandarin Oranges	Wednesday March 6th Glazed Meatloaf Red Bliss Potatoes Mixed Vegetables Breadstick Peach Crisp	Friday March 8th Tilapia/Lemon Slice Whole Kernel Corn Slaw Hush Puppies Fruit Crisp
Tuesday March 5th Chicken And Dumplings Tossed Salad Whole Wheat Rolls Fruit Cup	Thursday March 7th Bbq Chicken Mashed Potatoes Carrot/Raisin Salad Cornbread Baked Apples	

Come eat with us and support your aging center program. Please call in your orders by 10 a.m. To 657-3618. Orders can be taken after 10 a.m. And need to be Picked up after 11 a.m.

Reports: Winter wheat shows signs of improving

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The Knox County News-Courier

Texas to Kansas, the condition of the North

American winter wheat crop is improving — good for yields but a factor that tends to lower the price of wheat on the market.

"The benefit of recent snowfall is starting to show in wheat conditions reports, not counting the winter storm raging in the plains today," wheat market analyst Mark Welch said Monday in his "Wheat Market Outlook."

Compared to conditions a month ago, Kansas wheat is eight points higher on a

scale that ranges from 100 to 500 — up from 268 to 276. Texas is up from 243 to 258, and Oklahoma is up from 208 to 235.

In his report, Welch compared this year to 2008, when the state average yield was 30 bushels per acre.

Regarding the weather, most parts of the hard red winter wheat belt have gotten a half inch or more of rain over the last 30 days. Welch said. Southeast Colorado has gotten less.

The sale of wheat to other countries is a factor

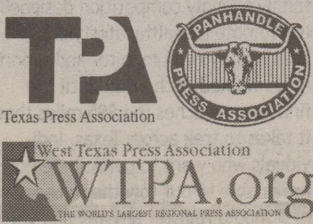
"Wheat export sales continue on pace to reach USDA's marketing year target," Welch said. "Export sales for the week of Feb. 14 were 25.7 million bushels. The average so far this year is 17.2 million bushels, and the pace needed to reach USDA's 1,050-million bushel target is 15.3 million bushels."

On pace or not, exports are at a lower level than this time last year. It's a situation noted Tuesday morning by Donna Hughes of Peacock Trading in her daily market news report "Market Talk." "Wheat export inspections are running eight percent behind last year with 27.271 million bushels needed each week to meet the USDA projected 1,050 million

bushels in exports for the year," Hughes said.

Hughes also mentioned the weather in her Tuesday morning comments on wheat.

"Wheat futures are trading slightly lower in Chicago and two to four cents lower in Kansas City this morning after double-digit losses on Monday," Hughes reported. "The second winter storm in a week is making its way across the Plains, with the added moisture expected to benefit the winter wheat crop in Oklahoma and Kansas. The Chicago wheat-corn spread narrowed to 5 3/4 cents, which is down sharply from the \$1.73 it was at back in November. The narrower the spread, the more incentive livestock producers have to use wheat in their rations."



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Save a Life

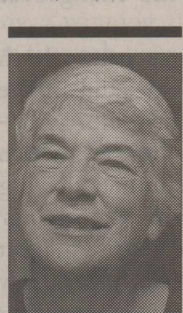
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REALTOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The 501 Saving it for a raining day; or not

All tasks saved for rainy days stack up mightily in a drought. Then when rain finally comes, the workload is overwhelming. That's my excuse.

I wonder if people who live in rainy climes save tasks for sunny days. Then, when one



HANABA MUNN WELCH

finally comes along, maybe they picnic instead. Back in 1969, the sun was shining as our travel group crossed Scotland. We saw several picnickers with colorful (probably wool) blankets spread on the ground. We heard later it was the first sunshine in a month. Those folks had put aside their cares to picnic.

But if they should've been hanging out a month's worth of sheets to dry in the mid-day sun, they missed their chance.

I'm remembering "The Day We Flew the Kites," a Reader's Digest story I read as a child. I'm not going to check the facts or

the exact title, but the gist of the story is that a family abandoned regular chores of the day to go fly kites, thus creating lasting family memories for both children and adults. It was a whimsical thing to do, but if they'd stuck with their work, they wouldn't have ended up with a memory worthy of Reader's Digest.

INTERNET PAUSE. I couldn't help myself. What better thing to do on a rainy day than use the Internet to validate a memory? Sure enough, I found the kite-flying story. It's better than I remembered. I'm surprised no one has sent it to me via email with a directive to pass it on to 10 more people or else. At least the Reader's Digest copyright is noted, whether or not observed, on some websites, along with the name of the author, Frances Fowler.

Reading the story anew brought some tears to my eyes. One of the little boys ended up a soldier and then a prisoner of war. In the POW camp, he remembered that spectacular Saturday the family, both children and adults, forgot all their cares and flew kites.

One aspect of the story I'd forgotten is that for many years

nobody talked about the special day with any of the rest of the group. Maybe everyone, even the children, realized the magical day could never happen again; therefore, they all locked away the memory in their minds, a treasure to be preserved and protected, not realizing they all felt the same way about the hours they spent flying the kites when they should have been doing spring cleaning and other important things.

Just think. If none of the kite-fliers ever had spoken again of the special day, and if Frances Fowler hadn't written it all down, the world would be minus one really good story.

Not all memories are as good as the kite story, but who doesn't have a few to dust off and share?

Somewhere in Scotland, maybe somebody's warming the heart of an aging parent, recalling a sunny day in 1969 when the family abandoned work to be done and went on a picnic instead.

Hanaba Munn Welch is a contributor and columnist for The Post Dispatch. Email her at hanaba.quanah@gmail.com.

Knox County cemeteries

Flags mark veterans' graves at Knox City cemetery

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — The American flags that mark the graves of military veterans in the Knox City Cemetery look as fresh as the West Texas breezes that keep them unfurled much of the time.

Credit Don Compton for making sure they were in place in time for Veterans Day. "I was supposed to help him that day, but I had to do something else," said Glen Dell Large, one of several Knox City veterans from the Vietnam era.

Compton and others not only did the work but also paid for the flags, said Betty Johnston, secretary at Knox City City Hall.

The city maintains the flag on the pole at the cemetery, but for Veterans Day a special flag took its place — one that flew either over the Capitol.

"It was there for that weekend," she said. Large and Compton are among several Knox City men who have served their country in the military.

Like the Teague family mentioned in last week's cemetery story, Large's family saw three young men go to war — not to France but to Vietnam. But all three Large brothers — Glenn Dell, Billy Joe and Eddie Dean — came home.

"The Lord blessed us," Large said. "We made it back." Glen Dell was just four months short of 26 when he was drafted — the oldest one in his boot camp.

"They called me 'Pops,'" he said. "I was an old man." Large served in the 5th Division, a mechanized infantry division. "We went up on the DMZ and replaced the 3rd Marine Division," he said.

In Large's 57 Heaven Museum, old cars take up much of the floor space, but he also has memorabilia from other aspects of life in Knox City, including a case both he and his two brothers carried to Vietnam. In one area, framed newspaper clippings provide pictures and information about Knox County residents who served in Vietnam.

"Three were killed," Large said. "About half of Knox City went to Vietnam."

You're invited to a conversation with
Congressman Mac Thornberry

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Friday, March 8, 2013
1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
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For more information, please call 940-692-1700
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FEES

From Page 1

sweeper under consideration for purchase. Roberts indicated he would make a trip to Childress, if feasible, to evaluate the sweeper.

Regarding street repairs,

Councilman Steve Pepper voiced his concern about potholes and how they are filled.

"I don't think we're getting the best bang for our buck out of the work and the materials," he said. "We're just putting it in there and scraping it with a backhoe and driving off.

I'd like for us to reconsider how we're doing it."

Pepper showed some interest in the street sweeper as a way to clean potholes as part of the repair procedure.

As required by law as a matter of procedure, the council called for a general election Saturday, May 11.

ELECTIONS

From Page 1

• Two places on council – no candidates.

Benjamin Independent School District

• Three trustee places – no candidates.

Knox City-O'Brien Independent School District

• Two trustee places – two candidates, incumbents Dale Turner, Jarrod Pepper.

Munday Independent School District

• Two trustee places – no candidates.

Hanaba Munn Welch

WHEAT FARMERS

From Page 1

cutting and baling it for hay.

Bland, who farms with his son, Bill Bland Jr., said the outlook this year is for some of their

wheat to be harvested and some of it grazed. The Blands may also cut some of their wheat for hay "because everybody's out of hay," Bland said.

Either way, the Blands were glad to see the snow and rain on Monday.

"Thank the good Lord for it," Judy Bland said. "He always provides."

Stateside gas prices area trending upward

Special to the Dispatch

The statewide average for a gallon of regular unleaded fuel in Texas is now \$3.64, according to the AAA Texas Weekend Gas Watch. That price is 21 cents more than one week ago but 14 cents less than the national average, which is now \$3.78. Drivers in Dallas paying the most on average at \$3.71 and drivers in El Paso are paying the least at \$3.41.

Some reasons why the gas prices have climbed in the past few weeks include the fact that U.S. refineries are performing seasonal maintenance and making the switch-over to summer-blend gasoline production earlier in the year.

This earlier schedule is the choice of refiners and has not come in response to any change to the deadline to complete the transition to summer-blend fuels, which are required in many parts of the country and more expensive to produce.

As refineries across the country go offline during the short-term maintenance

period they work at a temporary reduced capacity and regional supplies can decrease causing markets to be more sensitive during the changeover period.

In 2011 and 2012 gas prices both nationally and in Texas peaked in the April/May timeframe, just shortly before the Memorial Day holiday, which is the kick-off to the summer driving season. Analysts say with the spring/summer blend poised to hit the market in the next couple of weeks, prices may continue on the upswing at least for the short term.

"The latest price hike means a Texas driver with a car that has a typical 14-gallon size fuel tank, is paying about three more dollars to fill up that tank this week compared to last week," said AAA Texas/New Mexico Representative Doug Shupe. "We are encouraging drivers to maintain cars and trucks according to manufacturer recommendations, plan errands in advance, go easy on the brake and gas pedals, and drive the speed limit to increase their fuel efficiency."

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The Idle American

The slimmest of odds

There's nothing to support it, but a fascinating contention looms nonetheless. Lottery opponents say if you want to win the lottery, simply open your window. The odds of purchasing a winning ticket — and one blowing in through your window — are about the same. Odds may be similar on how a museum accident may lead to a man's decision



DON NEWBURY

to remove a wedding ring he's worn for 80 years. The gent is my 100-year-old Uncle Mort, who chanced to read Steve Blow's Sunday column in The Dallas Morning News despite it not being on his Sunday afternoon agenda to do so. He was on his golf cart — headed for the general store on a "non-agenda" mission. He figured there'd be enough

cohorts present to discuss global warming, immigration and/or dwindling whooping crane numbers. (At a previous general store confab, his foursome recommended teaching regular cranes to whoop.) Probably, though, the afternoon would be whiled away at the domino table.

He claims he was "zooming" along at about 10 mph — 10 times faster than a cruise ship in tow — when a newspaper blew out of a speeding convertible, shrouding his

Mort easily pattered to a stop on the shoulder of the road. He unrolled the newspaper from his noggin, and a column headline caught his eye: "Scary finger injury has a ring of truth."

Columnist Blow explained how a visitor to Dallas' Perot Museum of Nature and Science lost a ring finger during a vertical jump to determine how participants "measure up" to athletes' leaps. His wedding ring caught on something.

He came down, but his finger didn't. Blow went on to tell of several mishaps each month where wedding rings are caught in machinery, on basketball goals or numerous other objects.

This set Mort to worrying; "what ifs" crowded his mind. No longer interested in seeing his buddies, he headed back home. Perusing an encyclopedia, he learned that women have worn wedding rings for centuries, but grooms have commonly worn them only since the end of World War II.

He was pretty sure he could remem-

ber to avoid taking vertical jumps in museums, but he feared getting his ring caught in other ways — maybe while pitching horseshoes, baiting fish hooks, saddling horses, sky diving from planes or repairing his golf cart.

How, though, could he convince Maude that continuing to wear his wedding ring could be hazardous to his health?

He likewise questioned himself. Would he feel "less married"?

Mort always claimed that he "wrote the Constitution for his marriage," but that he's also accepted all of Maude's amendments.

He began by showing her the column. They "tsk/tsked" in unison, shocked that so many accidents each month claim ring fingers.

As they nodded in agreement about possible dangers, my uncle decided it was the right time to seek permission to remove his wedding ring and keep it forthwith in their lock box.

Mort was surprised how quickly she agreed. However, she added one proviso: His nose ring stays in place 'til death do they part.

It's unlike Mort to worry about things unworthy of joy.

He's always enjoyed telling about a woman on the adjoining farm who is a world-class worrier. Years ago, she fretted greatly about visiting San Francisco, afraid the fog would prevent her seeing the Golden Gate Bridge, the bay air wouldn't be fit to breathe and that she might get hurt riding the cable car.

Well, she saw the bridge perfectly, and she took deep breaths of crisp bay air. Yet, she feared getting on the cable car. If her foot chanced to contact the rail, would she be electrocuted? A young Californian explained that unless she swung her other leg over the wire above, she had nothing to worry about.

Mort smiled, mostly at the thought of his neighbor's silliness, but also at his own. How could he ever entertain the possibility of putting his wedding ring away?

He'd take his chances on continuing to wear it. That's a heap better than riling Maude, who at such time might vow, "With this ring, I thee sue."

He headed back to the general store, hoping there'd be one laggard there ripe for a "clock-cleaning" in checkers.

Don Newbury, former chancellor of Howard Payne University, is a motivational speaker and humorist. Email him at newbury@speakerdoc.com and follow him on Twitter @donnewbury.

Dixie Divas

To the rescue

Nicole and I were working out together one day and for some reason, she brought up a self-help, faith-related book we had both read. The thesis, basically, is how men are born with wild hearts, which should be admired not restrained by women.



RONDA RICH

as I attempted arm curls with weights too heavy.

"That every woman wants to be rescued," I took the opportunity to rest. I can't talk and work out, too.

"That is not what that book said," she retorted.

I put my now-unencumbered hands on my hips. "Yes, it is. Every woman wants to be rescued." I smiled. "That would be me."

She rolled her eyes. "That is not you. You're the last who wants to be rescued. Where do you think I got it?"

Seeing a chance to interrupt the endlessly cruel work-out that Nicole puts me through, I expounded more. "That is exactly what it said — women want to be rescued, men, who have warrior hearts, want to be the rescuers." I started giving examples. Later, over the next couple of days, I thought about that a lot. Here is my conclusion:

Who — man or woman — wouldn't want to be res-

cued? Life is hard. Who of us would turn down the chance to have life easier? Who would put a foot down and say, "No! Don't do something for me that takes worry away! That problem is mine! All mine!" Who, in their ever loving right mind, would do that?

Okay, I have said those words. It's true. I have had others offer help and I said, "No, it's my problem, my responsibility. I have to handle it." But that's not because I didn't want the help. It's because I realize that I'm a grown-up and I can't hide behind mama's apron anymore. I have also learned it's easier to depend on myself than on someone else. Other people get tied up in their own problems so they have trouble getting to my problems.

One of my treasured friends was reflecting on her life. Her children and grandchildren are grown now. She, of all the people I've known, has had the loveliest life. A solid, happy marriage, a husband who has provided well and protected her from as many troubles as possible, and she has traveled the world. As the children were growing up, she had a full-time housekeeper who took care of the children and the cleaning.

As I listened, I couldn't resist. "You have had the best life of anyone I know. You've lived a dream life." She smiled and nodded. She has such a great sense of humor that I knew I could tease her without offending her. "But let me ask you something — what exactly have you done with your life?"

She took no offense. She settled back comfort-

ably in her chair, pressed her fingertips together and smiled angelically. "Well," she began, her light-colored eyes twinkling merrily. "I am a nationally accredited flower show judge."

Her husband rolled his eyes comically. I doubled-over laughing. She continued, "It takes a lot of work and it's the highest honor in the garden club world."

I don't want any letters from feminists who protest mightily unless you're writing after you have just walked in at midnight and found a water heater that has sprung a leak and emptied its entire load throughout your house or your lawn mower broke in the middle of knee-high grass. I hate to call anyone a liar but...

However, I realize that my independence, forced or not, has made me who I am. Tink, bless his heart, goes above and beyond to make my life easier and so often, I protest. I don't want to be a burden.

I guess I talk a better game than I play it. But give me time. I think I can get used to "easier."

Ronda Rich is a Southern humorist, storyteller and best-selling author. Her latest book, "There's A Better Day A-Comin'" is available at rondarich.com.

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4TH Six Weeks Honor Roll

A Honor Roll

Grade 1

Melissa Carmona
Isaac Garcia
Kyson Latham
Delaney Leija
Kayton Shahan

Grade 2

Jaxon Bowman
Dustin Cottingham
Anthony Exiga
Alondra Gonzalez
Diana Marmolejo
Conner Moore
Riston Sanchez
Stephanie Scott
Brice Thompson
Aleea Urbanczyk

Grade 3

Joe Jasso
Karley Myers
Justin Tidwell
Allie Willison

Grade 4

Jonah Hernandez
Destyn Mauldin
Claire Redwine
Carlie Willison

Grade 5

Emily Cottingham
Bryanne Cude
Evan Hunter
Madelyn Mendoza
Isabella Nunez
Sydney Thompson

Grade 6

Emily Scott

A-B Honor Roll

Grade 1

Stetson Blair
Mason Brunow
Jacklyn Diaz
Avery Garcia

Raehanna Hardeman
Caremy Ledezma
Luis Marmolejo
Sanaiya Mathis
Daniela Nunez
Wyatt Pace
Brooklyn Rodriguez
Ryhana Thompson
D'Keydren Toliver

Grade 2

Jase Brown
Nevaeh Chavez
Alyssa Estrada
Micah Estrada
Emma Hilario
Noah Lyles
Leigha Purselley
Alexis Rodriguez
Cheney Thompson
Braelyn Waters

Grade 3

Reymie Monasterio
Andrea Nunez

Emanuel Nunez
Elli Oustad
Christopher Rodriguez
Dejan Thomas
Julie Valk

Grade 4

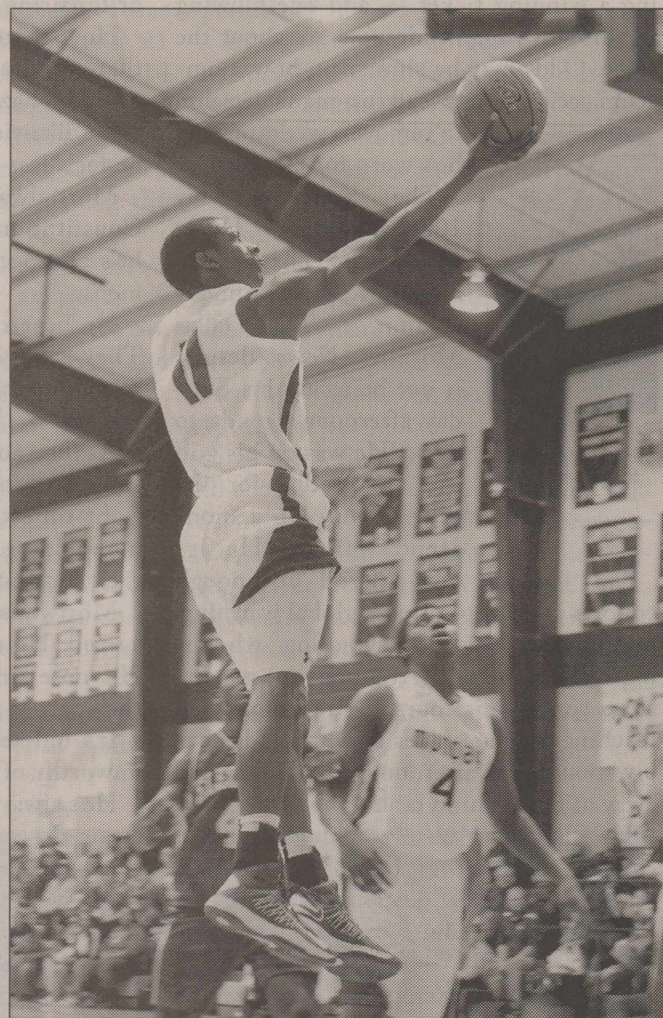
Kelton Carver
Carlos Cassal
Angel Marmolejo
Trinity Rodriguez

Grade 5

Monse Cedillo
Karsyn Sanders

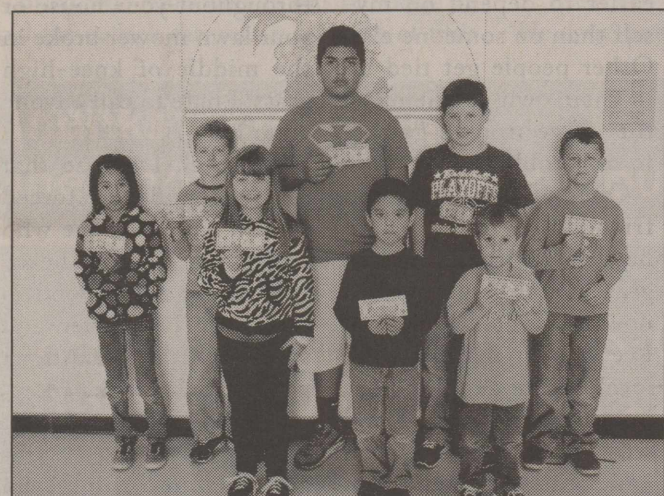
Grade 6

Ayleen Arellano
Emily Cedillo
Josh Hernandez
Seth Salazar
Bailey Speck
Bransen Speck
Ryleigh Waters
McKenna Zeissel



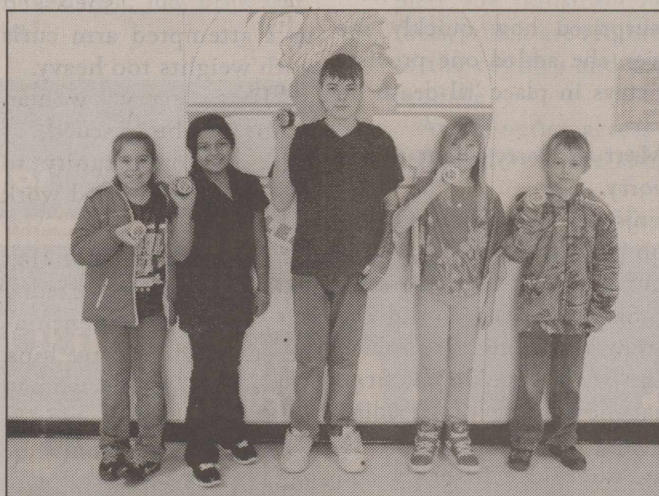
In high school basketball playoff competition, the Munday Moguls will play Triple A Academy of Dallas at 1 p.m. in Moody Coliseum on the Abilene Christian University campus in Abilene for the regional title. Munday beat Olney 67-61 Tuesday night at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls to win in the quarterfinals.

Perfect attendance winners



Fourth Six Weeks Perfect Attendance winners: Maria Sanchez, Cody Carlile, Stephanie Scott, Shawn Castorena, Thomas Carranza, Kreece Thompson, Kylan Crawford, Wyatt Pace.

AR Winners



Submitted photos
Fourth Six Weeks AR Winners: Andrea Nunez, Reymie Sanchez, Logan Steele, Aleea Urbanczyk, and Keaghan Henderson.

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Sealed bid offer: Two wheat farms (surface only) for lease:

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Deadline for bids: **March 15, 2013.** Owner reserves right to reject any and all bids.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code that an incorporated association known as Knox City Country Club, Inc. has applied for renewal of the Private Club Registration Permit Number N106836 and Beverage Cartage Permit Number PE106837. Doing business as Knox City Country Club, Inc. to be located at 13030 State Hwy 6 South, Knox City, Texas 79529. The officers are: Cody Manning, President- Homer Rolston, Vice-President- Pat Gonzales, Secretary/Treasurer. (0228)

LEGAL NOTICE

Effective March 15, 2013 the Knox City Housing Authority will be open from 9 to noon and 1 to 4 on Tuesday and Wednesday only. Phone 940-657-3612. Applications for housing may be picked up at the Knox City or Munday Housing Authority. Knox City Housing Authority is an equal opportunity employer and provider. (0331)

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NOTICE

The Knox City EDC & CDC boards are accepting bids for repairs to the City swimming pool. Information about the bid process and specification sheets is available by contacting Chad Roberts, City Administrator at KC City Hall 902 E Main St. Bids are accepted until March 1, 2013 at 10:00am

LEGAL NOTICE

BENJAMIN ISD – BID NOTICE – 2 School Properties
Benjamin ISD is inviting sealed bids on two properties, February 27, 2013- March 25, 2013:

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- Bids should be mailed to PO Box 166, Benjamin, Texas 79505, or submitted in sealed envelope no later than March 25, 2013 at noon. Responses will be opened on March 25 at the Regular School Board Meeting at which award selection will be made and notification to selections will follow, Tuesday, March 26 (940-459-2231).

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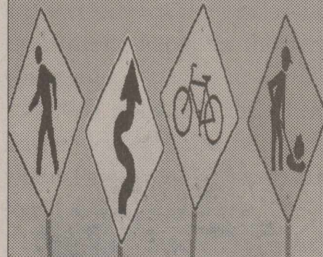


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Gilliland Cemetery: More than graves and markers

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The Knox County News-Courier

(Note: This week's cemetery story focuses on Gilliland Cemetery east of Gilliland, once a bustling farming community with a school and gin and churches and all it takes to make a little town. Few families live in Gilliland now, but the cemetery reflects a time when things were different and more people called Gilliland home.)

The Gilliland Cemetery is more than a collection of graves and markers.

Near the entrance to the cemetery, set at an angle that contrasts with the orientation of grave markers, are granite slabs engraved front and back. They tell the history of the community, including key elements of civilization — everything from buffalo and the bones left by the demise of the great herds to barbed wire, cattle, wagon trains, cotton and world wars.

A drawing shows the locations of Johnson School, Gilliland

School and Dixon School, between the North Wichita River and South Wichita River.

At the center of the cemetery is a veterans' monument that predates the memorial at Benjamin. It lists the names of one soldier killed in World War I and six killed in World War II.

Family names reflect the mixed ethnic background of people who settled Gilliland, including a sprinkling of Czech surnames among the Anglos.

In the southwest corner of the cemetery are graves separated from the rest — plots marked with monuments bearing Hispanic family names and, nearby, two graves with monuments that mark them as the final resting place of another ethnicity — Afro-American.

One inscription is simply "SAM (NEGRO WHO WORKED FOR B. S. MARTIN)."

The other carries more information: HERMAN WILLIAMS (NEGRO) NOV. 14, 1898 - SEPT. 27, 1934.

The markers are alike — small, gray granite markers that lie flat, nicely designed but without flourishes.

The inclusion of the word "Negro" speaks of an era when schools and water fountains and waiting rooms and many other aspects of American society were segregated.

Meanwhile, who was B.S. Martin? A Gilliland farmer who wanted his hand Sam to have a proper grave?

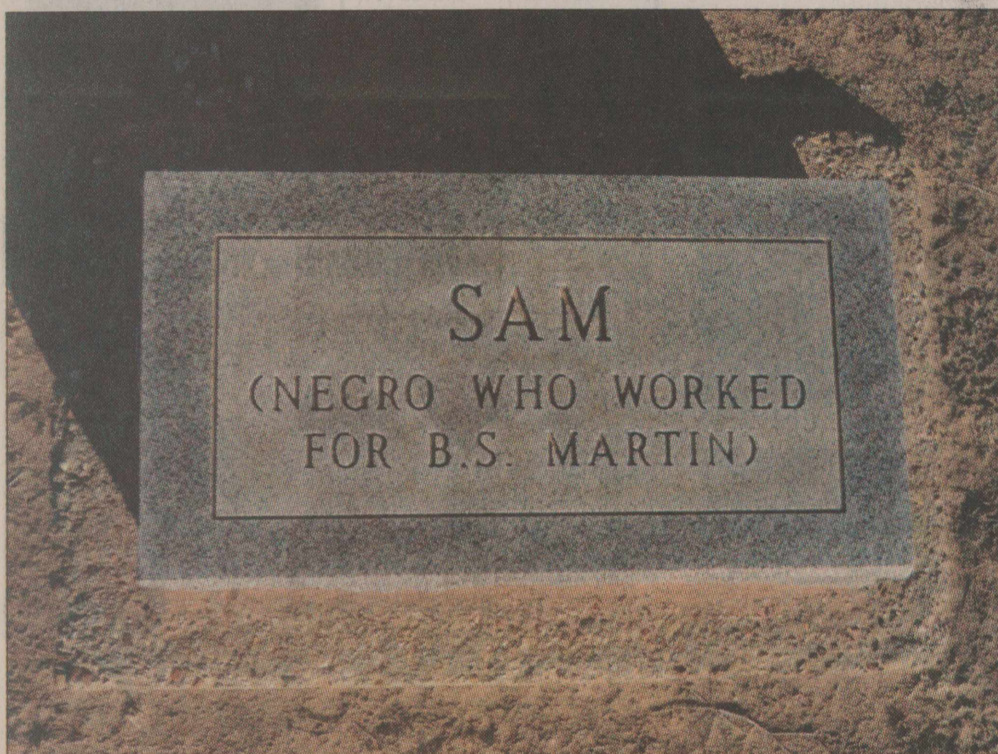
And who was Herman Williams? Does the marker actually date from 1934? If so, it was a time when most families were hard-pressed to pay for anything beyond life's basic necessities. Did Williams work for a family that wanted him to have a place in their cemetery and a proper monument, even if the plot was off in the southwest corner? Maybe.

Did Gilliland Cemetery rules stipulate that Negroes should be so identified by their markers? Maybe.

Things were different in 1934.



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier
A monument to men from Gilliland who gave their lives in World War I and World War II is at the center of the cemetery at the flagpole.



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier

A simple but intriguing marker at Gilliland Cemetery carries the only the name "Sam" and the notation in parentheses that he was a negro who worked for B.S. Martin. The marker is of the same design as one nearby marking the grave of Herman Williams, 1898-1934, and also featuring the racial distinction in parentheses.

Paving projects taking shape across Knox County

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The Knox County News-Courier

Weather makes all the difference, not just for farming but also for highway paving projects.

Highway paving work will stretch from March at least through August in Knox County. Nothing can commence until warmer weather prevails. An asphalt-paving project for Knox City is slated to start in April.

"We need the warmer temperatures for the special mix over here," said Dennis Johnson, project superintendent for R.K. Hall Construction of Denison, a Texas Department of Transportation contractor.

Johnson and Mark Rocha, TxDOT engineering technician, spent some time last Tuesday morning looking at work already completed in Knox City, where new sidewalks are the results of a months-long project, virtually complete.

The Knox City paving project should last only "a couple of weeks," Johnson said. When



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier

Dennis Johnson, project superintendent for R.K. Hall Construction of Denison, pen in hand, confers last Tuesday with Mark Rocha, Texas Department of Transportation engineering technician, regarding highway work in Knox City. Asphalt paving projects are slated for Knox City and also for U.S. 82 near Goree starting in March.

the new pavement goes in, a less complicated procedure than sidewalk reconstruction, the project will be complete.

"We'll re-stripe everything and sweep up the loose dirt, and we'll be through," Johnson said.

But he and his company will still have work to do on US 82.

The first project slated for U.S. 82 is set for March and April and will be west of Goree. The second project will start after the April-May Knox City paving and will involve U.S. 82 east of Goree to the Baylor County line.

"It all depends on the weather," Johnson said.

The contractor doesn't mince words. "There's be lane closings every day over there," he said. "Delays."

Johnson would like to work closer to home but he prefers the mentality of drivers in West Texas to what he encounters in urban settings.

"You get around those metropolitan areas, and you've got people that think they're smart," he said. "I'd rather work out here."

The length of the final project east of Guthrie is 18 miles and could take all summer, all depending on the weather.

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