

\*\*\*\*\*5-DIGIT 79505

MARY JANE YOUNG  
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BENJAMIN, TX 79505-0095

# THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

HOME OF LOIS HAWES CYPERT

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2014

KCNEWSCOURIER.COM

75 CENTS

## Early stage might have saved local wheat

By Robert Burns  
Special to the Courier

Sub-freezing temperatures on Tuesday morning put large acreages of Texas wheat at risk for freeze injury.

Temperatures were not as low in the Panhandle and Rolling Plains — mostly in the mid-20s — and wheat there was not as likely to have been injured as in the Central and West Central regions, said Clark Neely, AgriLife Extension small grains and oilseed specialist. This was because the wheat in the Panhandle and Rolling Plains was not as far along in development.

However, in isolated areas of the South Plains, temperatures dropped into the

mid-20s to upper teens — a temperature that poses a high chance of damage at any stage of wheat development, Neely said.

“Based upon what I’ve seen, looking at the weather map and reports from around the state, I would anticipate potential freeze injury anywhere from the Waco to Dallas area and westward to the Concho Valley and San Angelo area,” he said. “Primarily because that’s where the crop was flowering, and flowering is when the crop is most susceptible to freeze damage.”

Wheat across the state is one to two weeks behind in development due to a cooler-than-normal spring and the drought —

See **WHEAT**, Page 10



File photo

A field of wheat shows signs of yellowing, a common symptom of freeze damage. In this field, the symptom did not appear for a more than week after a late freeze in April 2013.

## Knox Notes

Events are listed free of charge as a service by this newspaper for nonprofit groups, civic organizations, churches, schools and select community events. Listings should be submitted at least two weeks in advance and will run as often as possible through the date of the event. News staff does not guarantee placement of events. Emailed submissions are preferred to [kcnewscourier@gmail.com](mailto:kcnewscourier@gmail.com).

### Water Town Hall

Members of the Knox County Republican Party will host a town hall meeting to discuss water and drought issues April 22, 5:30pm-7pm, at the Bill Baker Auditorium at Knox City High School. Local and state officials such as Rep. James Frank, R-Wichita Falls; Mike McGuire, Exe. Dir. of Rolling Plains Groundwater Conservation District; David Kuehler, Exe. Dir. of the North Central TX Municipal Water Authority and city administrators from Benjamin, Knox City and Munday are expected to attend. Refreshments will be served.

### Head Start

Parents wanting their 3 and 4 y/o child in Head Start this fall must submit an application as soon as possible. Knox City Child Development Center is hosting its Round-Up Day will be held Thurs., April 17 from 9:00am - 3:00pm at 502 N 2nd in Knox City. For more information or other available times, contact Sherry Ellis, director, at 940-658-3770.

### Egg Hunt

The Munday Volunteer Fire Department is hosting the annual community egg hunt on Sat, April 19, across from the elementary school in Munday. For more information contact the Chamber of Commerce at 940-422-4540.

### Blood Drive

Make a difference this spring by rolling up a sleeve for patients in need. The local blood drive will be April 22, 9:30am to 2:30pm, Munday High School, 911 W. D, Munday, TX. All blood types are needed. For more information, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to make an appointment.

### Rodeo

The 7th annual Knox Prairie Ranch Rodeo will be held Fri and Sat, April 25-26. Starts nightly at 7pm at the Munday rodeo grounds. This event is hosted by the Munday volunteer Fire Department. T-shirts available by calling 203-2411.

### TOPS Program

(Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meetings are at the Knox County Hospital “Break Room” at 5:30pm, Mondays. Contact Pam or Greg Oliver at (940)658-5120 for more information.

## Museum News

### Plans call for new monoliths at Veterans park

By Mary Jane Young  
Special to the News-Courier

BENJAMIN — The Knox County Historical Commission and the Friends of KCHC met Tuesday, April 8, at the Wichita Brazos Museum to discuss the many projects for this year.

There will be four more monoliths added to the Knox County Veterans Memorial. Willis Granite of Granite, Okla., will have the work completed by Nov. 11.

Application forms and information forms can be picked up at the Wichita Brazos Museum. We are attempting to put an application and information form on the Wichita Brazos Museum Cultural Center Facebook page, so you can check out that source. You may also receive forms by calling 940-459-2229 from 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, or send a request by e-mail to [kcchc@srcaccess.net](mailto:kcchc@srcaccess.net).

Only a person with an honorable discharge and who has lived or is buried in Knox County will be accepted to have a name engraved on the memorial. A veteran’s service dates are necessary in order to place his or her name in the proper time period. If a veteran has served in the time period of more than one war, as possibly a career veteran, please specify under which war the name is to be listed.

The titles engraved on the memorial are: Civil War, Spanish American, World War I, World War II, Korean, Vietnam, Other Military Operations, and the center archway listing those killed in action.

No application will be accepted which is not fully completed. A picture in military uniform would be appreciated if possible, so it can be added to the Veterans Albums.

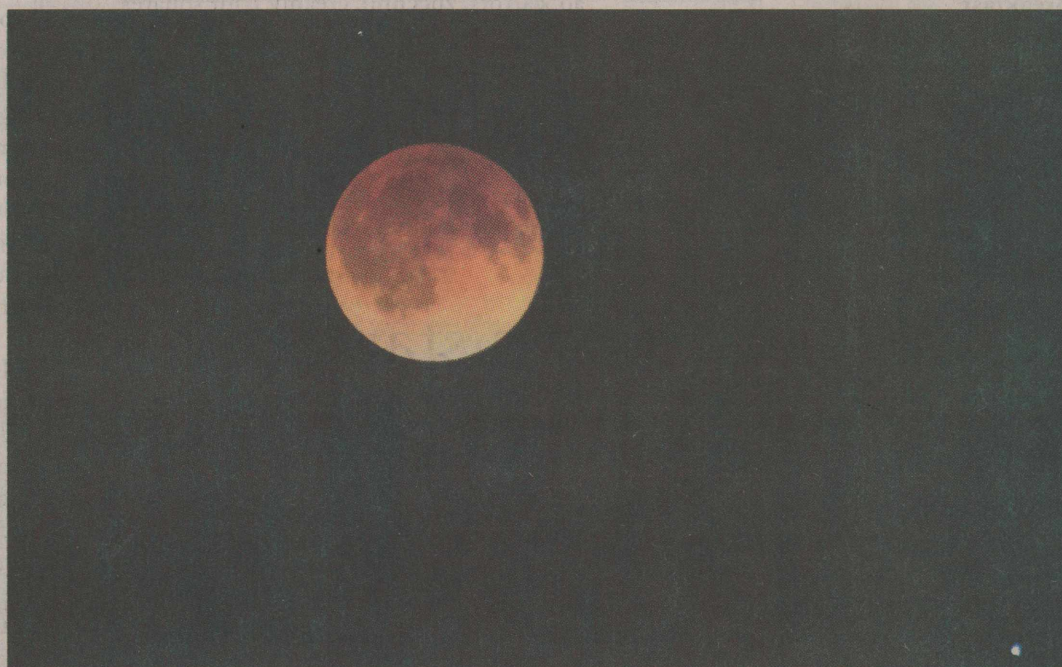
All applications must be in the office of the Museum by Aug. 1.

There is no cost to have a name engraved on the Veterans Memorial. However donations are appreciated.

Please help us honor our Knox County Veterans.

Mary Jane Young is curator of the Wichita Brazos Museum and director of the Knox County Historical Commission.

## Blood Moon



S.J. Dahlstrom/The Knox County News-Courier

The devilish glow of a rare blood moon is exquisitely captured on the dark canvas of the West Texas skies about 3 a.m. Tuesday. To the bottom right is Spica, a first-magnitude star in the constellation Virgo. See if you can spot bright reddish Mars, a tiny speck hanging to the right between the moon and Spica.

# Rare lunar event dazzles in sky

By S.J. Dahlstrom

The night sky is one of the best things about living in the country. Without city lights to compete, the moon and stars are so bright they seem close enough to touch.

When the moon is full, it seems almost alive. Sometimes a full moon is so bright that you can read a book after dark with no other light.

This “blood moon” happens on a full lunar eclipse — when the sun, then the earth, and then the moon line up in a perfect line like balls on a pool table.

During a lunar eclipse, you can see Earth’s shadow creep across the moon’s face — like

a bite taken out of a cookie — until the shadow completely covers the moon. The moon looks red because the sun’s rays are passing through all of the dust in the Earth’s atmosphere.

I woke up really early Tuesday morning to see this blood moon, because it doesn’t happen very often. This photo was taken around 3 a.m.

The solar system is like a big clock. It turns and runs right on time and solar and lunar events can be predicted out to thousands of years.

“Blood moon” just sounds good too.

S.J. Dahlstrom is a Garza County resident and author of the young adult fiction book series “The Adventures of Wilder Good,” based on a 12-year-old boy who enjoys hunting, fishing, cowboying and just about everything there is to do outdoors. Discover more about Wilder at [wildergood.com](http://wildergood.com).



## Family’s close ties bound by mother’s second chance

By Wayne Hodgin  
The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — Whether attributed to divine ordinance or happenstance, Lois Hawes was born into this world on the day the Texas House of Representatives passed a bill declaring the pecan tree as the official state tree of Texas.

Two days later, the bill was adopted, and the pecan tree became a long-lasting symbol throughout the world for its strength and longevity.

Two days later, Little Lois also was adopted after surviving a gut-wrenching death sentence all too common of the time and place on the cruel, windswept plains of West Texas.

On March 18, 1919, Little Lois was born to Mettie and Clint Hawes in Weinert. Just

hours after her birth, her mother, Mettie, died, leaving behind a premature baby girl weighing less than 2 pounds.

“Her grandmother was told to lay the baby with the body of the mother for burial,” said Lois’ daughter-in-law Karen Cypert. “The baby wasn’t expected to live, and, rather than having to face another death and burial, I guess some people thought that was the most humane thing to do.”

Lois’ paternal grandmother, Ellen Hawes, somehow knew her new granddaughter survived for a reason. So she took the tiny child and fed her by dripping milk from a twisted cloth into her granddaughter’s mouth and kept her warm by placing her close to her kitchen oven.



Submitted photo

Lois Cypert of Knox City shows off the spring bouquet given to her by family and friends in honor of her 95th birthday celebration March 18.

See **FAMILY**, Page 10

## Corrections

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

## News on the go



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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.

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



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## Menus: Week of April 21-25

### Knox City-O'Brien Breakfast

- Monday:** Sausage biscuit or cereal bowl, toast, mixed fruit, juice, milk
- Tuesday:** Biscuit with sausage gravy or cereal bowl, toast, pears, juice, milk
- Wednesday:** Pancake wrap or cereal bowl with sausage, cinnamon apples, juice, milk
- Thursday:** Waffles with syrup or cereal bowl, toast peaches, juice, milk
- Friday:** Breakfast pizza or cereal bowl, toast, applesauce, juice, milk

### Lunch

- Monday:** Rib sandwich or antipasto salad or bologna and cheese, corn, green beans, mixed fruit, slushy, milk
- Tuesday:** Frito chili pie or fajita chicken salad or turkey and cheese, carrots, lettuce, peaches, slushy, milk
- Wednesday:** Chicken quesadilla or garden pasta salad or ham and cheese, Mexican corn, refried beans, applesauce, slushy, milk
- Thursday:** Steak fingers or zesty tuna salad or tuna salad, mashed potatoes, green beans, pears, slushy, milk
- Friday:** Pizza or chef salad or po-boy combo, tator tots, baked beans, pineapple, slushy, milk

### Munday Breakfast

- Monday:** Biscuit with sausage gravy, honey graham and applesauce, juice, milk
- Tuesday:** Cereal bowl with sausage, mixed fruit, slushy, juice, milk
- Wednesday:** Mini corn dogs, honey graham, cinnamon apple slices, slushy, juice, milk

- Thursday:** Cereal bowl with sausage, pineapple, slushy, juice, milk
- Friday:** Pancake with syrup, honey graham, peaches, slushy, juice, milk

### Lunch

- Monday:** Beefy macaroni or bologna and cheese, carrots, corn, grapes, slushy, milk
- Tuesday:** Chicken nuggets or turkey and cheese, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, pears, slushy, milk
- Wednesday:** Soft beef tacos or ham and cheese, Mexican style beans, lettuce, orange, slushy, milk
- Thursday:** Hot dog or tuna salad, potatoes, applesauce, peaches, slushy, milk
- Friday:** Pepperoni pizza or po-boy, tator tots, pork and beans, grapes, slushy, milk

### Knox County Aging Center

- Monday:** Swedish meatballs, parsley noodles, green beans, wheat rolls, oatmeal cookies
- Tuesday:** Ham and beans, cornbread, spinach, seasoned corn, country apple crisp
- Wednesday:** Pork roast with gravy, sweet potatoes, succotash, wheat rolls, banana pudding
- Thursday:** Baked chicken, baked potato with sour cream, peas, bread, pineapple
- Friday:** Sloppy Joes on a bun, potato salad, carrots, zucchini, creamy fruit squares

Come eat with us and support your aging center program.

Please call in your orders by 10:00 a.m. to 657-3618.

Orders can't be taken after 11:00 a.m. please pick up by 11:00 a.m.

## USDA Disaster Assistance Programs Restored by Farm Bill

WASHINGTON, April 15, 2014 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that starting today, eligible farmers and ranchers can sign up for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) disaster assistance programs restored by passage of the 2014 Farm Bill.

"We implemented these programs in record time and kept our commitment to begin sign-up today," said Agriculture Secretary Vilsack. "To ensure enrollment goes as smoothly as possible, dedicated staff in over 2,000 Farm Service Agency offices across the country are doing everything necessary to help producers that have suffered through two and a half difficult years with no assistance because these programs were awaiting Congressional action."

Depending on the size and type of farm or ranch operation, eligible producers can enroll in one of four programs administered by the Farm Service Agency. The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) will provide payments to eligible producers for livestock deaths and grazing losses that have occurred since the expiration of the livestock disaster assistance programs in 2011, and including calendar years 2012, 2013, and 2014. The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have suffered losses because of disease, severe weather, blizzards and wildfires.

Enrollment also begins today for the Tree Assistance Program (TAP), which provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

Producers signing up for these programs are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for information on the types of records needed and to schedule an appointment. Taking these steps in advance will help producers ensure their application moves through the process as quickly as possible.

Supporting documents may include livestock birth records, purchase and transportation receipts, photos and ownership records showing the number and type of livestock lost, documents listing the gallons of water transported to livestock during drought, and more. Crop records may include purchase receipts for eligible trees, bushes, or vines, seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and production records, and documentation of labor and equipment used to plant or remove eligible trees, bushes, or vines.

Producers have three to nine months to apply depending on the program and year of the loss. Details are available from any local FSA office.

## The Paperboy

### Know your personnel when it comes to youth

**W**hy is it that nearly every morning my youngest son can't find his shoes? On the mornings he knows where his shoes are, he's slow to find his socks.

My wife can lay his clothes out for him and he'll find something to distract himself so he can be slow.

The boy is thick-headed. He starts his day in slow motion.

It's strange because sometime after his 7:45 gripping out session and the time I drop him off at school at 7:55, he's ready to take on the day and the challenges that come his way.

Sutton Hawk, 8, is pretty peculiar. He's loyal and somewhat lazy. He's kind, but a little mischievous.

In many ways, he's content with the role of little boy despite the fact he is far from small for his age.

He's a mixture of Baby Huey and Justin Bieber. By that I mean he's big and naive, but his hair and clothes have to look good.

His thick skin serves him well. He's motivated by various forms of discipline and not much else. In other words, he can take a tongue lashing and keep on trucking. While his brother is very soft natured and responds negatively from harsh talk. With him, all you have to do is reason with him. If it makes sense, he's all about it.

Probably the best advice concerning youth I ever received was from a coach I once had. He told me that all people were different and one coaching style did not fit all. I took that to heart.

I find that when parenting, coaching, teaching Sunday School, etc..., it's about getting to know what you're dealing with and finding ways to communicate beyond the norm.

If you pay attention to how a child behaves and interacts with others, they end up showing you their cards, so-to-speak. For instance, as in the case above, some kids respond to a pat on the back and some you have to get on a little bit. Others are happy to just be on the team.

One constant most children respond to is expectations. If your young people know what you expect from them from the very beginning and you are consistent in your message and action, they will strive to meet those expectations. But if you are phony, kids can sniff it out it one second and not only will they not respect you, they will ridicule you.

It's no secret that we have issues in our small towns. But we are also blessed to have parents involved who make a difference in the lives of so many.

As adults, we have knowledge and experiences to share. It's healthy to share some of the wisdom we've gained through our experiences - both positive and negative - with our youth.

Children are being influenced in so many ways that we must be sure they are getting a strong dose of male and female role models. We need to be in charge of our youth, not society.

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

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*The family of Dorothy Carver cordially invite friends and loved ones to a celebration of life on the occasion of her 90th birthday*

*3 p.m. Saturday, April 19*  
*Munday Nursing Center*  
*421 W. F St.*  
*Munday, Texas*  
*No gifts, please. Your presence is your gift.*

**Project Love Thy Neighbor**

**FREE**  
**Hotdogs & Snow Cones**  
**Music & Bounce House**

**May 2nd at 6pm**  
**Centennial Park**

# Benjamin News

By: Gladene Green

It's Sunday night, and the wind is blowing pretty hard out of the north. Just hope a fire doesn't break out because if it should, it likely would spread pretty fast. Temps today were in the 80's and 90's. Tomorrow it says 50 degrees—that's quite a change. Hopefully by Easter the weather will be more pleasant. The kids need a nice warm day for hunting eggs.

The BVFD will again sponsor an egg hunt at the park, beginning at 3 pm. Kids can ride on the fire truck to the park if they so desire, and if they want to, they need to be at the fire station a little before 3. If you want to help furnish eggs for the event, have them at the fire hall by 2 or a little before so they can get them hidden. It's always a fun time, and a good opportunity to visit.

### Sunrise Service Slated

The annual Easter Sunrise Service will be Sunday morning at the Methodist Church. It will begin at 7 am, with Jim Wright, pastor, bringing the message. Breakfast will follow. I plan to be there and hope to see you.

Philomae Roberson was in Seymour Thursday to see her cardiologist. She got a good report. The problem she was having is pretty well corrected, and she's feeling good. Great to have such a good report.

Betty Bohannon had her granddaughter, Liddy, in Abilene Monday for some tests on her stomach. No actual diagnosis has been made, but she is on some medication that makes her feel better. And hopefully, that's all it will take to get her back to the life a 9 or 10 year old should have. She's mighty young to be having tummy problems.

Barbara and Donnie Ryder are gradually returning to better days. She had some surgery on her arm Monday, and although she's still in a sling, she's better. Maybe after she sees her doctor next, she'll be able to put it aside. They have had a time of it.

Corrine Parrish is doing ok with her broken arm. She's out and about, and the way it broke, the doctors are just letting it grow back. No surgery is expected, and that is good.

### Here 'N There

Clay and Melina Conner have a new baby girl. Ilah Kae was born last Wednesday, April 9, in a Lubbock hospital. So far, they are all doing ok. She is the paternal great granddaughter of Bud Conner and great great granddaughter of Hazel Stockton. Paternal grandparents are Steve and Brenda Conner of Big Spring, and Janet and Gary Reed, of Benjamin and Big Spring. Edith Broach of Knox City is her great

grandmother. So you see she has lots of folks, not counting cousins, aunts, uncles, etc. to help spoil her.

Latest word on Mike Young is that he's doing better all the time. Still no word on when he may get to come home, but if he keeps improving, maybe it won't be long.

Henry Gene Jones, formerly of Knox City, passed away early last week in Abilene. He was our pharmacist many years and was always kind and accommodating. My sympathy to his family.

Irene Reed told me she has a new great grandson. Her grandson, Cody, and his wife have a baby boy born Thursday in a Wichita Falls hospital. He is the grandson of Donnie Reed. Both Donnie and Cody went to school here. I congratulate the Reed family on their new addition.

I mentioned the homecoming planned for early June, and the plans are in place for several events. There will again be (as always) the free snacks on Friday night, so as time gets closer, you will be called to donate food for that. It's always finger foods, so be thinking what you would like to furnish. The museum will also have "Breakfast on the Porch" on Saturday morning of that weekend, so there's gonna be plenty to eat and lots of chances to visit. A complete schedule of the weekend events will be listed later.

Mary Young was telling me that there will be two new monoliths added to the Veterans Memorial. There will be two stones at each end, making four for additional names.

Applications for names to be added to the memorial may be obtained by contacting Mary at KCHC@scraccess.net or by calling 940-459-2229. The applications need to be back here by August 1, and the work should be completed by Nov. 11. She said they were running out of space for more names, and they don't want to leave anyone out. Willis Granite Co. of Granite, Oklahoma, will again be doing the work.

Dorothy Carver is having her 90th birthday this weekend. Her family is helping her celebrate with a party at the Munday Nursing Center at 3 pm on Saturday. Everyone is invited to drop by and enjoy cake and punch and wish her a happy birthday. Your presence will be your gift to her.

I hope everyone has a nice Easter, and remember the real reason for it. If you travel, be careful—watch everyone on the road because they may not be watching you. See you next week.

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

## The 501 Tarzan, lord of the second-rate bamboo patch

It seemed like a good idea along about 1958 to plant a little cane to create a jungle a la Tarzan and Jane. My mother went along with the plan because she thought a little stand of cane might be nice. Beware invasive species.

A neighbor gave us a start. A few roots did the trick. Beware anything that grows like johnson grass, including johnsongrass.

The cane grew high. We called our new patch of tall reeds "sea cane" because that's what the neighbor called her patch.

Sounds exotic. "Arundo donax" is the official name. Think second-rate bamboo. Beware Arundo donax.

By the time the cane had grown into a virtual jungle, circa 1959, I was too old to play Tarzan and Jane. But there it was anyway, reminding me of my recent childhood. And there it is today, reminding me of what seemed like a good idea



HANABA MUNN WELCH

at the time.

Except it's not exactly there. My husband has spent all day on the tractor demolishing the aboveground growth and dislodging the roots with a plow. We'll probably have to follow up with chemicals. Arundo donax doesn't go away easily.

Neighbors planted some atop their septic tank to keep cars off the site. The roots invaded the septic tank. They couldn't plow it up, so they killed it with herbicide and left it standing. At least it looked dead, but Arundo donax is like a horror movie invader. It keeps springing back to life and spreading. Beware the stuff of horror movies.

Supposedly Arundo donax does best in moist settings. No wonder it thrived

over that septic tank. But our cane patch is on dry ground watered only twice since planting – both times by the fire department. Even in the country, they had no trouble finding our place. When Arundo donax catches fire, it makes a really big fire.

When it comes to invasive species, things tend to lead ultimately to an if-you-can't-beat-'em-join-'em approach. In the biofuel realm, Arundo donax is being considered as a source of ethanol. Move over corn. At our house, Arundo donax makes good kindling for our outdoor grill. Just one match and it's aflame.

Other uses: Cows like Arundo donax when it's small and green. They even rattle through the tall dead stuff to get at the fresh shoots. Noisy grazing.

The cane makes lightweight fishing poles suitable for children under age 5. Or little whistles for the same age group.

A length of cane pierced with a few little holes and a plug in the right place makes a flute of sorts. In the right hands, it's something that might sound like a Comanche flute.

Speaking of Comanches, the invader theme returns. My Anglo ancestors invaded their territory. For that matter, the Comanches themselves were invaders first, migrating to the southern Great Plains from the north. Once they latched onto invasive horses, brought to America by the Spaniards, also invaders, the Comanches established a powerful domain.

Invasions happen. Sometimes things work out. Sometimes not.

Hanaba Munn Welch, a correspondent for Blackburn Media Group newspapers, divides her time between Abilene and a farm north of Vernon. Her columns, as a tribute to the Childress Engine 501, always contain, amazingly, 501 words.

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Munday, Texas

220 South 5th Ave.  
Munday, TX 76731  
P: 940-422-4559  
Pastor Shane Kendrix

**Service Times:**

**Sunday**  
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.  
Worship: 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

**Wednesday**  
Awanas, Pre-K to 6th grade:  
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Youth: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Easter Sunrise Service 7:30 a.m.**

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Dixie Divas

# Easter brings a promise of hope

It is each of the many Easters of my life that I remember more clearly than any other holiday. Christmases blur together with only a few standing out in my memory such as the one when it snowed all day, the year I lost my voice completely, and the two times that I wasn't home — one working in Washington, D.C., and another in London.



RONDA RICH

My birthdays, Thanksgivings, Halloweens and summer holidays are hard to recall specifically. My husband proposed on my birthday so that one certainly stands out, and the one birthday Mama helped me

take down my Christmas tree. Since it's Jan. 20, you can imagine how dead that tree was and what a mess it made.

Easters, though? I remember them all. If there is a day that is a touchstone for each year of my life, it is Easter. Of course, our family celebrates it for the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. However, while it would be admirable, even noble, if I remembered specific Easters for the sermons, I cannot since it is pretty much the identical sermon and the songs rarely vary.

Normally, the weather leaves little reason to remember it because it can range from rain to cold to gorgeous, but I will never forget the last time that Easter came on the fourth Sunday in April — the latest it can come since Easter falls on the Sunday following the first full moon after spring begins.

We were already deep into

the throes of spring. Flowers were gorgeous, gardenias were fragrant, trees abundant in greenery, hydrangeas blossoming. We were prepared for the most beautiful of days but awoke to find that a rare, deep freeze had killed everything. We were stunned.

At lunch, we discussed it. Would the flowers and leaves return or was it too late? No one knew the answer because no one had seen it happen before. (For the record: by late June, the trees had leafed up again and some flowers were hearty enough to re-bloom.)

That's a rare Easter to remember for reasons other than what makes each distinctive to me. It is the parade of Easter suits, dresses and hats that I have worn over the years that ground me to a specific Easter. When I look at the photos or videos of our family's Easter parade, I re-

member so clearly that moment in time. I recall the sorrows or joys of that season of my life and all that was happening.

The bright green-colored suit and matching hat from well over a decade ago remind me of the heartbreak of watching Daddy's decline and how feeble he was that last Easter when he grumbled, as usual, about the Easter parade. In the family photo, we all look vibrant and happy while he seems annoyed to be with us because he's ready to reach his heavenly home.

The peach-colored suit, hat and shoes hearken to mind a time when my professional career was uncertain and I was worried. I missed sunrise service that year, too, because it was so hard to pull myself out of bed — not because of laziness, but a feeling that loomed close to despair.

The year I wore the cream-

colored, flowing skirt, jacket and enormous broad-brimmed hat was when I said to the family as we gathered for photos, "I have a feeling someone won't be here next year."

I was right. That was the last Easter photo for both Mama and my brother.

Of course, there are Easters where my life was completely joyous, optimistic and sound, but I wanted to share these for this reason: Easter is the time that reminds us that hope is eternal and all is possible. Those trials, tribulations and sorrows faded away and were replaced by remarkable opportunities and mountain-top-high successes and happiness.

Celebrate Easter for the promise of hope it brings.

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

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# Guthrie, KC take top spots at area meet

**By Geoff Baumgartner**  
The Knox County News-Courier

ASPERMONT — Guthrie placed first and both Knox City's girls and boys varsity squads earned a respectable second at the area meet in Aspermont last week.

Both the Knox City girls and boys varsity teams will be advancing to the Region 2 state track meet April 25-26 at Elmer Gray Stadium at Abilene Christian University.

**Boy's Results:**

100 Meter Dash: Jacoby Thomas, third place.

400 Meter Dash: Zach Carter, first place.  
4x100 Meter Relay: Knox City, first place.  
4x200 Meter Relay: Thomas, Anthony Estrada, Israel Rodriguez, and Elias Nevarez, fifth place.  
4x400 Meter Relay: Sheldon Baty, Estrada, Nevarez, and Carter, second place.  
Long Jump: Thomas-first place, Rodriguez-seventh place.  
Triple Jump: Thomas-first place, Rodriguez-sixth place.  
Shot Put: Krys Campos- third place, Tylynne Eaton- sixth place.

Discus: Eaton-second place, Campos-third place.

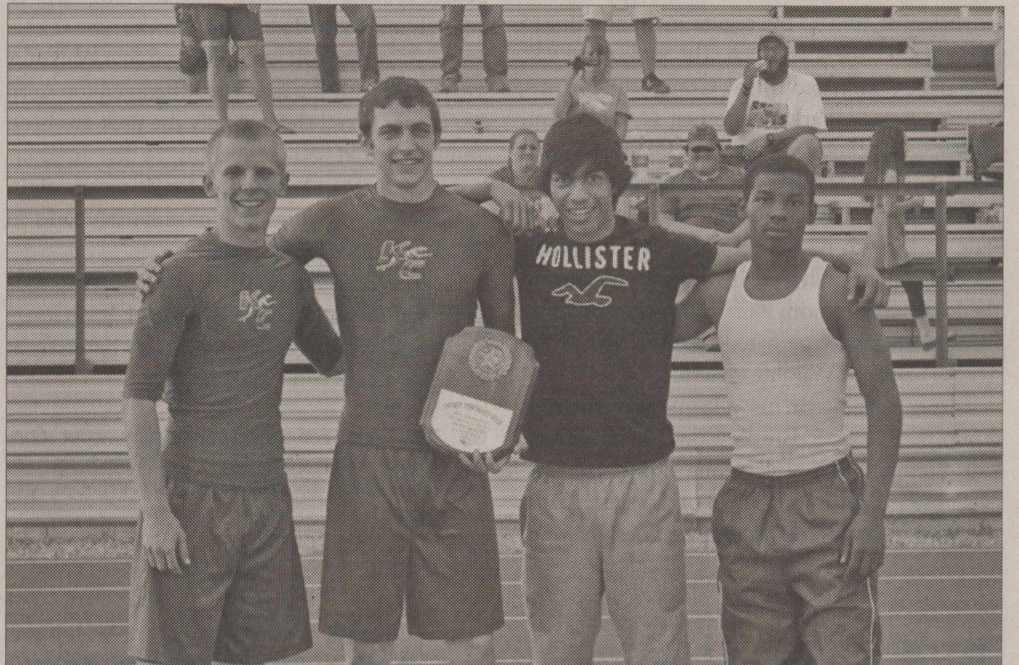
**Girl's Results:**

100 Meter Dash: Essence Ward- first place, Andrea Lynn-third place.  
200 Meter Dash: Caitlyn Baxter, third place.  
400 Meter Dash: Kenlee Lambert-fourth place, Kirstin Tuckness-sixth place.  
800 Meter Run: McKayla Bailey, sixth place.  
1600 Meter Run: Shailee Manning, first place.  
3200 Meter Run: Manning, second place.

100 Meter Hurdle: Leighten Pepper, fourth place.  
4x100 Meter Relay: Lynn, Zinzily McCrary, Jordyn Eaton, and Ward- second place.  
4x200 Meter Relay: Eaton, McCrary, Baxter, and Ward.  
4x400 Meter Relay: Lambert, Eaton, Tuckness, and McCrary- second place.  
Long Jump: Tuckness, third place.  
Triple Jump: Ward-second place, Tuckness-third place.  
Shot Put: Makaylie Steele, second place.  
Discus: Eaton, second place.



Jordyn Eaton, Zinzily McCrary, Caitlyn Baxter and Essence Ward hold up their teams second place plaque from the area meet last week in Aspermont. The Lady Hornets took home first place overall at the event.



Sheldon Baty, Zach Carter, Israel Rodriguez and Jacoby Thomas proudly display their second-place plaque at Aspermont's area meet.

## Speech earns KCHS FFA News student first place in Oil Belt

**By Geoff Baumgartner**  
The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — Jessica Wilborn, a Knox County student and FFA member, has won first place in the extemporaneous speech category for the Oil Belt District.

The exercise requires an FFA student draw a topic related to agriculture and write a six-minute speech on the subject. Furthermore, the student must memorize the speech and recite it before a judge.

The judge then will base his marks on how smooth the speech was given, with points being deducted or added for forgetting lines and/or smooth transitions.

In another area of the competition, Krys Campos, Chris Richardson and Tyler Clark all collaboratively performed music for the judges, although they did not advance.

Another participant, Hailey Cox, attempted to run for FFA district office, but was unsuccessful.

Knox City FFA instructor Josh Evans said he was proud of all participants, especially of Wilborn.

"Jessica Wilborn gave a great speech, and she absolutely deserved to win. I am very proud of all of the FFA students," said Evans.



Jessica Wilborn proudly hoists up her first place banner for extemporaneous speech from the FFA's Oil Belt District.

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# Copper Breaks rangers pioneer StarWalk program in Texas

By Holle Humphries  
For the News-Courier

QUITTAQUE — The state of Texas is going to follow the pioneering steps established by rangers of the Copper Breaks State Park in its unique StarWalk program.

David Turner, park manager, made this announcement Saturday at the meeting of the Quahadi Society of the Friends of Copper Breaks State Park, which is north of Crowell and the Pease River on Highway 6.

Copper Breaks State Park is nestled in the breaks of Permian geological strata laced with copper ore that fascinated Gen. George McClellan, bringing him to the region in an attempt to mine it after the Civil War. The park overlooks land once dominated by the Comanche Indians, where Quannah Parker's mother, Cynthia Ann Parker, was recaptured nearby by Charles Goodnight, Sul Ross and the Texas Rangers in 1860.

Despite the fact that is among the smaller state parks with modest budgets, the innovative educational programs created by its rangers and the local support from its friends in surrounding communities have garnered the attention of the Texas Parks and Wildlife system.

Turner explained in his welcome to the Friends group that Copper Breaks Educational Ranger Carl Hopper of Crowell is "one of only 10 rangers chosen from among all 93 of the state's parks for Master Interpreter training and designation."

TPW officials announced this selection in September was based on his previous work in establishing innovative public education programming for StarWalks and about Texas longhorns.

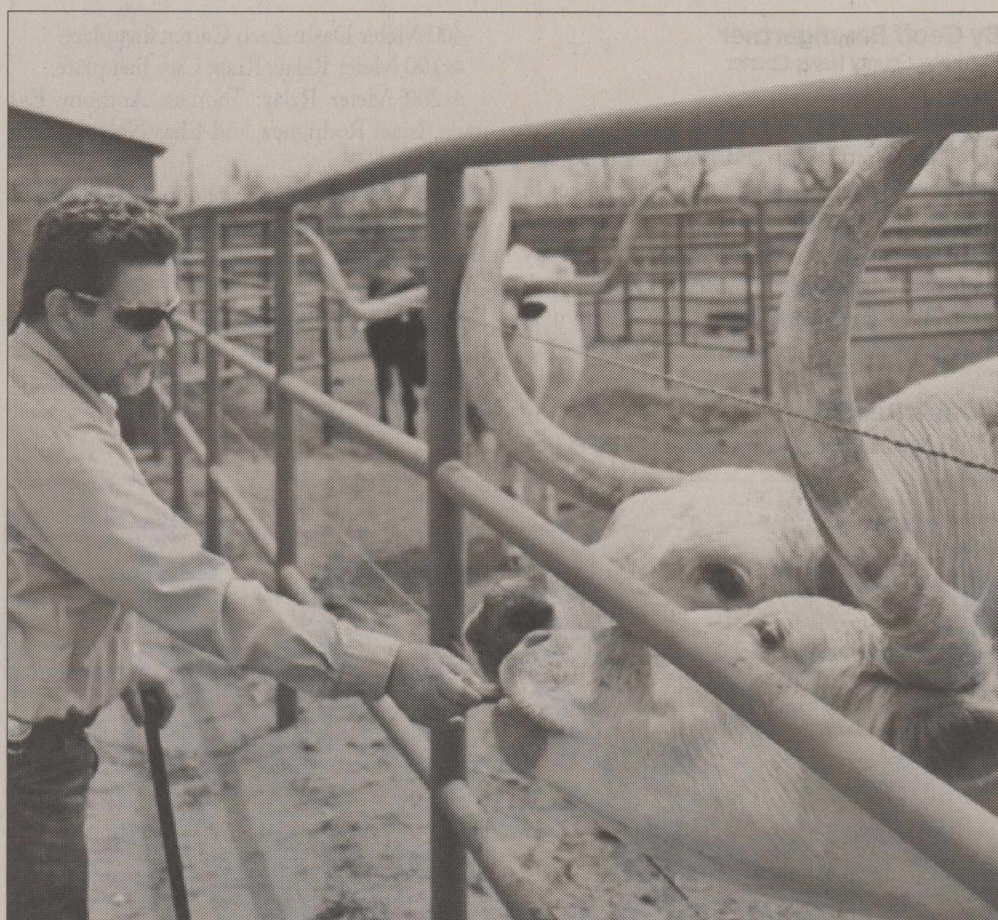
Hopper reported to the Friends group that during the TPW Master Interpreter sessions, he has been able to contribute significantly to the development of a TPW trunk about longhorns. When completed, it will contain instructional material appropriate for all age groups, and incorporate the Texas TEKS in its content.

Rangers throughout the TPW system will be able to use the trunks in the parks and when conducting visits out in the community to teach people about the significance of the longhorns as animals unique to Texas history.

For years the park has sponsored StarWalks for the public, with the next one scheduled for April 26. Turner noted that recently the park has been granted a gold standard rating by the International Dark-Sky Association for its superb night time viewing qualities, one of only two parks in Texas to receive this accolade.

Copper Breaks State Park also is host to majestic members of the official state of Texas longhorn herd, which greet visitors every Saturday at 2 p.m. at a park corral.

ON THE WEB: For more information about Copper Breaks State Park, visit [tpwd.state.tx.us](http://tpwd.state.tx.us). For more information about the Dark Sky initiative, visit [darksky.org](http://darksky.org).



Copper Breaks State Park Manager David Turner feeds longhorns Blanco Besos and Little Bit. Longhorns will be the subject of a new Texas Parks and Wildlife educational trunk being developed by Crowell native and Park Ranger Carl Hopper.

## Munday firefighters plan egg hunt

The Munday Volunteer Fire Department will host its annual communitywide Easter Egg Hunt this weekend.

The MVFD hunt will be Saturday at Munday's Centennial Park, directly across from the elementary school. All area children are encouraged to participate, and

if any local residents would like to donate plastic bags and candy, they can be dropped off at the Munday Chamber of Commerce.

Geoffrey Baumgartner

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## Photo sleuth

Members of the Knox County Historical Commission reached out to readers a few weeks ago by asking the News-Courier to publish this photo for which more information and identification was needed.

Historian Kathy Rainwater said she received a great response from those in the community who saw the photo and were eager to help museum staff with the identification.

"The photo was taken in Reed Grocery in Knox City in the very early 1950s. We believe the store was located in a former two-story bank building, on the corner where the Mini Mall now stands," Rainwater said. "The Reed family lived upstairs from their store. The building caught fire in about 1953 and the first story was rebuilt in about 1954 and re-opened."



Pictured at Reed Grocery in Knox City in the early 1950s (left to right) are Charles Reed, Mary Sue Reed, L.V. Dodd, Leon Ward (meat market), Mozelle Corley, Marie Denton, Arnelle Denton and Guy Robinson.



Local historians believe the Farmers State Bank building preceded Reed Grocery in Knox City. The building was at the site of the current Mini Mall.

# Hoops tourney to benefit KCVG

KNOX CITY — Members of the Knox County Visioning Group will host a 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament fundraiser May 3 at the high school gym.

The tourney will begin at 9 a.m. and will be a three-game elimination with teams of four. There will be men and women's categories and a \$60 early registration fee.

Other businesses sponsoring the event are

First Bank Texas in Munday, The Knox County Hospital District, The Circle Bar Ranch in Truscott, and Knox County Abstract Company Inc.

Call 940-459-4121 to register or email [kcvg@srcaccess.net](mailto:kcvg@srcaccess.net).

Geoffrey Baumgartner

## Online price basis tool for agricultural producers available from AgriLife Extension

By Blair Fannin

COLLEGE STATION — It's not as flashy as watching contract futures prices trade from red to green on the weekday exchange, but knowing the price basis for a commodity is an important aspect of marketing for agricultural producers, according to experts with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

To help producers get a firm handle on price basis in a particular region of Texas, AgriLife Extension has an online tool available at <http://basis.tamu.edu> that lists the different price basis for corn, cotton, sorghum, soybeans and wheat.

"Price basis is the difference between a cash price and the futures price of a particular commodity on a given futures exchange," said Dr. Mark Welch, AgriLife Extension grains economist in College Station, who along with Emmy Williams, AgriLife Extension program specialist, College Station, provide weekly commodity basis prices in different districts throughout Texas.

To help producers get a firm handle on price basis in a particular region of Texas, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has an online tool available at <http://basis.tamu.edu> that lists the different price basis for corn, cotton, sorghum, soybeans and wheat. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo by Blair Fannin)

To help producers get a firm handle on price basis in a particular region of Texas, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has an online tool available at <http://basis.tamu.edu> that lists the different price basis for corn, cotton, sorghum, soybeans and wheat. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo by Blair Fannin)

"Producers need to be aware of basis," Welch said. "The futures price that you might be seeing may or may not necessarily reflect the actual

local price you will receive. While the futures price might be up, the local basis price might be weak."

Welch said basis conveys important information about local supply and demand conditions and that can impact a marketing decision.

"Basis, cash contracts, futures price ... we need to bring all of this into our thinking when it comes to formulating a marketing plan," Welch said.

Producers really need to keep basis in mind throughout the year.

"We shouldn't just focus on the futures price in Chicago, it's another price you need to manage — it's a discipline," he said. "When we check the markets, it needs to be part of our routine."

Williams said she compiles price reports from grain elevators across Texas each week.

"I compile price reports received from grain elevators via email, some over the phone and some retrieved online, get those inputted and have everything posted usually by Friday," she said. "The goal is to have this information up as soon as possible by the end of the week for producers to use and incorporate into their marketing plan."

Welch said price basis is part of the curriculum offered during the annual Master Marketer program, for which the 2015 program is set to be held in January in Amarillo. It's also part of the weekly wheat and grain market commentary Welch provides and is distributed each week via email.

"Basis is the pliers of your marketing toolbox," Welch said. "It doesn't tell you everything, but basis conveys important information about fundamental supply and demand. You can't do without it. You have to have it."

For more information about signing up for the Master Marketer program, visit <http://agecoext.tamu.edu/programs/marketing-programs/master-marketer-program/>.



### LUMINARIA ORDER FORM

Remember or Honor a loved one who has fought or are fighting the brave battle against CANCER by dedicating a luminaria to be lit during the Relay for Life of Knox/Haskell County on May 3, 2014 at the Munday Track Field. We ask a minimum donation of \$5.00 per Luminaria



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### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

TNT ENGINEERING LLC 509 PECAN ST STE 200 FT WORTH TX 76102 has applied to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Canyon Reef, North Knox City Unit, Well Number 42. The proposed injection well is located 4 miles SE of Knox in the Knox City North (Canyon) Field, in Knox County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 4086 to 4259 feet. LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Underground Injection Control Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, Drawer 12967, Captiol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/445-1373).

### ORDINANCE 01102014

AN ORDINANCE ORDERING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN THE CITY OF MUNDAY, TEXAS, TO SUBMIT A PROPOSITION ON THE QUESTION OF THE REAUTHORIZATION OF A LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX IN MUNDAY, TEXAS, AT THE RATE OF ONE-FOURTH OF ONE PERCENT TO PROVIDE REVENUE FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF MUNICIPAL STREETS

WHEREAS, the City Council (the "Council") of the City of Munday, Texas, (the City) hereby finds that a special election should be held for the purposes of submitting a proposition on the levy and collection of the adoption of a local sales and use tax in Munday, Texas, at the rate of one-fourth of one percent to provide revenue for the maintenance and repair of municipal streets; and

WHEREAS, the combined rate of all local sales and use taxes imposed by the City and other political subdivisions having territory in the City will not exceed two percent (2%); and

WHEREAS, the council finds and determines that the holding of this special election on the date set forth below, a special election date, is in the public interest; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MUNDAY, TEXAS:

Section 1. A special election shall be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014 a regular election date, in the City of Munday, Texas, which date is not less than sixty-two (62) days from the date of the adoption of this Ordinance (the "Ordinance"), for the purpose of submitting the following proposition to the electors of the City:

#### PROPOSITION

The reauthorization of the local sales and use tax in the City of Munday at the rate of one-quarter of one percent to continue providing revenue for maintenance and repair of the municipal streets.

#### Section 2. Election Day Poll

The poll for the Election shall be at the following locations:

Precinct #401	Precinct #301
Perry Patton Center	Munday City Hall
131 W Cisco	121 E Main
Munday, Texas 76371	Munday, Texas 76371

The poll shall be open on Election Day from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Voting shall be by paper ballots.

#### Section 6. Early Voting Poll Locations

The early voting shall be held at the following locations and times:

City of Munday City Hall  
121 E Main  
Munday, Texas 76371

	Open	Close	
Monday, April 28, 2014	8:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.	
Tuesday, April 29, 2014	8:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.	
Wednesday, April 30, 2014	8:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.	
Thursday, May 1, 2014	7:00 a.m.	7:00 p.m.	
Friday, May 2, 2014	7:00 a.m.	7:00 p.m.	
Monday, May 5, 2014	8:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.	
Tuesday, May 6, 2014	8:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.	

Two of the above early voting days will have extended hours until 7 p.m. These days are to be determined by the Elections Administrator.

# Canola showcased at College Station field day

By Blair Fannin

COLLEGE STATION — Canola field varieties were in full bloom amidst a backdrop of sunny skies and breezy conditions at the recent Texas A&M University field laboratory near College Station.

"Our trials look beautiful right now," said Dr. Clark Neely, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service oilseed specialist, College Station, who was joined by experts at the 2014 Winter Canola Field Day. The half-day educational program attracted industry experts, university researchers and producers.

"We're about 10 to 14 days behind because of cold weather," he said. "About 50 percent of the varieties are flowering right now. Until now, there has been little insect and disease pressure, however, we've seen a substantial increase in aphid pressure in just the past week, which will need to be controlled soon. We will continue to keep an eye on insect pressure through pod fill."

Dr. Clark Neely, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service oilseed specialist, was one of the featured speakers at the recent 2014 Winter Canola Field Day in College Station. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo by Blair Fannin)

Dr. Clark Neely, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service oilseed specialist, was one of the featured speakers at the recent 2014 Winter Canola Field Day in College Station. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Ser-

vice photo by Blair Fannin)

The College Station trials feature 57 entries in the National Winter Canola Variety Trial. It's one of the largest trials ever at the Texas A&M farm, which serves as a teaching and research platform for AgriLife Extension and Texas A&M AgriLife Research.

Canola is attracting the interest of Texas farmers since it could diversify their crop portfolio, Neely said.

"That's one of the reasons it's taken off in the Great Plains, particularly around Oklahoma," he said. "The reason it got going was because of weed issues in continuous wheat. When you have wheat year after year, you can have buildup of grassy weed species. Canola really fits well with wheat because it's another winter crop."

Neely said canola is a favorable crop to incorporate into a rotation due to additional chemical options in controlling weed problems and limiting potential weed resistance. Many popular varieties have herbicide-tolerant traits, which is another advantage for producers.

"That's one of the big selling points," he said. "Canola is traditionally thought of as a rotational crop, but there are some guys in Oklahoma who consider themselves canola producers that rotate with wheat. So, they really like the crop and are having a lot of success with it."

Canola is known for not liking "wet feet" and favors soils that drain quickly, he said.

"I have seen it handle heavier soils, but I

would not pick low-lying areas."

Neely gave a presentation on insects and diseases affecting canola production in Texas. Aphids can be a problem, particularly the cabbage aphid. Farmers are advised to scout fields often and to open buds when scouting, he said.

The diamondback moth is another pest to be aware of, he said. The three-quarter-inch green larvae often appear in the fall and are found crawling on the canola leaves. They later mature into a moth with a diamond pattern and are easy to spot.

## Canola

"The diamondback moth is a very common canola pest," he said. "In the fall, they mostly eat holes in leaves and generally have little impact on yield; however, during winter months they migrate down into the crown and can reduce stands if plants are stressed by cold or drought."

If using an insecticide, Neely recommended treating at the high end of the labeled insecticide rates as diamondback moth larvae are known for developing insecticide resistance.

Heath Sanders, canola agronomist with the Great Plains Canola Association, Stillwater, Okla., kicked off the program with an overview of basic canola agronomics and life cycle. He said canola was developed in the 1970s.

"Canola is one of the healthiest oils you can get," he said.

Sanders said canola is a special type of oilseed from the rape plant that has less than 2 percent erucic acid and contains 6 percent saturated fat. There is market demand for healthy oil and profitability as prices have remained steady.

There are also rotation benefits when incorporating canola production in with winter wheat, he said.

"We are growing winter canola (in Oklahoma), but for portions of South Texas spring canola may be a better fit," he said.

Before planting canola, Sanders advised producers to take a soil sample and have a soil test completed.

"Optimal yields can be achieved when soil pH is between 6 and 7," he said. "Yield may be reduced by pH below 5.5."

Sanders said canola thrives on nitrogen and the influence of fertility is an important factor.

Gene Neuens, a field representative from Producers Cooperative Oil Mill in Oklahoma City, also spoke about canola marketing at the field day. The Oklahoma City Co-op, along with ADM in Lubbock, will serve as the two closest oilseed crushers for Texas canola.

Other speakers included Mike Stamm, Kansas State canola breeder; Josh Bushong, Oklahoma State University, canola Extension specialist; and Eric Castner, DuPont Representative.

For more information on canola, visit <http://varietytesting.tamu.edu/oilseed>.

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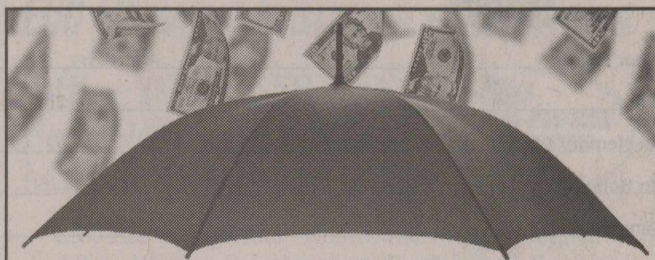
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The application for TANNEHILL-C-, HERTEL 3, proposes to inject fluid into the VOSS SOUTHEAST, TANNEHILL-C. The proposed injection well is located one (1) mile(s) east of Munday, Texas, in Knox County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 1,953 feet to 1,976 feet.

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**WHEAT**

From Page 1

that is a good thing when it comes to late-spring freezes, Neely said. Most Texas High Plains wheat was still in the jointing stage.

Generally, when wheat is flowering, freeze damage can occur when temperatures are as high as 32 degrees and stay there for two hours or more, he said.

It was very "touch and go, and flirting with the freezing mark" in those central parts of the state, Neely said.

Many other factors come into play, such as soil moisture, plant-moisture content, whether it's windy or calm, and the terrain of the field.

"Wind can be good or bad, depending upon how cold it gets," he said. "If it's a still night, the cold will settle down in the low-lying areas. So it's good in the sense that wind keeps the air stirred up, but it can also spread freeze damage across a wider area."

"Unfortunately, one county over — or even one field over — there can be a degree difference. Anytime you get down to that 32-de-

gree mark, it gets kind of tricky with flowering wheat. Farmers will really have to be scouting their fields and pay attention to what the weather conditions were like."

Neely doesn't expect realistic evaluations of the extent of freeze damage to the crop earlier than one week, perhaps two.

"It really depends upon the weather after the freeze. If it becomes hot and dry, we'll see symptoms a lot sooner. If it stays cool, it'll take a little bit longer for those symptoms to show up."

On the web: More information on the current Texas drought and wildfire alerts can be found on the AgriLife Extension Agricultural Drought Task Force website at [agrilife.tamu.edu/drought](http://agrilife.tamu.edu/drought).

**District Reports**

AgriLife Extension experts compiled the following summaries for the week of April 6-13:

**North:** A line of storms brought from 0.5 inch to 4 inches of rain to some counties, bringing topsoil moisture back to adequate in many areas. The storms also brought high winds, a tornado and some hail. Collin County reported the storms may have damaged nearly 1,000 acres of wheat and oats in parts of the county. However, the rain helped small grain fields, pastures and row crops. Hunt County fields were made inaccessible due to rain. Livestock were in good condition, and sale-barn cattle prices remained higher than normal. Camp County reported further damage by feral hogs. Honeybees were swarming in Titus County.

**Panhandle:** Temperatures were near average most of the week, and above average by the weekend. The region continued to be dry, with soil moisture very short. Windy conditions caused soil erosion and raised the risk of wildfire. Producers across the region were preparing for spring planting. In Deaf Smith County, producers were pre-watering corn ground and irrigating winter wheat. Pre-emergent chemicals were being applied, as well as fertilizer, on earlier plantings of corn. Randall County reported that even irrigated wheat

was suffering from the dry conditions. Dryland wheat was mostly non-developed and not expected to reach harvest. Some cotton and sorghum fieldwork was ongoing, but not much more will be done unless an adequate rain is received. Only irrigated corn acres will likely produce a harvestable crop, with majority of that going to ensilage. Rangeland and pastures throughout the region were in poor to very poor condition. Producers continued to provide supplemental feed to cattle on rangeland.

**Rolling Plains:** Though the weather was very pleasant, conditions remained dry across most of the region. High winds were in the mid-80s to low-90s. However, freeze warnings were issued for the week starting April 14. This was a concern as trees and plants were budding - even mesquite was budding. Farmers and ranchers were more concerned about the lack of moisture than the cold front. Soil moisture was at or near zero in some areas, and rangeland and pastures were showing signs of moisture stress. Winter wheat played out, and producers were forced to pull cattle off and look for grazing elsewhere. With the continued drought, there wasn't any grazing at all in some counties, and producers were considering selling off remaining cattle. Hay supplies were nearly depleted as producers continued to supply sup-

plemental feeding daily. The prospects of wheat grain yields were dropping every day. Without rain very soon, there was little hope for yields even close to average. Pastures were greening up, but the green-up would be short-lived if weather remained dry. Cotton producers were preparing irrigated land for planting, while dryland cotton producers were waiting on a change in the weather. Fighting blowing sand became a seemingly never-ending battle. Burn bans remained in effect in many counties.

**South Plains:** Though widely scattered showers fell in some counties, the region remained desperately dry. High winds and very warm temperatures took what little moisture was received. Winter wheat, pasture and range were in very poor condition. Water became a critical issue in the Floyd County town of Lockney. The town lost the McKenzie Water supply pump, and all citizens were under water restrictions. The municipality was in the process of drilling new wells. Producers will be planting cotton next month - if weather cooperates. Ranchers continued to provide supplemental feed to cattle on rangeland that lacks forage. Although producers were pre-watering to prepare fields for planting, without rain to supplement the irrigation, crops, if planted, will surely fail.



Submitted photo  
Lois Cypert sits on the front porch of her Knox City home with her admiring great-grandchildren in this family photo taken about 8 years ago.

**FAMILY**

From Page 1

"I think she knew God had a better plan — a higher purpose — for her granddaughter," Cypert said.

Lois Hawes Cypert celebrated her 95th birthday recently with a small party, surrounded by her family and friends at her longtime Knox City home.

"It was a very happy day," Cypert said. "Lois is a remarkable woman, generous and caring to all others regardless of their circumstances. She is an inspiration to so many people in her life as well as to her family."

Lois lived with her paternal grandparents, Swell and Ellen Hawes, and eventually graduated from Weinert High School in 1936. Two years later, in October 1938, she would marry a Knox City farmer, Verlin Cypert, son of Wayne and Mrytle Cypert.

The Cypert newlyweds made their home in Knox City, where they lived on a farm raising cotton and three boys, Roy, Jerald and Lanny.

"I also was raised by my grandparents in Haskell

County, so by the time Jerald and I met and were married, Lois and I started out with something in common," Karen Cypert said. "She took me in and just loved me from the moment we met. She said this is what she had planned to do. She helped me become the woman I am today, just as her grandmother had done for her, and we became the best of friends."

Lois Cypert has been a member of the Knox City First United Methodist Church since 1947. Not only has she been an active volunteer at her church, serving as Sunday school teacher and past president of the Methodist Women organization, but she also has been an active community servant in a town she's called home for the better part of eight decades.

For years, she served lunch to hundreds of Lions Club members and also has been a member of the Pink Ladies, the volunteer ladies auxiliary of the Knox County Hospital, helping to raise thousands of dollars for the district.

Many a Knox County resident has enjoyed fresh peaches and black-eyed peas straight from Lois Cypert's summer garden.

Lois and Verlin Cypert's family tree — just like a pecan tree — has become stronger and more fruitful through the years.

The Cyperts' three boys married and each had their own families, including six grandchildren: Keith and Todd Cypert were born to Roy and LaRhease Cypert of Wichita Falls; Clint and Cindy Cypert were born to Jerald and Karen Cypert of Ennis; and Paul and Samuel, born to Lanny Cypert of Clovis, N.M.

Karen Cypert said her mother-in-law's life motto is "When life gives you lemons, then make lemonade."

"I can't imagine a life sweeter than her's," Karen Cypert said. "She has been a bundle of unconditional love and energy her entire life. It's hard to imagine what could have been — this woman who wasn't supposed to live who was given a second chance at life by a woman who loved her despite the odds."

"So much love and goodness has been the result of that 2-pound baby girl, who's been a study in strength of character her entire life. She's a testament that faith and family are the ties that bind."

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