

The Knox County News

"Since 1971, Knox County's Oldest Established Newspaper"

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Brooke Jones, daughter of Kemp and Becky Jones of Benjamin, is all dolled up and ready for Easter Sunday. See inside for all the area Easter celebrations.

Knox City Council Members Hold March Meeting

The City of Knox City met in regular session on March 10, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Charles Lankford calling the meeting to order.

Mayor Lankford presiding with Council members present: Darren Clark, J.M. Emerson, Tommy Mangis and Dan Godsey. Not present: Fred Ledesma. Also present: City Administrator Barbara Rector, Knox County Sheriff Dean Homstad, Knox City Policeman Aaron Lewis, Knox City Fire Chief Alvie Overmyer and Scott Myers, CPA.

J.M. Emerson gave the invocation. There were no public comments.

Deliberate and act on review of Annual Audit with the CPA was next on the agenda.

Scott Myers, CPA from King, Moore, Truelove and Pharis discussed the Annual Financial report with the Council. Mr. Myers stated that the City's records are in excellent condition. Graphs were handed out to the Council members that explained the major revenue sources from the General Fund and the Utility Fund. The City's total combined net assets at September 30, 2004 were \$992,938. The General Fund reported a fund balance of \$187,669 and the Utility Fund reported a fund balance of \$347,100. A motion was made by Mr. Emerson and seconded by Mr. Godsey to approve the

Annual Audit. All voted aye.

Deliberate and act on new blocks at the cemetery was next. Mrs. Rector explained to the Council that the new cemetery is needing additional curbed plots. There are no more eight complete spaces to sell to families who are looking for family plots. The Council reviewed the cemetery plot map which explained how many spaces are vacant in each plot. The Council discussed the possibility of raising the price per space from \$175 to \$200. Mrs. Rector will put a bid in the newspaper for prospects who are wanting to administer the curbing and at what expense. The Council wanted Mrs. Rector to check on an estimated price for the entire curbing project and table to review at the next Council meeting.

Deliberate and act on Annual Overview of employee salaries was next on the agenda. This item was moved down on the agenda for further review.

Deliberate and act on Police Department report and procedures was next. Officer Lewis gave the report. The Knox City Police Department received a total of 704 calls and tasks that required attention for the month of February. This total included 10 actual criminal offenses. Seven charges were filed with none of the offenses involving juveniles

as offenders. Calls of the month from Central (911) totaled 58, Sheriff's Office - 14 and City Hall - 27.

Mr. Lewis reported to the Council that the Department cleared up the burglary of habitations cases that were reported.

Warrants were issued and individuals have been picked up. Also, the department assisted the Sheriff's Department with the running of a search warrant where drugs were found. Property in Trust has been turned over to the City and now the Fire Department can demolish property to continue to clean up the town.

The Council also reviewed the Racial Profiling Report for the year 2004. Mr. Lewis informed the Council that the Police Department has applied for a grant to obtain bullet-proof vests. The grant will pay 50 percent of the total cost of the vests. The current bullet proof vests that the Department owns are outdated by three years. If something happened to the Officers, the City's insurance will not cover the Officers due to the expired vests. Also, Mayor Lankford asked for the Department to get the vacant lots cleaned up as soon as possible. A motion was made by Mr. Clark and seconded by Mr. Godsey to accept the Police Department report. All voted Aye.

Deliberate and act on the Fire Department Report and Proce-

Closure of Many Local Health and Human Services Offices Approaches

House Bill 2292, passed by the 78th Texas Legislature, directed the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to examine ways to streamline its eligibility processes. This means some local HHSC offices will be closed and replaced by statewide call centers.

HHSC is the state office where people go to apply for services such as Medicaid, food stamps and long-term care for the elderly.

In effect, the State Legislature is seeking ways to meet budget shortfalls and HHSC is just one of many state agencies under the gun to cut their budgets.

How these closures will affect Knox County citizens who utilize HHSC services is yet to be determined. Of the 360 offices now open around the state, up to 150 will close their doors when the plan is implemented. The local office in Knox City could be one of those designated for closure but no specific offices have been selected as of today.

State Senator Robert L. Duncan (R - Lubbock) voted for the bill to overhaul HHSC services. In a statement issued by his office, Senator Duncan defended his vote.

"The need for restructuring of eligibility offices in such a way that several offices are closed in favor of call centers was a critical part of passing the state's budget in 2003," Duncan stated. "The

legislation was anticipated to save \$389 million during a five-year period, and in these lean times, the restructure seems to be a prudent step."

As in any restructuring, jobs and services are at stake. According to the Texas State Employees Union (TSEU) legislators hoping to slow the process of implementing the call centers and closing the offices have filed two bills (HB 1338 and HB 1674) this session. TSEU believes under the proposed system, especially the elderly and those with communication barriers, many will suffer. Also, the proposed call centers may be outsourced to companies on foreign soil. In addition, TSEU estimates between 3,000 and 6,000 state workers will lose their jobs.

HHSC spokesperson Jennifer Harris had a somewhat lower figure for the loss of jobs, around 2,300 when the call centers are fully operational. As for the outsourcing of the call centers, a tentative award for the contract was announced on February 25. Accentura, a company based in Bermuda, has been identified as the vendor to supply the call center services.

Harris also stressed that the call centers were a part of the needed changes to update a system that has been in place since the Sixties.

"Really it is a larger shift toward

offering clients more options for how they can access benefits and greater choice in how they interface with the state's agency," Harris said. "HHSC's proposal would create a menu of options by allowing Texans to apply for services in person, through the Internet, over the phone and by fax or mail."

Mike Gross, vice-president of the TSEU believes the impact of office closures will be far-reaching including those former state workers who lose their disposable income, health insurance, pensions and other benefits. TSEU also stated that 93 county commissioners courts and other public and private entities have come out in favor of the two bills designed to delay or stop the closure process.

"People go to these offices to apply for services like Medicaid, long-term care for the elderly and food stamps," Gross said. "If they close, people will have to rely on distant call center operators... a lot of people will fall through the cracks and local governments will have to pick up the pieces without assistance from the state."

For more information or to express your opinion you can reach HHSC at: 800-252-9330; TSEU at: 806-741-0044; Sen. Duncan: 806-762-1122; Rep. Rick Hardcastle: 940-533-3825

Knox City Fire Chief Resigns

Knox City Fire Chief Alvie Overmyer resigned effective immediately Monday night. Former Chief Domingo Garcia will replace Overmyer.

Overmyer cited frustration

with city officials as one reason for resigning, but also stated he wanted to concentrate more on his family and his job.

Council has called an emergency meeting Monday.

Commissioners' Court Monthly Meeting

Knox County Commissioners' Court held its regular meeting March 14, 2005.

Present at the meeting were County Judge Travis Floyd, Commissioners Weldon Skiles, Jerry Parker, Jimmy Urbanczyk and Johnny Birkenfeld, Treasurer Irma Bell, County Attorney Bobby D. Burnett, Sheriff Dean Homstad, Clerk Ronnie Verhalen, Director of Aging Services, Mitzi Welch, and Dr. Tom Hairgrove.

Actions taken on the day:

Approved minutes of regular meeting of February 14, and specially called meeting of February 18.

Accepted Mitzi Welch's proposal to allow "Keep Benjamin Beautiful" to put in a desert or low maintenance landscape on corner of Courthouse lawn facing Highway 82.

Accepted Dr. Tom Hairgrove, proposal for Knox County to participate in "tabletop" exercise on April 27 about coordination and containing foreign animal disease contagions.

Passed a resolution in support of Helen Farabee Regional MHMR Centers.

Passed resolution expressing opposition of Knox County efforts to limit local control and urge the 79th Legislature to again assume the State's historic share

of support for public education.

Adopted rules of procedure, conduct, and decorum at meetings of County Commissioners' Court.

Approved a motion to pay Don Awalt upon receipt of an invoice from him.

Approved motion to pay all bills and accept financial statements for February.

Approved motion to adjourn.

Discussion Without Action: Sheriff Dean Homstad asked Court to consider asking cities in the County to help pay, for upkeep of prisoners from those cities held in the County jail on city charges.

Received a written and oral report form Susan Cockerell, Director of Aging Services.

Received an annual report from Sheriff Homstad concerning racial profile statistics of people stopped or arrested.

Received a similar report form Constable Buddy Curd.

Received Extension activity reports from depository contract to be renewed by June 1. Received a 9-1-1 report, a weekly jail report, a TxDOT Bridge Summary Report, and briefly discussed a few Road and Bridge issues, including possibly obtaining another maintainer.

Minites prepared by Ronnie Verhalen, Knox County Clerk.

(see Council, page 3)

BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

Generational Differences

Yes, Virginia, things have changed.

A twenty-something couple I know has occasionally sought my counsel. They are married, both animal science graduates and still seeking direction. He is a typical ag boy; strong, honest, has a good work ethic with a background in purebred cattle, fitting, showing, and can weld. He's doing graduate school but keeps busy with his Dodge dually and 20' Featherlight hauling livestock from purebred sales.

She grew up running a few summer cows with her dad, working at the feedlot processing cattle and weighing grain trucks, president of the FFA and won the team penning three years in a row at the county fair. She wears the 'Top Cowhand' buckle with pride. She's working at a feed mill and going to night school getting a master's degree to get a teaching certificate.

I have suggested since the time they were married, that they would be the perfect couple to run some ranch or livestock farm. They are the penultimate production pair...the absentee owner's dream. But their standard reply to me is: We don't want to work seven days a week, 24 hours a day! What is wrong with these kids! I tell them I've never had an 8-5 job! What in the world would I do with two days off a week? In a row!

I look at the 21st century veterinary profession. New grads don't want night calls, weekend duty, investment in partnership.

They want to raise a family. Spend quality time with their children. They don't want to live 100 miles from the amenities of good schools, shopping and sophisticated entertainment. What's the matter with these kids! Don't they know it's not supposed to be easy! You're supposed to be bone-tired at the end of a day, then do a c-section on a frozen hillside at two in the morning!

I remind them the early bird gets the worm. They say they're not working for worms.

They remind me that all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. I say to them that dull isn't all bad.

They say money isn't everything. I say you don't work for money, you work for work's sake.

Then they say work isn't everything.

I remember my childhood years visiting relatives in Oklahoma. My uncles were farmers, carpenters, and bricklayers. We would go by and watch them work. All except Uncle Leonard. He would take the week off and drive us to pick up bullets at the firing range, or rose rocks, or arrowheads, or fishing, to the sale, to the zoo or squirrel hunting.

The other uncles chastised him for not having his priorities straight. He should be plowing, or putting up hay, or helping them carry hod. It goes without saying that he was everybody's favorite uncle.

I don't know how I got off on talkin' about Uncle Leonard. Now where was I...?

ROLLING PLAINS RAMBLINGS

By Morton Scott

We Americans are rightly proud of being citizens of the United States of America. Similarly, Texans are justifiably proud of being Texans.

As you read this, most of you are in Knox County, but being in the area now covered by Knox County hasn't always meant the same thing.

People have been roaming these Rolling Plains for at least 5,000 years, following the creeks, rivers and vast herds of the American bison. These were bands of pre-historic, nomadic Native Americans, Indians. Across the Atlantic, the Egyptians were beginning to build pyramids.

The people who roamed the Rolling Plains at this time are called proto-Caddoans. This is a cultural term applying to the ancestors of many later Southern Plains Indians.

They were proto-Caddoans, but they were not yet Texans or Americans.

By the time the Vikings first reached America around 1000 A.D., the Indians began to settle along the waterways of modern Texas and Knox County. People were not just roaming across this area. People began to establish at least temporary camps and staying longer. They are known to us as Caddoans.

These people were Native Americans, but they were not Texans or Americans. However, they conducted much of their lives in Knox and other surrounding counties. Remember, they traveled

on their feet, since horses had not yet been re-introduced into North America by Europeans.

After a Spaniard first sighted the Texas Coast in 1519, this area was a part of Spain. Probably the first Europeans on the Rolling Plains were early traders traveling the Red River from Louisiana to Santa Fe. They were not settlers.

In the late 1700s, as the Philadelphia delegates were signing the Declaration of Independence, the first permanent Spanish settlers were moving into Texas. However, they did not yet call themselves Texans, but Tejanos. They were still a long way from Knox County. Probably no Tejanos ever saw Knox or its surrounding counties.

But the Rolling Plains were not without settlers. These were the nomadic Southern Plains Indians, the Comanches, their allies the Kiowas, the Wichitas and other tribes.

The Tejanos moved north from the Gulf coast and west from the lower Mississippi valley of Louisiana. Villages and towns were growing; crops were being planted. Things were changing. In 1821, the flag of Castile and León was replaced by that of the United States of Mexico. Finally, Americans were on the scene, with Stephan Austin's colony in 1822, not a half century after United States' independence - but not in Knox County - not yet.

However, as Spanish and

American settlers moved into East Texas, the Comanches and their allies dominated the plains of West Texas, on the Llano Estacado - the Staked Plains - and across the Rolling Plains. They were nomadic, with moving villages. The Comanches became the best horsemen in history. This was their home.

In 1836 the Republic of Texas was born. Trouble also began. The Native Americans felt Texans were invading their homeland, their country. On May 19, 1836, Comanches and their allies attacked Fort Parker on the Navasota River in present Limestone County. They killed several and captured five, including Cynthia Ann Parker, 9. This started forty years of combat between Texans and Comanche, ironically ending in 1875 with the surrender of Cynthia's son, Quanah Parker.

In 1854, probably the first Anglo saw the Rolling Plains of Knox County. He was my favorite western explorer, Capt. Randolph B. Marcy, seeking a site for a Comanche reservation.

At this same time, construction of a string of U.S. forts began, dividing the Plains from areas settled by Americans. Interrupted briefly by the Civil War, this construction continued in the post-war era.

In 1858, the Texas legislature created Knox County out of the extensive lands of Bexar and Young

counties. The land remained unsettled and the legislature again created Knox County in 1876. In 1880, only three farms existed in Knox County, with 77 residents. Settlers began coming in larger numbers and, with some slow periods, has continued to this day.

This is a quick look at those events which created the strong pride with which Knox County residents hold in being Americans and Texans. This is the Spirit of America which gives us confidence in doing what our nation needs.

As I mentioned last week, I am very concerned about our nation's economy. We are facing extremely serious problems. I ask myself "What can I do?" The exploding costs of Medicare/Medicaid constitute a deep problem for us. Starting where I am, I can take better care of myself so that I won't be an unnecessary addition to our Medicare burden. In this spirit, I last week said I would announce my weight each week, our excessive weights being a major aspect of our health problem. I'm going to do my bit and I'm asking you to do yours.

Well, I'm exactly where I was last week: 229 pounds. I've taken 75 years to gain that weight; it may take a while to lose some of it. Let's see where I am next week.

To contact Morton, e-mail him at: fmortonscott@aol.com or drop a note by the newspaper office.

DANCE AT RHINELAND



Saturday, March 26
K-MAC

9:00 to 1:00
\$5 Per Person

HOOVES & HORNS BY A.W. ERWIN



"Yew boys act as though yew've heard this story before!"

Benjamin Chamber Of Commerce Picks New Slogan

The Benjamin Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the new city slogan, "Benjamin-Small Town, Big Country."

Congratulations to Lucas Cartwright who submitted the winning entry. The Chamber of Commerce would like to thank all who sent in their ideas. According to the judges, there were many great entries.

The Chamber would also like to thank Ray Penman, Wyman Meinzer, and Jacob Siemens for their generous contributions.

A final appreciation is extended to Tib Burnett, Mayor Linda Cox, and Brent Vanderpol for their time and effort in judging the contest.

The Benjamin Chamber of Commerce will begin meeting the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Until the Chamber establishes a permanent office, meetings will be rotated at various locations in town. All meetings are open and the public is encouraged to attend.

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The Knox County News welcomes letters to the editor on any subject. All letters must be signed and will be published with the name of the writer. Letters must include an address and telephone number to allow verification. Please keep letters to a reasonable length. The editor reserves the right to edit any letter for any reason and to reject letters for publication for any reason. Letters deemed libelous and/or not for the public good will be rejected. Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer and not necessarily that of The Knox County News.

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KCN OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Tuesday 9:00 - 5:00
Wednesdays 9 - 4:00 • Thursdays 10 - 4
CLOSED ON FRIDAYS

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- TXism: "___ stock and barrel"
- OK town
- Alpine is "___ way to the Big Bend Country"
- got down off the horse
- famous UT grad columnist, Smith
- Dallas is home of Mary ___ Cosmetics
- TXism: "just cause a chicken has wings don't mean ___ fly"
- TXism: "if a hog had wings he'd be ___"
- TXism: "___ nag"
- Texans foe from Cincinnati
- TXism: "___ you couldn't stir 'em with a stick"
- Aikman was named to SI's ___ team in '93
- TXism: "___ as a baby's bottom"
- this Linares was 1st dir. of TX Lotto potato'skinner?
- TX Ginger film: "It ___ Be You"
- this Hugh starred with TX Zellweger in '04 "Bridget Jones" film
- "TX Metroplex: ___ Place"

DOWN

- TXism: "if it ain't true there ain't ___ in Texas"
- bird talk
- TXism: "___ a pod"
- TXism: "he's wound tighter ___ eight-day clock"
- Gov. Richards
- tough soap
- this Wendy funded 1st Marshall X-mas lights
- TXism: "___ it be"
- manipulator
- Grapevine
- TX Hamblen's "This ___ House"
- small drink of liquor
- TXism: "___ the lead out"
- TX Stills tune: "For What ___ Worth"
- TXism: "___ full" (ate a lot)
- in Hopkins Co. on 11
- TXism: "busy as ___ tender on pay day"
- Columbus ship
- in the past
- TX Tommy Lee Jones "Cobb" role
- news wrangler
- TXism: "crooked as a dog's hind ___"
- 1st TX woman in US House, Thomas
- Arbor Day activity: ___ tree
- acclaimed
- TXism: "got an ___ to grind"
- George W.'s current home (abbr.)
- TX electronics co.
- actress Patricia of TX-based "Hud"
- Lake ___ del Rey
- TX Charley's "All ___ To Offer You"
- Cowboy SF foe: "Forty- ___"
- celebration of neighbor state: "Mardi ___"
- old format for TX Roy Orbison (abbr.)
- Paul of "Hud" (init.)
- actress Wood who played "Maria"
- "___ Grit"
- "best ___ secret"

Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

We have had another busy weekend over this way. The weather sort of cooperated on Saturday while the annual clean up day was taking place. Lots of mowing, weeding, trash hauling, etc. It all took place most of the day and the efforts of all of those who worked shows up greatly. A much cleaner town exists today! So whether you worked all over town or just around your house and block (as I did) it's all appreciated!

XXX

About Our Ill:

Jacob Siemens is a patient in HMC in Abilene after being taken there Thursday a.m. He has a chronic lung problem and I believe has developed pneumonia plus a heart problem so right now he feels pretty bad. His wife Tina, told me Saturday he had a really rough day Friday but doctors changed his medicine and on Saturday he was resting better. Hopefully, he will continue to do so.

Pat Benson is still a patient in Knox County Hospital. She's been in there a couple of weeks and doesn't know when she can come home.

Sympathy to Earlene Meinzer and her family today. Her sister, Irene Struck of Goree, who has resided in Munday Nursing Center for several years passed away Friday morning in Knox County Hospital. Her funeral was Monday at First Baptist Church in Goree.

XXX

One Act Play:

It's one act play time again and the community was given a treat last Wednesday when the cast per-

formed at the Community Center. Blithe Spirit is the name of the play and it is the same one they did last year. The cast and crew are generally the same. Two or three of the cast members are new due to graduation, re-location, etc. The competition begins Tuesday at Paducah with for the zone title. Going to Paducah with the cast and crew are our best wishes for good luck with the presentation. Belle Grill is the director.

XXX

Easter Sunrise service will again be at Moorhouse Ranch west of Benjamin. Breakfast will be about 6:00 a.m. with the service to follow. The FUMC of Benjamin will be in charge of the program this year. An invitation is extended to all to attend this most impressive service.

XXX

Congregation of the First Baptist Church in Benjamin was blessed Sunday morning with the presence of a student from Hardin Simmons University, Jeff Brooks, who brought the message during the worship hour.

Jeff will be a spring graduate of HSU and has the potential of being a great deliverer of God's word. We were glad to have him and his fiance with us.

XXX

Here -N -There

Not many reports of much visiting this past week. Do know some of the college kids were home. Among them, Tyler Collins of Wayland College in Plainview, Brittney Sheedy of VRJC, and Enrique Acevedo of Angelo State. Must have been spring break for several schools. Also saw Matthew Coffman BHS graduate

who lives at Vera and is also attending Angelo State.

XXX

Randolph and Judy Barnett are back at their home. Not sure for how long. They did get here in time to help with the clean up Saturday. You probably remember they divide their time between here and Alvin where they also have a home and his work headquarters are there. It's always good to see them.

Keith and Betty Pierce have moved back to Benjamin and are residing in the Wade and Ruth House home. We're glad they are back here. It's always good for the young folks to return and help keep Benjamin alive.

XXX

Betty Bohannon and her daughter in law Misty and her children returned home Sunday after a week's visit with Betty's daughter Bonnie Howell and family in Missouri. Bonnie and her family moved to Missouri in early January and I imagine Betty was ready to see them (especially the grandkid's).

XXX

The movie "The Passion of Christ" will be shown Friday night, Good Friday at the FUMC here. Not sure of the exact time but approximately 6:30 or 7:00 p.m. (check with someone who know for sure before you go) This is a very stirring movie and I think well worth the time it will take for you to go see it.

And Happy Easter everyone and if your are traveling do be careful. The highways will be crowded. And if you go to an egg hunt- I hope you find the PRIZE egg!
See you next week!

Easter Sunrise Service

The Benjamin Ministerial Alliance Invites you to join us at our annual Easter Sunrise Service at the Moorhouse Ranch Sunday, March 27 th Breakfast at 6:00 a.m. Worship Service at Sunrise (about 6:45 a.m.) Compare share the joy of Jesus! Resurrection!



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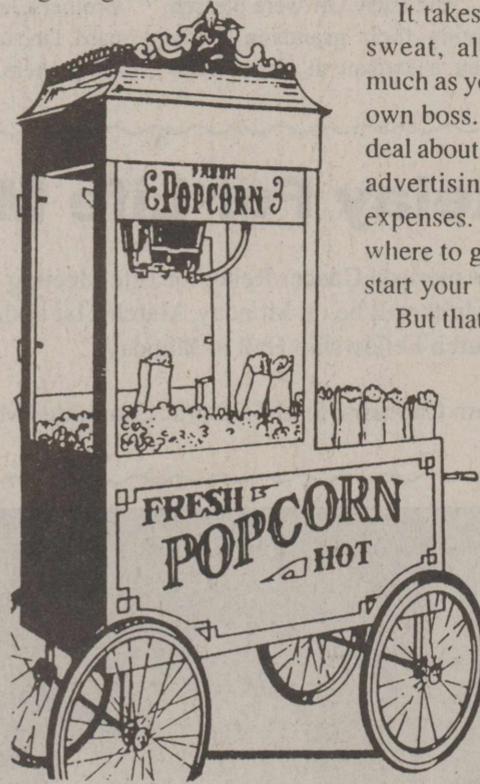
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Small Business Tradition

The more things change, the more they stay the same. Take small business, for example. Much has changed over the years except for one simple rule: You have to start small to get big results.



It takes long hours and lots of sweat, along with learning as much as you can about being your own boss. You must know a great deal about overhead costs, payroll, advertising plans and operating expenses. And you have to know where to get the capital needed to start your business.

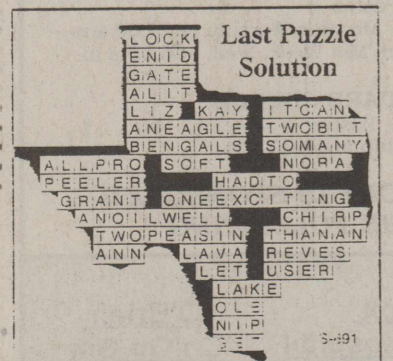
But that's where we can shed a little light on the darkness. Our trained professionals know the ins and outs that can help you obtain a small business loan. Stop in today or call for an appointment. We want to help you get started on the small business road that leads to big business success.

Council

der the City's supervision and guidelines and be included with the yearly audit. Mayor Lankford also stated that he appreciated what the Fire Department does for the Community. Amotion was made by Mr. emerson and seconded by Mr. Clark to accept the Fire Department report. All voted Aye.

Deliberate and act on Public Works report and producers was next on the agenda. Mrs. Rector gave the report. Monthly water meter readings, cleaned and hauled dirt from sides of streets, hauled junk and limbs from alleys, bladed dirt streets, started mowing the park, RV park, community center and lots throughout town, fixed water leak at NE 4th St. and Ave. E., started cleaning at swimming pool, worked on roll-up doors at shop and cleaned the mosquito sprayers. Other maintenance completed: replaced flags at the cemetery, worked on sewer problems at the Ward Apartments and 500 Block of Aspen, set new line and meter at Joe Reyes, took water sample at Abilene and repainted stripes for downtown parking.

The City also completed a sludge test for the Abilene Landfill. Paul Strickland attended a water meeting at Merkel, Mark Torres took a water test in Abilene, Mrs. Rector attended an animal disease meeting in Haskell, and Joe Rodriguez and Randy Pyland traveled to Lubbock to attend a mosquito workshop.



JORDAN CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION

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A motion was made by Mr. Emerson and seconded by Mr. Godsey to accept the public works report and procedures. All voted aye.

Deliberate and act on Paying of Accounts payable was next on the agenda. the bills of the month and the monthly register were reviewed. Motion was made by Mr. Emerson and seconded by Mr. Clark. All voted aye.

Deliberate and act on Approving Financial reports was next. The balance sheet and profit and loss statements were discussed. The monthly water and past due water and collections re reviewed. Motion made by Mr. Mangis and seconded by Mr. Clark. All voted aye.

At 8:15 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Emerson and seconded by Mr. Godsey to go into Executive Session to discuss Employee salaries. All voted aye. At 8:17 p.m. the Council went into closed session. A motion was made by Mr. Godsey and seconded by Mr. Clark at 8:55 p.m. to return to open session. All voted aye. Open session re adjourned at 8:55 p.m. Mr. Mangis made the motion to give the employees a \$200.00 vacation check to each person for this year's vacation. Mr. Emerson seconded the motion. The motion dies to lack of no all vote. The motion was amended by Mr. Clark to give the employees a \$400.00 vacation check to each person for this year's vacation. Mr. Mangis seconded. Motion carried, all voted aye.

With no further business before the Council, Mayor Lankford made the motion to adjourn. All voted in favor to close the March 10,2005 regular session at 9:18 p.m.

Retired Teachers Meeting!

Will be held Tuesday March 29 at 2:30 p.m. in Munday at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

Program will be presented by Marilyn Bennett and the Glanten Music Makers.

Beta Chi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society hold annual meeting.

The Beta Chi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society held its March 6th meeting at the First United Methodist Church in Munday. Sandy King and her piano students presented an enjoyable one solo piece and then played a duet with Mrs. King. The students performing were Morgan Griffith, hinter Hutchens, Kristen Kuehler, Trey Tidwell and Taylor Wilson.

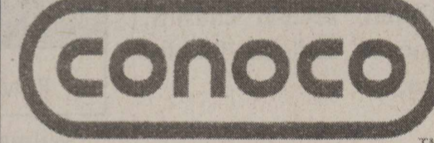
The program was followed with a tea party which included shamrock cookies and hot tea. The business of the meeting included discussions about the State convention and the recruitment of new members.

The Chapter's next meeting will be Sunday, April 3, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Haskell. Janice Brzozowski of the Noah Project will be the speaker.

We would love to have your news in the NEWS!

Deadline each week is Monday at 5:00 p.m.

Penman's



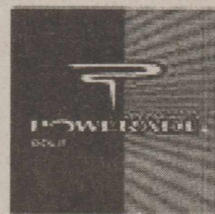
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- Friday - Burger Day \$2.25 or 75¢ off any other

Blue Bell Ice Cream

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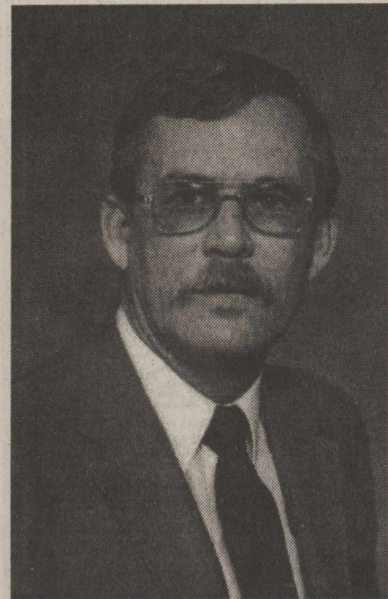
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Obituary O'Brien Happenings



Grandview--Billy L. Gilpin, 65, passed away on Sunday, March 13, 2005 after a brief illness. **Funeral:** 9:00 a.m. Graveside service on Thursday, March 17, 2005. Burial: Laurel Land Memorial Park of Fort Worth. Visitation: 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday March 16, 2005 at Laurel Land Funeral Home of Fort Worth. Billy was born on January 11, 1940, in Kurten, TX to the late Jesse Truman and Anita Lorine Keith Gilpin. He was honorably discharged from the US Army in 1965. Billy was a chemist at Core Lab in the early 1960's. He was an insurance adjuster for Employers of Wausau Insurance for 10 years and an independent adjuster for Gilpin and Associates from 1986-2004. Billy was a farmer and rancher and loved the farm and cows. He enjoyed playing golf any chance he could and had recently started traveling the state. He was a very independent man and will be missed. He was preceded in death by his brother Truman and his son, David. **Survivors:** His wife of 26 years, Vicki Gilpin; several cousins, many friends and his faithful dog, Vaca.

By Audie Johnston, O'Brien Correspondent

Four members of O'Brien Baptist Youth Group attended the concert in Abilene. They were accompanied by Donnie and Diane Roberts and Jim and Sherry Reid.

Billie Walker traveled to Perry, OK. to visit with sister-in-law, Vera League.

We enjoyed a visit with H.B. and Joann Graves at church Sunday night. They plan to leave April 8, 2005 for several months of ministry in Vermont. There is a dearth of churches and Christians in that area. They urge others to come and work.

The youth studied day two of "A Purpose Driven Life" to learn that they were not accidents but were planned by God to be born where they were and to look as they do.

W.C. and Patsy Orr were blessed by having their grandson Cody Brockett a student at Texas Tech

home for the weekend and visiting with them.

I was blessed Saturday afternoon by having my son Jimmy and wife Jenia of Lubbock spend a while with me after spending the weekend cleaning and packing Jenia's mom Maizie's belongings and getting ready for some sales.

Janoma Stephens was blessed over the weekend by having her grandson Scott and wife of Lubbock visit her over the weekend.

Vivian Hendrix was in Wichita Falls to be near her daughter Leneer who was in the hospital a bad situation and need our prayers.

We still have a lot of people who are ill and need our prayers. Beatrice Elliis, Bernice Rowan, Charlene Brothers, Janoma Reeves and Jo Lipard. I'm sure there are still needs of our prayers.

Relay For Life Meeting

American Cancer Relay for Life Meeting for the Knox County Units will be on Monday, March 21st at the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall in Munday.

Team Captains: 5:30-6:30 pm Committee Meets: 6:30-7:30 pm



Pictured: Wilma Hogan and Jean Barnard

Wilma Hogan and Jean Barnard look over the registration for Cancer Survivors to participate in the Knox County Relay for Life.

A dinner will be held for survivors at noon on Saturday, April 23, 2005 before the Relay for Life begins at 3:00 p.m.

All cancer survivors are invited to be a part of the dinner and participate in the Survivor's Lap which will be the first lap of the relay.

If you have heard the words "you have cancer" you are a survivor.

Wilma had cancer in 1989 and is a healthy, long time survivor. Jean Barnard had cancer three years ago. A volunteer for The

American Cancer Society came to the hospital to visit Wilma and help with the information and support. They are there to help in several different ways when people are dealing with the shock of cancer.

There will be a luminary lighting in a special ceremony honoring and remembering loved ones.

If you would like to honor a friend or family member you may purchase a luminary for \$5.00. You may purchase these for as many people as you would like.

If you are a survivor please call Linda Reddell, 422-4328, Melissa Josselet, 422-4959, or Wilma Hogan, 657-4011.

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USDA Rural Development Announces Availability of Grants

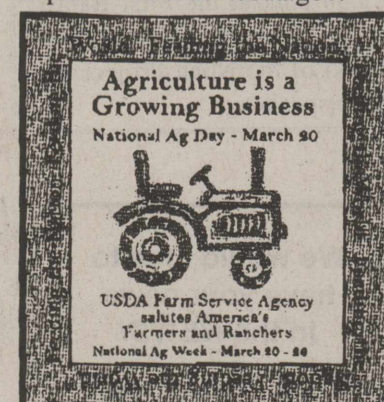
Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, announced March 8th USDA Rural development is accepting applications for the Value-Added Producer Grant Program. Funding in the amount of \$14.3 million is available to develop value-added agriculture business ventures and develop alternative sources of renewable energy which support President Bush's energy plan to develop alternative sources for renewable energy.

The Value-Added Producer Grant Program provides competitive grand funds for one of the two following activities: (1) to support the planning activities needed to establish a viable value-added marketing opportunity for an agricultural product or (2) to acquire working capital to operate a value-added business venture that will allow producers to better compete in domestic and international markets.

"This grant will help agricultural producers become more profitable through value-added agricultural business opportunities," said Daniel. "In addition, priority consideration will be given to those grant applications that have at least 51 percent of project costs dedicated to activities for a bio-energy project."

Grants are available to independent producers, agriculture producer groups, farmer or rancher cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures. Eligible applicants applying under the renewable energy category must include energy projects generated through the use of agricultural commodities, wind, water, or solar power.

The maximum award for the planning grant is \$100,000 and the maximum award for the working capital grant is \$150,000. Applications must be completed and submitted no later than May 6, 2005. For more information on the value-Added Producer Grant, please contact Billy Curb, Business and Cooperative Specialist, (254) 742-9775 or visit the website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.



Subscription Rates
In Knox County - \$26 a year
In Texas - \$28 a year
Others - \$30 a year

Birth Announcement

Gavin Reese Garcia came into the world Saturday morning at 11:41 a.m., February 5th to his proud parents, Paul and Kim Garcia of Abilene.

His Maternal grandparents are Roy and Frances Posey of Andrews, formerly of Knox City. Paternal grandparents are Stella Quintana and Jessie Gonzales, also of Knox City and Adam and Isabelle Garcia of Rochester.

Great-grandparents include: the late Ophus and Frankie Posey of Knox City; the late Roy and Florence Tribbey of Rule; the late Ralph Rios of Knox City; Josephine Rios of Knox City; the late Juanita Garcia of Rochester; and Cruz Garcia, Sr. of Rochester.



Gavin Reese Garcia

Thank You

We would like to thank the Four Square Church, First Baptist Church and all the people for their prayers, phone calls, cards, and food.

A special thanks to Charles Auburg and Sid Richardson for all their help.

Tulsa is a pretty large city but after all the howdys, glad your are back.

Knox City feels pretty big too.

Thank You,
The Carlsons

EASTER EGG HUNT

The Benjamin Volunteer Fire Department will be holding an Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday March 27, at 3:00 p.m. at the City Park in Benjamin. Be at the Fire Hall at 3:00 p.m. and ride a fire truck to the park.

The Munday Fire Department will be sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt Saturday March 26, at 10:00 a.m. at the Munday High School. All Knox County kids are welcome to come and enjoy the fun.

The Knox City Fire Department will be sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday 26, at 2:00 p.m. in the City Park. You can drop off your eggs at the Fire Hall on Friday or at Bill Stewart's Insurance Agency here in Knox City.

KC Area Church Directory

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - Knox City

Gayle Baucum, Pastor
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 10:55 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6:30 p.m. ~ Mid Week, Wed. at 6:30 p.m.
FBC Sunday School, and the worship services at 10:55 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. are telecast live on Classic Cable, channel 6 in Knox City and O'Brien

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Knox City

John Wade, Pastor
Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH - Knox City

Tex Cox, Pastor
Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.

FOURSQUARE CHURCH - Knox City

Paul Chambers, Pastor
Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00 p.m. ~ Mid Week, Wed. at 7:00 p.m.

SANTA ROSA CATHOLIC CHURCH - Knox City

Father Leo Schloemer - Deacon Ben Vasquez
Sunday Bilingual Mass at 11:00 a.m.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - Rhineland

Father Leo Schloemer - Deacon Ben Vasquez
Monday Through Friday Mornings, 8:00 a.m. Mass
Saturday Mass at 7:00 p.m. ~ Sunday Mass at 9:00 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of Benjamin

John Gillispie, Pastor
Sunday School at 10:00 a.m., Sunday Morning at 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday evening Prayer Service at 6:00 p.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of Benjamin

John Wade, Pastor
Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. ~ Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.

GILLESPIE BAPTIST CHURCH - Gillespie

Matt Harrington, Pastor
Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00 p.m. ~ Mid Week, Wed. at 6:00 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST - Benjamin

Bible Study at 9:00 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

THE BELIEVERS' CHAPEL - Highway 222

W.O. Smith, Pastor
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Mid Week, Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

O'BRIEN BAPTIST CHURCH - O'Brien

Jim Reid, Pastor
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00 p.m. Mid Week, Wed. at 6:00 p.m.

WEINERT FOURSQUARE CHURCH

Rob Harrison, Pastor
Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.

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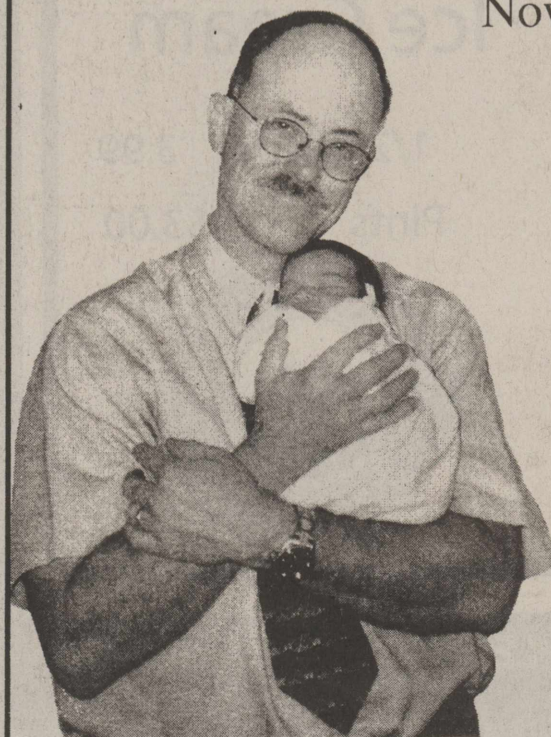
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Memories of Munday
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KC Greyhound Relays

Knox City played host to the annual KC Relays Saturday and even though Childress ran away with the varsity girls and boys team trophies, several student athletes from Knox City and Munday ran, jumped and threw their way to medals for their performances. Knox City's girls finished third behind second place winner Munday. The boys team also finished third behind Rotan and ahead of Munday in fourth place.

Headlining that list of local medal winners was Knox City Houndette, Sophie Gutierrez. The senior sprinter was definitely running a little hot on Saturday---one reason was from flu-like symptoms; the other reason: she can flat-out run.

Gutierrez entered three events, the 200 Meters, the 400 Meters and the 4 X 100 Meter Relay, and took the gold medal in all three. Her first place teammates on the sprint relay team were Sarah Burt, Nikki Moss and Jamilla Ward with a time of 51.24.

Ward also scorched the field in the 100 Meter Dash with a time of 12.9. Martha Perkins finished fifth in the 400 Meters behind Gutierrez.

Sarah Burt took the silver medal in the 100 Meter Hurdles, just 1/100th of a second off the lead. Burt also took the bronze medal in the High Jump. In the 300 Meter Hurdles, Moss crossed the finish



Sophie Gutierrez wins- again!

line in second place, even after taking a horrible spill on the final hurdle (I did not run the photo and I destroyed the negative, Nikki).

In the 800 Meter Run, Laura Harrington crossed the line in third place with a time of 3:00.41. Lindsey Villa finished fifth and two runners from Munday, Brooke Rochas and Kelli Cypert finished first and second. Harrington finished fourth in the 1600 Meter Run, formerly known as the Mile. Either way, it's a long race and usually runs short on volunteers.

In the 4 X 200 Meter Relay, the Knox City girls took second with a time of 1:52.8. Carrying the baton for the Houndettes were Burt, Moss, Kayla Martin and Ward.

In other field events, Jessica Albus took fifth in the Shot Put

and sixth in the Discus. Bridget Billington was fourth in the Long Jump.

In the varsity boys bracket, the Knox City Greyhounds ran well enough to claim medals in several events.

In the 100 Meter Sprint, Riley Spells torched the field in 11.32 seconds for first place, and Ricco McCrary came in third with a time of 11.96.

Quentin Spells was first in the 200 Meters with a time of 23.17, followed by McCrary in fourth place. Andy Shaver was edged out of first in the 400 Meters, taking second with a time of 56.81.

In the hurdling events, Evan Clark mastered the 110 Meter High Hurdles in 15.66 and took home the gold medal, while Dustin



Jeremy Saxton hands the baton to Quentin Spells.

Johnson climbed to a first place finish in the 300 Meter Hurdles at 42.24.

Knox City won the 4 X 100 Sprint Relay with a time of 44.68. The sprinters included Riley and Quentin Spells, Jeremy Saxton and Clark.

The Greyhounds also claimed the gold medal in the 4 X 200 with a time of 1:34.68. Team members were Riley and Quentin Spells, Saxton and Johnson.

In the Mile Relay (4 X 400), Knox City's team, Ryan Harrington, Shaver, Johnson and McCrary, finished third.

In the field events, TJ Richardson was third in the discus (108' 6") and sixth in the Shot Put (35' 2.75").



Nikki Moss hands off to Kayla Martin.

In the JV Boys division, Knox City had several good performances.

Cody Wainscott led the charge, winning the 100 Meter Dash and placing second in the 200 Meters. Robert Norton finished a strong third in the 200, fifth in the 1600 Meter Run and fourth in the 3200 Meter Run. Travis Hawkins was third in the 100 and fourth in the 400.

Brandon Grimsley hurled a whopping 106' 5" in the discus, good enough for first place, beating the nearest competitor by 11 feet.

Next week the Knox City track and field teams travel to Munday and on the Olney the following weekend.



Sarah Burt begins the 200 Meter Relay.



Last week at Holliday, the Greyhounds fell to the Eagles 16-3 but not before scoring one run late in the contest.

Greyhound Baseball Team Wins First District Game 11-1

Knox City began District 4-A play Monday night in Quannah with a win over the Indians, 11-1.

On the strength of a two-hit pitching performance from Derek Magana, the Greyhounds finished off the home field team in five innings on the 10-run mercy rule.

The Greyhounds were up 2-1 after five innings, then exploded in the sixth inning with eight runs to finish off the Indians.

Magana helped his own cause going two-for-three at the plate

with a home run, a double and four RBI. Shortstop Ty Chisum went two-for-three, scored twice and vandalized the home team for three stolen bases.

Riley Spells added two hits, two runs, a stolen base and an RBI. Catcher CJ Bruce went one-for-two with two walks, a steal and one RBI.

Friday's game with Seymour was cancelled but the Greyhounds are back in action next week in Haskell, Monday at 4 p.m.



Evan Clark (right) takes it all in stride at the KC Greyhounds Relays. Clark won the 100 Meter High Hurdle event last Saturday. (Photo by Davine Clark)

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3-17 tfc 36

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Nice two bedroom, one bath home for sale. Storm cellar, water well. 704 Aspen, 940-657-1064.
DT/1*1-TF/C (15)

FOR SALE
Two bedroom, one bath, living, dining and den areas. Storage building, fenced yard, two car carport. 110 S.E. Second Street. 657-1115.
3-17 4tc 20

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KCNEWS@SRCACCESS.NET

As one person I cannot change the world, but I can change the world of one person.
—Paul Shane Spear

Agging Center Lunch Menu

Week of April 4 thru April 8

Monday, April 4
Chicken Strips with gravy,
French Fries, Green Beans,
Biscuits, Cobbler
Tuesday, April 5
Tacos, Refried Beans,
Spanish Rice, Lettuce & Tomatoes, Pudding
Wednesday, April 6
Meatloaf, Navy Beans,

Spinach, Cornbread, Fruit Crunch
Thursday, April 7
Chicken Noodle Soup, Ham & Cheese Sandwiches,
Lettuce & Tomatoes, Cake
Friday, April 8
Bar-B-Q on a Bun, Pork & Beans, Onions & Pickles,
Chips, Cookies

All menus subject to change without notification.
It is important to contact the site manager so that meals can be prepared.

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Every year in March we celebrate National Ag Week - a time for people across the nation to take note of the impact agriculture has on their everyday lives and the important role agriculture plays in history.

Agriculture's roots reach back hundreds of years, and the people who endured rough times are true pioneers who should be celebrated. This year's celebration will be March 20 - 26.

Over the years, these men and women have worked the land through prosperity and through adversity, never losing sight of the ultimate goal - keeping the dreams of their ancestors alive while making a living in agriculture.

It is no secret that agriculture can be a challenging way of life. Major advances have taken us miles away from the days of horse-drawn plows, but we still face challenges in weather, water availability and commodity prices. Rural economic development, nutrition and marketing have become important components of modern agriculture as well, and Texas producers have evolved to stay ahead of changes in the industry and respond to the needs of consumers.

As the second-largest industry in Texas, agriculture is an economic powerhouse, producing food, horticulture and fiber for consumers across the world. Texas agriculture employs about one out of every seven working Texans, and no matter how large the industry, its heart remains with the farmers and ranchers who contribute to it.

Let's take the time this month to be thankful to our agricultural pioneers for their vision and to the modern-day producers who dutifully carry out the monumental role of being a Texas farmer or rancher.

Benjamin Graduate to Perform in Abilene

Former Benjamin graduate will be in Abilene performing with his new band "Spinning Chain", from Austin TX. Jimmy Scott Mancille of Benjamin is scheduled to perform Friday, April 1st at the Longhorn Bar @ 2074 Butternut, Abilene, Tx. In a live concert along with former Geffen recording artist now on Brando records "South F.M."

Jimmy has been living in Austin for the past 10 years and has been performing all over the state of Texas, with Spinning Chain since 2002. Currently Spinning Chain has a Single on the KEYJ rock station 108 in Abilene that is doing quite well and they asked them to come to Abilene and give it to them live.

He also informed me that they have a web site and fan club mailing address @www.spinningchain.com in which you can find out what is going on. So join the fun in Abilene Friday April 1st 10 p.m. @ the Longhorn Bar on Butternut.

Little League Sign-Ups
Well it's Time for Peanuts, Popcorn, Hotdogs, Cold Drinks and Snowcones. The season is here. Time to bring out the balls and gloves. Sign-up for little league will be held March 28th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the little league field. I hope we have a good turn out and let's play ball. I'm excited and I hope you are to. C-Ya out there! If you have any questions you may contact me at
940-657-4306 or 940-256-2660
Little League President, Mario Abila

The Benjamin United Methodist Church invites you to see a big screen showing of The Passion
Friday, March 25, at 7:00 p.m. at the Church in Benjamin.

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