

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2014

Science Camp brings laughs, education to kids

By Geoff Baumgartner

The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — The Knox County Visioning Group sponsored a fun, science-themed youth day camp earlier this week at the Doug Minzer Housing Authority Community Center.

The center, which is located inside the Patterson Apartments in Knox City, was perfect for the event, which roughly 20 children attended, aged 8-12.

The camp was also sponsored by the Texas A&M Extension Service as well as the Texas Botanical Gardens and was originally to be held at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, but the location was later changed to be more accommodating.

Jan Fischer, the Executive Director of the Texas Botanical Gardens and Native American Interpretive Center was also on hand as a special science education specialist in charge of forming the fun activities in which the children participated.

“We provide free education classes and activities for as many kids as possible,” said Fischer about her dedicated work.

The kids participated in an abundance of activities that were all science themed with a fun name. The activities were:

- Looking at Owl Upchuck
- Where are you in the food chain?
- What makes a firefly glow?
- Going Baty (about bats)
- Snakes are our favorite
- Why do snails use slime?
- Simon Says

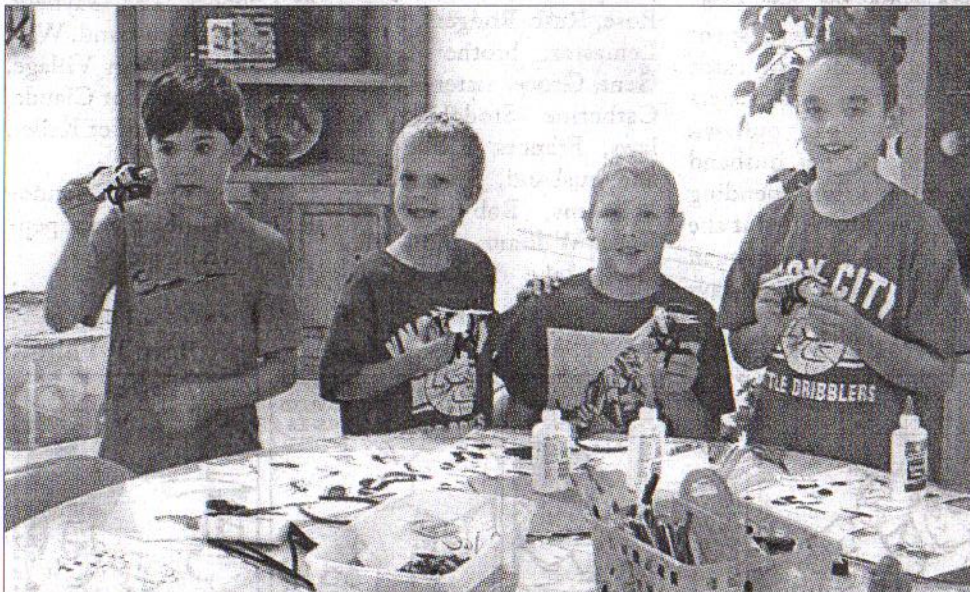
On hand for assistance were county workers Jennifer Stiewert, Jimi Coplen, and Lorrie Coop, who were all extremely friendly and completely dedicated to the children and the special guest.

The camp lasted from 10-3, was inexpensive for each child to attend at a cost of \$15, and all children were provided with lunch and supplies. All of the children, and sponsors for that matter, had a fun, educational time.



Geoff Baumgartner/The Knox County News-Courier

Lorrie Coop and Jimi Coplen work diligently with the children and Jan Fischer to ensure a good time. The camp was put together by Coplen and Coop in collaboration with the Knox County Visioning Group.



Geoff Baumgartner/The Knox County News-Courier

Kyson Latham, Jonah Duke, Gage Morrow and Daniel Duke all proudly hold up their makeshift fireflies they just put together using arts and crafts. Jan Fischer was also there assisting each child with their project.