

# Country Lifestyles



## Happy 70th Anniversary!

Oran and Louise Knox (better known as Mama Knox and Daddy Knox) were married on January 26, 1940 in Combes, TX. Thank you for all your love and sacrifices! Love from your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

5-1TP

### Craft Show

FREE DOOR PRIZES

### Gateway R.V. Park

400 FM RD 3168  
(Expressway 77 South)  
Raymondville

FREE

Coffee & Doughnuts  
(While they last!)

BBQ Lunch

Thursday, Feb. 4, 2010  
8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

### Don't Drink and Drive!

### WELCOME WINTER TEXANS!

COME SEE LILY FOR ALL YOUR HAIR NEEDS: Full service, styling for men and women. Massages and reflexology also available. 1 mi. W. of Raymondville on Hwy. 186 behind Caldwell's Nursery. Call 689-2586 for an appointment. Walk-ins welcome.

5-1TC

## New 77 Ballroom

formerly J&S Ballroom

• Quiceaneras • Weddings • Meeting • Any Special Occasion

La Farra de los Hermanos Lozano • Bufalo y su Grupo Pradera

Los Jilgueros del Norte

February 13th

presentacion especial de Lazaro Cardenas, El As del Corrido Dance starts

6:00 • \$10 cover • 1st 10 ladies free

Available for Rental Daily, Weekly, monthly & Yearly

1/2 Mile North Expressway 77 in Combes (956) 563-3052



Since your future will never be black and white...  
Will your life insurance meet the needs of tomorrow?  
As it goes, most Americans need life insurance, and many who already have it may need to update their coverage. Today is the perfect time to take a closer look at your life insurance needs. Call me today, your Waddell & Reed financial advisor.  
Make your future - and theirs - a little more colorful.  
**John F. Gonzales Jr., CRPC**  
Financial Advisor

**WADDELL & REED**  
Financial Advisors  
Investing. With a plan.®  
For More Than 70 Years

3700 North Tenth Street Suite 305  
McAllen, Texas 78501  
Off: 956-687-5572  
Cell: 956-642-3682  
jgonzales@wradvisors.com

## Young woman learning to use white cane after failing eyesight caused mobility loss

By Paul Whitworth

Katherine "Tami" Caldwell, 34, of Raymondville is learning to use a white cane to help her regain mobility lost to a progressive disease -- macular degeneration. Specifically, Tami says, her version of the disease is called "Stargardt's disease".

This is the juvenile version of the disease and it began to affect Tami's vision when she was only four years old.

Her parents, Dicky and Lily Caldwell, took her to an optometrist and she began wearing prescription glasses

before she started kindergarten.

When Tami was in eighth grade she bought her first pair of magnifying glasses and gradually her loss of sight became more apparent, reaching 20/200 while she was in high school and now is at a much higher level 20/400.

She still has her peripheral vision and that is a hallmark of the disease which mostly affects straight ahead vision. Tami says that she must be as close as two feet to a person to be able to identify them.

"Mother took me to Houston to see specialists but by then I was seeing floaters (wavy lines that seem to be present in front of the retina, but are not)."

"It has been embarrassing when friends tell me, I saw you and waved at you but you didn't even notice me or wave back. That's because I have to be really close to recognize anyone," she said.

"I have a hard time keeping eye contact. People say that I seem to be looking above them," she said.

Tami and her parents have faith that God is going to cause her poor eyesight to improve when doctors unlock the key to curing macular degeneration the way many other diseases, such as polio, have been overcome. But, while she is waiting for that to happen, Tami is going ahead with her life.

She is competing a course of study online through San Antonio College to become a certified alcohol and drug abuse counselor. Her desire to pursue this line of study resulted from the suicide death of two friends who suffered from additions, over a two year period. One was 25 and the other 38, she said.

Because of her poor vision Tami cannot drive a car although she has a driver's license so she must depend on her parents or friends for a ride to the places she wants to go. And when she gets there Tami has to worry about being able to make her way around, through crowded shopping malls, or down sparsely populated sidewalks in downtown Raymondville.

Tami has a good attitude and she does not intend to become a recluse sitting around at home all the time. For that reason she jumped at the chance to get mobility training from the Texas State Division for the Blind.

"My doctor told me I needed to

get a dog, or a cane. They said that dogs are normally given to people who live in cities and when they found out that I am from Raymondville, they came up with the idea of the white cane."

On Tuesday morning Tami began her first class to learn how to use a white cane. There are several types of white canes, some are foldable and the kind Tami has is rigid. The white canes are used to sweep the surface of the pavement, floor, or sidewalk in front of the person walking behind, in a 10 o'clock to 2 o'clock motion.

The purpose of the white cane is not physical support but mental support it lets others know that the person carrying a white cane has vision problems and by sweeping the surface the person using the cane can avoid obstructions. The cane also makes a tapping sound when it strikes the sidewalk, alerting people of the approach of a person with vision problems.

Joyce Rodriguez of Mercedes is Tami's trainer and on her first day she had Tami crossing streets.

"She wanted me to be blindfolded so that I can use my hearing to determine oncoming traffic. Today was my first day crossing streets and I took off like a bullet," Tami said, although her trainer wanted her to slow down.

"I tried using my hearing but all I heard was a 'Dooley' truck with a bad muffler and maybe somebody texting somebody behind the wheel. I don't trust drivers, they just don't care," she concluded.

"I'm not totally blind and I use the cane to let people know I am visually impaired. I am being trained to use the cane every day. The first day went all right," she said.

Tami's desire to overcome her sight problems will be rewarded in the years to come. She already has a summer job lined up with a McAllen drug and alcohol abuse counselor.

Its not hard to see that she has an interest in helping others and is not inclined to feel sorry for her own problems.

"Oh, I went through all those emotions for a while," she said. "questioning my parents and even questioning God," but that is behind me. (See photo on page 3)



## Wallen-Parker united in marriage

Marie Wallen and Andrew John Parker were united in marriage on January 16, 2010 by Pastor Steven Parker at First Baptist Church in Lyford. Maid of honor was Amanda Yarrison, cousin of the bride, and bestman was Bryan Parker, brother of the groom.

Serving as bridesmaids were Taylor Womble, Eliana Cruz, and Miranda Saenz. Paige Clark served as the flowergirl and Morgan Parker attended the bridesbook.

Serving as groomsmen were Jacob Busse, John Parker and J.T. Wallen, honoring groomsmen was Toby Parker and Caleb Parker was the ringbearer.

Heather is attending Pan Am. Andrew is employed by the USDA. Heather is the daughter of Jim and Marie Wallen of Edcouch. Andrew is the son of Harold and Brenda Parker of Lyford.

5-1TP

**EL TORO**  
**El Toro Dance Hall**  
9540 Business 77, Lyford, TX 78569  
Call for more info: (956) 536-2511

**DANCE HALL PRESENTS**  
*Pre Valentine's Day*  
**February 13, 2010**  
Doors Open at 8:00 p.m.

**Frutty Villarreal y Ruben De La Cruz**  
Pre-ticket at Dog House Drive Thru, Lyford Buss. 77  
For more info call: 956-347-3249

5-2TP

**NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK**

February 8-12 is designated National School Counseling Week for the 2009-2010 school year. Lyford CISD recognizes it's counselors for the current year.

**LYFORD ELEMENTARY**  
Chris Luna  
Rosie Salazar

**LYFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
Dena Salinas

**LYFORD HIGH SCHOOL**  
Ida Martinez  
Olivia Rincones

"Serving all of Willacy County Since 1920 and now Kenedy County"

Raymondville Willacy County  
**Chronicle News**

75¢

192 N. 4TH ST., RAYMONDVILLE, TX 78580  
www.raymondvillechroniclenews.com

The Raymondville Chronicle and Willacy County News is published every Wednesday and distributed throughout Willacy and Kenedy Counties including the cities of Raymondville, Lyford, Sebastian, Port Mansfield, San Perlita, Lasara, Santa Monica, Sarita, Armstrong, and Norias.

Business hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.  
Our fax number is 956-689-6575 and our e-mail address is ChronicleNews@msn.com.  
Our mailing address is P.O. Box 369, Raymondville, TX 78580. Letters can be faxed, e-mailed or sent via the

U.S. Postal Service.  
Willacy and Kenedy County subscriptions are \$30, others are \$36 per year.  
Our news deadline is 3 p.m. on Monday. Advertising deadline is 3 p.m. Tuesday. For more information, call 956-689-2421.

**90 years**  
VOL 90, NO. 5

Editor/Publisher: Paul Whitworth  
Ad Manager: Carlos Martinez  
Graphic Designer: Eric Aguirre  
Graphic Designer/Sec.: Erica Ysasi  
**(956) 689-2421**