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 TOBY WHISENHUNT  
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 KNOX CITY TX 79529-0504

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

THURSDAY, JUNE 19


FRIDAY, JUNE 20

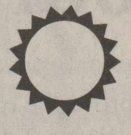
SATURDAY, JUNE 21

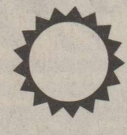
SUNDAY, JUNE 22

MONDAY, JUNE 23

 High/Low  
 96°/75°  
 40% CHANCE OF RAIN

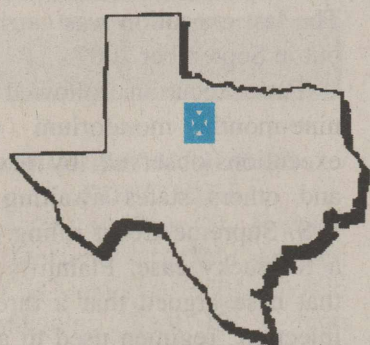
 High/Low  
 97°/74°  
 20% CHANCE OF RAIN

 High/Low  
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 SUNNY

 High/Low  
 96°/70°  
 SUNNY

 High/Low  
 98°/70°  
 SUNNY

 High/Low  
 98°/70°  
 SUNNY



# THE KNOX COUNTY NEWS

Proudly Serving Knox and King Counties

Volume XXXVII

Number 33

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Knox City, Texas

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## Looking Ahead

### CREATIVE WRITERS

The Creative Writer's Group will meet Saturday the 21st of June at 2 PM at the Senior Citizens Center at 500 E. Belknap St. in Seymour, TX. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### CIRCLE BAR RANCH CUTTING COMPETITION

Circle Bar Ranch will be hosting a Working Ranch Horse Cutting Competition, Saturday, June 21 in Truscott at the Circle Bar Ranch headquarters. The public is welcome to come and watch. The competition will start at 9 in the morning. There will be a concession stand with cold drinks, sandwiches and homemade brownies with all proceeds going to the Truscott Community Foundation. For more information call: Eugenie at 940.474.3337

### POND MANAGEMENT MEETING

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service of Haskell County will be hosting a pond management meeting on June 23 at 7p.m. in the Haskell National Bank Community Building. Guest Speaker will be Harrold Arms of Arms Fish Farm in Dublin, Texas. Topics that will be covered are weed control, fish management, and pond chemical usage. For more information contact Wes Utley at the Haskell AgriLife Extension office at 940-864-2658.

### WATERMELON FESTIVAL

The Chamber of Commerce announces the 20th Annual Donald Johnson Seedless Watermelon Festival July 26, 2008. Plans are shaping up for a fun filled day in the park, beginning with a Parade on Saturday, followed by the Classic Car Show, activities for the kids, various vendors and booths in the city park. Mark the date and tell your family and friends.



Lucas Cartwright is in the process of getting bucked off his Bronco during the Bronco Riding event at the Benjamin Ranch Rodeo. (Photo by Brandy Wise)

## Tackett Ranch Takes Benjamin Ranch Rodeo

Benjamin's Ranch Rodeo kicked off Saturday and lasted until around 10 p.m. when high winds and light rain forced everyone to the community center just a bit early before the results could be announced.

The evening started out with the Bronc Riding competition followed by Sorting/Doctoring, Sheep Riding for the little ones, Cow Milking, Double Mugging and

### Branding.

The festivities opened with the Invocation delivered by Tibb Burnett and then Jess Jones sang the National Anthem.

Flag Barriers were Cody Propps and Shaylee Propps. Benny Archer, Kenny Groves and Fred Carver judged the competitions.

Participating ranches were Carver, Estrada, Thompson, 3-S Stewart, Spike Box, Williamson,

La Mejor, 6666, Tongue River, Moorhouse, Lyles, Ownbey, Wines, Hunter-NT and Tackett.

The 1st place winner of the Rodeo went to Tackett Ranch, 2nd place was awarded to Hunter-NT followed by Williamson with 3rd.

In the Bronc Riding event, Waylon Davis came in 1st with a score of 75, 2nd place went to Zack Victor with a 74 and Dale Stewart took home third place with a 73.

## Chief: Assume The Worst When Siren Sounds; New Siren Should Be In Place Soon

An electrical short is causing the siren to alarm with heavy rain and wind, however, Chief Ledesma stresses that the people of Knox City should not ignore the siren warning when it sounds.

"It is vitally important for the safety of our town that we assume the worst and take appropriate measures to protect ourselves and our families," Ledesma said. The term "better safe than sorry" is always a good rule of thumb to follow when it comes to our safety.

Ledesma said he apologizes for any inconvenience caused by the current tornado siren in place.

Ledesma says that another important rule to follow during bad weather is NOT to call 911 to see if shelter should actually be taken or if it is a false alarm. It is important that emergency lines are left available for those who are in true need of them.

"When the 911 line is overloaded it could mean the difference between life and death a person with a true medical emergency," Ledesma warns.

The Chief assures that during bad weather, the Knox City Volunteer Fire Department is on top of the situation and is out there in the line of fire to keep Knox City safe. Constant communication is maintained with Central Dispatch (911) during these critical times.

Ledesma is happy to report that a new and updated system is on its way and should arrive in approximately 1-2 weeks. It will be installed in the center of town.

One of the major advantages with this new system is that it can be heard in any part of city during any wind or rain condition, unlike the antiquated one currently in place. The current system is at the mercy of directional winds. Until then, hear the warning and please take necessary safety measures to keep yourself and your family safe.

Ledesma was elected Chief in January of 2008.

## Trimble Receives \$16,000 Scholarship



CODY TRIMBLE

COLLEGE STATION - A Knox County youth was awarded a major scholarship at the annual Texas 4-H Roundup, held this week at Texas A&M University.

Cody Trimble received a \$16,000 scholarship funded by the San Antonio Livestock Exposition. Roundup this year attracted

some 2,900 4-H members, parents and volunteers for a series of statewide competitions, scholarship awards and fun.

The Texas 4-H Foundation presented a record \$2.2 million in scholarships to 233 young people.

"This is our 49th year to present scholarships during Roundup," said Jim Reeves, executive director of the foundation. "The generosity of our donors has helped thousands of deserving young people go on to college."

Texas 4-H, which also marks its 100th anniversary this year, began as Corn Club with a dozen boys in Jacks County. Today, Texas 4-H engages more than 640,000 young people in an array of pursuits aimed at learning leadership, citizenship and life skills, according to Dr. Martha Couch,

Texas AgriLife Extension Service associate director for 4-H and youth development.



The Circle Bar Ranch Team of Jerry Bob Daniel, Colton Daniel, Kyle Everson, Dustin Glenn and Jason Thompson competed in the Hamilton Ranch Rodeo last week. Jerry Bob rode their stallion, Circle Bar Pistol, and won the Top Horse event for the four day rodeo and received a new saddle Saturday during their final performance. This will be aired later on RFDTV.



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# Governor Perry Mourns Mansion Fire

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

## State Capital HIGHLIGHTS



By Ed Sterling

AUSTIN - Gov. Rick Perry, in prepared remarks regarding the fire that gutted the governor's mansion on June 8, said, "... few sights have left a deeper impression on me than the charred remains of this genuine Texas treasure standing behind me. As I consider what was done to this once-majestic home, my heart aches beyond words."

The fire occurred while the governor and first lady Anita Perry were in Europe on a trade mission. On June 11 Perry

toured the burned interior of the 152-year-old home now braced to prevent stone and masonry walls from failing.

"I cannot begin to understand what would motivate someone to do this, but I do know that they will be caught, and they will be prosecuted for what they have done," Perry said.

The state fire marshal has ruled the cause of the fire was arson. An investigation by state and federal agencies is under way. A security camera recorded a human figure tossing an object at the mansion before the fire erupted. Authorities later said the object appeared to be a Molotov cocktail.

### TxDOT cuts back Corridor plan

The state's idea of building new rural toll roads in East Texas has been shelved after months of public hearings and input including 28,000 com-

ments from citizens.

The Texas Department of Transportation announced June 11 it will recommend that the Interstate 69/Trans-Texas Corridor Project be developed using existing highway facilities wherever possible. If additional travel lanes are added to existing highways, only the new lanes would have tolls.

"After a dozen town hall meetings, nearly 50 public hearings and countless one-on-one conversations, it is clear to us that Texans want us to use existing roadways to start building the Texas portion of Interstate 69," explained Texas Transportation Commissioner Ted Houghton.

TxDOT Executive Director Amadeo Saenz, in a letter to the Federal Highway Administration, said the overwhelming sentiment of those 28,000 comments focused on

the need to improve the existing transportation network rather than building a new corridor for the project.

Saenz said TxDOT would continue to talk to the public about the project. He encouraged Texans to ask questions and share their transportation ideas at [www.keeptexasmoving.com](http://www.keeptexasmoving.com).

### Secretary of state bids farewell

Phil Wilson, Texas' 106th secretary of state, on June 11 announced his resignation.

The Brownwood native is the fifth Texan to serve as secretary of state under Gov. Rick Perry. Wilson's four predecessors include Henry Cuellar, Gwen Shea, Geoff Connor and Roger Williams.

Dallas-based power producer Luminant announced Wilson will join the company as senior vice president of public affairs

and start work on July 7.

Luminant is a subsidiary of Energy Future Holdings, formerly TXU Corp. The company bills itself as the largest purchaser of wind-generated electricity in Texas.

### Roadcheck results are reported

Highway patrol officers conduct a Roadcheck inspection blitz annually in states ranging from Mexico to Canada to reduce commercial vehicle highway fatalities.

Roadcheck 2008 ran from June 3 through 5. During it, Texas Department of Public Safety troopers inspected 5,824 commercial vehicles. Of those, 1,435 were put out of service for equipment violations, the DPS reported.

Also, 178 drivers were found to have serious enough safety violations to be removed from service.

### Inmate executed June 11

Karl Eugene Chamberlain was executed by the state of Texas on June 11 in Huntsville. The last execution was carried out in September 2007.

The execution followed a nine-month moratorium on executions observed by Texas and others states awaiting a U.S. Supreme Court ruling on a Kentucky case. Plaintiffs in that case argued that a three-injection regimen used to administer the death penalty is cruel. The court found for the defendant.

### Texas GOP meets in Houston

An estimated 12,000 delegates, alternates and guests attended the Republican Party of Texas convention in Houston, June 12-14. Tina Benkiser, a Houston lawyer, was reelected as chair of the state party. U.S. Sen. John McCain of Arizona was confirmed as the Republican party nominee for president.

## COW POKES®

By Ace Reid



**"The boss is against drinkin'. He says he's wasted a fortune on cowboys drinkin' water in summer and coffee in winter!"**

## 35th ANNUAL STAMFORD ART FOUNDATION SHOW & SALE KICKS OFF JULY 1 WITH PREVIEW PARTY

The 35th Annual Stamford Art Foundation Show and Sale is July 2nd through July 5th with the Preview Party on July 1st. The Show will be held at the John Selmon Memorial Gallery located at the Texas Cowboy Reunion Rodeo Grounds. The Show is held in conjunction with the Texas Cowboy Reunion Rodeo.

The Stamford Art Foundation founded in 1974, is a non-profit organization with 17 directors and approximately 130 volunteers who work together to have an outstanding Art Show. The proceeds from the Show benefit the West Texas Rehabilitation Center.

The Art Show features art of the American West created in oil, watercolor, acrylic, mixed media, pastels, sculpture and pencil drawings. The art of 33 participating artists can be seen at the Show. The artists are: Victor Armstrong, Barry Arthur, Gary Bailey, Bill Barrick, George Boutwell, Anthony Brown, K. B. (Karen) Brown, R. Russell Brown, Garnet Buster, Hugh Campbell, Cary Clawson, Dane Ellsworth, Paul Friske, M. S. Hollis, Melissa Kohout, Mike Lanier, Daniel Maldonado, Vel Miller, Steven Napper, Tom

Paulson, Doug Prine, Theda Rhea, Paul Cameron Smith, Paul Tadlock, Kathy Tate, Gary Ward, Jim Ward, Roy Lee Ward, Tanner Wells, K. W. Whitley and Mary Dolph Wood.

Artist, Kathy Tate from Stephenville, Texas has donated an oil painting entitled, "Looks Like Rain", valued at \$3,500.00 for the Art Foundation to use in a raffle. The Tate painting is from a series she completed of the Swenson Ranch on Round-Up Day. The drawing for the painting will be at the last nightly performance of the Texas Cowboy Reunion on July 5th. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each or five (5) for \$20.00 and you do not have to be present to win. The painting can be seen and tickets purchased at the Cowboy Country Museum June 9th to June 13th, Compass Bank June 16th to June 20th and First National Bank-Stamford June 23rd to June 27th. The painting will also be on display at the John Selmon Memorial Gallery during the Show.

The art for the 35th Show can be seen for the first time at the Preview Party held on July 1st at 6:30 p.m. at the Texas Cowboy Reunion Rodeo Grounds. Those attending will have the

opportunity to visit with the artists, enjoy a steak dinner with all the trimmings catered by Joe Allen's of Abilene and dance to music by Gary Miller and the Key West Band. Eighteen of the artists will participate in the popular "Quick Draw" event. In this event, artists are given one (1) hour to complete a painting from a blank canvass and frame it. The artwork is then auctioned off to the highest bidder with proceeds benefiting the West Texas Rehab Center. Patrons can mingle and watch these awesome works in the making. Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame Artist, Wayne Baize is unable to attend the Show, but is donating a print on canvas to be used in the Auction. Baize was an original artist in the Stamford Art Show in 1974 and continues to be supportive of the Show's endeavors. There will also be a drawing for two (2) \$100.00 gift certificates to be used toward the purchase of any art work in the Show.

Tickets for the Preview Party are \$37.50 each. For information regarding the Show or reserving tickets, contact Dawn Ham at 325-773-2411 or the West Texas Rehabilitation Center at 325-793-3512.

## The Knox County News

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All others: \$30/Year

**DEADLINES** — The deadline to submit news and advertising is 5 p.m. on Mondays. Exceptions may be granted only by permission from the Editor.

**CHRISTOPHER BLACKBURN**  
Publisher

**BRANDY WISE**  
Editor  
**AMY STRICKLAND**  
Reporter

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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.

### SUBMISSION POLICY

The Knox County News reserves the right to reject unsolicited submissions for any reason. Articles and news items submitted are subject to be edited by KCN staff. Article and photo reprints submitted from other publications require the KCN to get permissions from copyright holders and owners. Such articles will be printed in the KCN dependent on time and space requirements.

### PHOTO SUBMISSION POLICY

The KCN reserves the right to reject unsolicited photographs for any reason. Photographs submitted to the KCN will kept in the KCN office for no longer than one year past the date submitted. Photographs can only be returned to submitter if a self-addressed stamped envelope is provided.

### NOTICE

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, reputation or standing of any individual, firm or corporation will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

### KCN OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday • 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### ACROSS

- 1 TX-born fashion designer Oldham
- 5 song "Texas When \_\_\_"
- 6 Fort Bliss site: Lanoria \_\_\_
- 7 sports network
- 8 TX-born Sly Stone tune: "Everybody \_\_\_ Star"
- 9 TX Trini's \_\_\_ Hammer"
- 16 ex-Cowboy lineman Newton
- 18 Louis L'Amour book: "\_\_\_ for Texas"
- 21 TX Kelly Clarkson recording medium
- 22 "valley" poetically
- 23 TXism: "keep your \_\_\_ greased" (be prepared)
- 24 ropes cows
- 30 TXism: "he'd walk in a revolving door" (inept)
- 34 TX Audie film: "\_\_\_ Hell and Back"
- 35 TXism: "she could talk a wagon out of \_\_\_"
- 36 TX Bush named Naomi Earp as head of this agcy.
- 37 1st president of Rice: Edgar \_\_\_ Lovett
- 39 old name: "United Spacecraft Center" causing death

- 44 TX-born Debbie film: "It \_\_\_ With a Kiss"
- 45 TX-born Linda Darnell film: "\_\_\_ Way Out"
- 46 TXism: "sniffer"
- 47 TXism: "beats anything I \_\_\_"
- 49 necktie ornaments
- 52 TXism: "never let 'em \_\_\_ you sweat"
- 53 Dallas Univ.
- 54 reduce in size
- 55 German pastry
- 58 former TX town named for the "Witch of Wall Street"
- 59 comment on a stupid statement?
- 60 TX-born Ike (init.)
- 61 TXism for "your"
- 1 TX Doughboys hit: "When It's Roundup \_\_\_ Heaven"
- 2 Ector Co. seat
- 3 Post newspaper
- 4 actor Martin in "4 for Texas"
- 9 birth state of TX captive Cynthia Parker (abbr.)
- 10 Houston Christian acoustic group: "\_\_\_ Stand"
- 11 typeface for emphasis (abbr.)

### The Original

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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- 12 TXism: "got a mind to"
- 13 Father's Day gift: \_\_\_ tools
- 14 batting specialist for the Rangers (abbr.)
- 15 birth mo. of TX-born Steve Martin (abbr.)
- 17 actress in "Racquet" with TX Lynda Day George
- 19 sword or Olds
- 20 TX dairy bidness: "\_\_\_ Jersey Farm" in Sandia
- 24 TX "\_\_\_ Quinta Inn"
- 25 money makers for TX newspapers
- 26 TXism: "he \_\_\_ tall in the saddle"
- 27 "S" of U.S.
- 28 TX Roy sang in a 4-\_\_\_ range
- 29 actress North in "Breakout" with TX-born Quaid
- 31 TXism: "hombres"
- 32 TX Tierney film: "\_\_\_ of Fury"
- 33 Gov. "Pappy"
- 38 old English school 40 TX "Mr. Sam" (init.)
- 41 "Don't \_\_\_ with Texas"
- 42 TX Charley Pride's "Where \_\_\_ \_\_\_ Memory"
- 48 "Foat \_\_\_ I Luv Yew"
- 50 "piece of cake"
- 51 Cowboy \_\_\_ season starts in August
- 56 "I Am Woman" Heler
- 57 short music piece



# BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

## FLAPJACKS AT PLAY

A big part of the cowboy culture is the music that celebrates the West; the trail drives, the danger and the romance of the life.

"...all day I face the barren waste without the taste of water..."

"...tryin' to catch the devil's herd but they ain't caught'em yet..."

"...for hours he would ride on the range far and wide..."

"...where seldom is heard a discouraging word..."

"...we're up in the morning at breaking of day, the chuckwagon's ready, the flapjacks at play..."

What? Flapjacks at play? Are there signs posted on the perimeter of the chuckwagon warning: CAUTION...FLAPJACKS AT PLAY!

I have been known to write some goofy lines, but that one stops me in my tracks. Did the songwriter run out of time? Did nothing else wonderfully western come to mind? Like... "We're all on our way..." "I'm ridin' ol' bay..." " 'bout time, hip hooray!"

Or if the writer insisted on sticking to the chuckwagon/breakfast/dining theme; "...we're up in the morning at breaking of day, the chuckwagon's ready, the cook's a gourmet..."

"...French toast's the entree..."

"...The wine's Bourdelais..."

"...there's no sommelier..."

"...just ask for José..."

Maybe the songwriter was masking an underlying story, a subliminal message revealing a conflict between the foods.

Suggesting perhaps, that the flapjacks were leaving all the hard work to the bacon and eggs. Why not say, "...the oatmeal's at play?" the grits, the orange juice? It just doesn't sound right. And gravy. The gravy's at play? Of course not! The gravy's at sea. It has its own boat!

Although cornflakes does have a nice ring. You can almost see them lining up along the rim tossing a raisin back and forth. But not flapjacks. It's hard to imagine them doing anything fun. Flapjacks are couch potatoes. They lie flat as a hound dog's ear on a wood floor.

Flapjacks are not into sports. You'll never hear a broadcaster say, "The croissants have taken the field and the flapjacks are at play."

I must conclude that the songwriter deliberately wrote the nonsensical line to confuse folklorists and musicologists...and the occasional cowboy poet and former large animal veterinarian.

"...the poet's gone crazy and sure lost his way, he should stick to vet work, my dog needs a spay..."



## More Energy is the Simple Solution to the Energy Crisis

President Reagan said, "There are no easy answers, but there are simple ones." This principle applies to America's energy woes.

Since January 2007, the price of a gallon of gasoline has soared from \$2.33 per gallon to a record \$4.04. Over the next two decades, global demand for oil is expected to rise by 50 percent. Further price escalation is inevitable. When confronted by these facts, the energy solution is simple. We need more energy! We should be increasing our production of oil, natural gas, clean coal, and nuclear power - and those resources should come from America, instead of foreign dictatorships.

One of the best kept secrets in politics today is that

America is one of the richest energy nations in the world and is capable of achieving energy independence.

Our most valuable untapped resource is the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), which is estimated to contain 10.4 billion barrels of oil. This remote frozen tundra could be drilled with minimal impact on surrounding life. ANWR is the size of South Carolina and the area drilled would be roughly the size of Dallas/Love Field Airport. In 1995, the Republican Congress passed legislation to open ANWR for energy production. But President Clinton vetoed our bill. If he had signed it,

America would now be producing one million barrels a day, almost enough oil to replace all of our daily imports from Saudi Arabia.

Beyond ANWR, federal law prevents oil and gas production in the deep waters off the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts. These areas, along with a section of the Gulf of Mexico, could contain as much as 115 billion barrels of oil - greater than Venezuela's current reserves - and 565 trillion cubic feet of natural gas - greater than the combined reserves of Iraq, China, Yemen, Oman, Nigeria, and Venezuela. Federal laws also prevent us from exploiting one trillion barrels of shale oil in Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah - an amazing amount that is three times what Saudi Arabia has in reserve.

In May, I joined 18 other Senate Republicans to introduce the American Energy Production Act of 2008. Our bill will remove unnecessary government barriers to domestic energy production and allow us to tap our vast resources with environmental safeguards.

This should be bolstered with

an energy portfolio that includes renewable and alternative sources like solar, wind, and nuclear power.

My Democratic colleagues have a starkly different approach to the energy crisis - it is one that creates no new energy. Their answer is to tax energy production. In 1980, Congress passed a "windfall profits tax," and the consequences were devastating. In the six years following that levy, domestic oil production dropped by 1.26 billion barrels and imports of foreign oil rose 13 percent. The disastrous tax was repealed in 1986. Rather than learn from that mistake, some in Congress would impose the same ineffective tax on the oil industry.

Their proposal also seeks to blame "price gouging" for soaring energy prices. The Federal Trade Commission has been vigilant in its investigation of pricing practices in the oil industry. It has consistently found no evidence of market or price manipulation, and instead points to global supply and demand as a leading factor in the price of gasoline. In fact, as of January, the average tax on each gallon of gasoline was 47 cents, while the oil and gas industry has testified that it earns only four cents per dollar of gasoline sales.

The Democrats' plan would also repeal incentives for expanded refinery investment. By increasing taxes and reducing the incentives to refine oil into usable gasoline, we will end up with a smaller supply of domestic energy, which in turn fuels price increases, perpetuates our present crisis and keeps us at the mercy of OPEC.

Energy companies would be hit with new taxes on foreign earnings, potentially exposing producers to double taxation and hindering their ability to compete for oil and natural gas reserves on the global market.

This year, we will spend about \$500 billion to import oil. All of those dollars should stay here in America, instead of being sent to foreign regimes that may be hostile to our interests. We need energy for

Americans by Americans, and we need it now. Instead of searching for scapegoats, we should be searching for additional energy resources to be part of a bold, comprehensive plan for America's energy security in the 21st century.

Kay Bailey Hutchison is the senior U.S. Senator from Texas and is the Chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee

## Citing Public Recommendation, Project Would Follow Existing Roads

AUSTIN \* The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) announced today that it will recommend that the I-69/Trans-Texas Corridor (TTC) Project be developed using existing highway facilities wherever possible. If additional travel lanes are added to existing highways, only the new lanes would have tolls.

"After a dozen town hall meetings, nearly 50 public hearings, and countless one-on-one conversations, it is clear to us that Texans want us to use existing roadways to start building the Texas portion of Interstate 69," said Texas Transportation Commissioner Ted Houghton.

"TxDOT's recommendation would effectively shrink our environmental study down to roads such as U.S. Highways 77 and 281 in South Texas, State Highway 44 and U.S. Highway 59 along the Coastal Bend and U.S. Highways 84 and 59 in East Texas. We are dropping consideration of new corridors that would run west of Houston in addition to other proposals for new highway footprint in other parts of the state."

TxDOT Executive Director Amadeo Saenz, in a letter to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), wrote "The preliminary basis for this decision centers on the review of nearly 28,000 public comments made on the Tier One DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement). The overwhelming sentiment of these comments focused on the need to improve the existing transportation network rather than building a new corridor for the project."

TxDOT's stated intention has been to focus on making needed improvements to existing and planned transportation facilities within the I-69/TTC study area. Such upgrades may fully satisfy the project's need to improve the international, interstate, and intrastate movement of people and goods for many decades.

In May, the Texas Transportation Commission adopted guiding principles and policies that will govern the development, construction and operation of toll road projects on the state highway system and the Trans-Texas Corridor. In addition to reaffirming that only new lanes added to an existing highway will be tolled and that there will be no reduction in the number of non-tolled lanes, the Commission stated that wherever possible, existing right-of-way would be considered for the development of new projects.

"The Commission made it clear that they wanted their newly-adopted principles applied to the development of important projects like I-69 and a parallel corridor to I-35," said Saenz. "We are closer than ever to realizing the promise and the potential of I-69, and

we will move forward with this important Transportation Commission policy in the front of our minds."

Saenz said that TxDOT would continue to talk to the public about I-69/TTC, and he encouraged Texans to ask questions and share their ideas at the department's "Keep Texas Moving" website (www.keeptexasmoving.com). He noted that the recently-named I-69 Corridor Advisory Committee will help guide TxDOT's work on the project. Saenz said he looked forward to the appointment of Segment Advisory Committees comprised of local leaders who will help further develop I-69/TTC.

"We also want to keep working with our Congressional delegation and the Texas Legislature," added Transportation Commissioner Houghton. "Legislative leadership, public involvement and local commitment will all be essential if we are going build this long-awaited highway."

TxDOT is preparing its report for FHWA following completion of the public involvement process for the environmental review of I-69/TTC. If today's recommendation is approved by FHWA, plans for a separate new corridor would be dropped from future environmental reviews, and the existing infrastructure would serve as the study area for future environmental review.

TxDOT is expected to submit its Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for public review prior to federal approval late in 2008 or early in 2009. FHWA approval of the FEIS does not authorize property acquisition or construction.

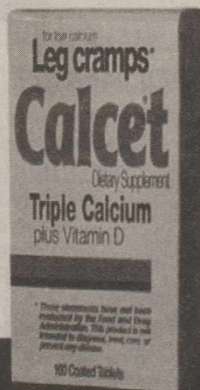
In the future, the northern and southern portions of I-69/TTC could be linked in the Houston area. Houston's connection to I-69/TTC, including access to the Port of Houston, will be determined in coordination with elected leaders and transportation planners in the area.

A copy of Saenz's letter to FHWA and a new map reflecting TxDOT's recommendation are available on the internet at www.keeptexasmoving.com. The Texas Department of Transportation

The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining nearly 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, rail and public transportation across the state. TxDOT and its 15,000 employees strive to empower local leaders to solve local transportation problems; and to use new financial tools, including tolling and public-private partnerships, to reduce congestion and pave the way for future economic growth while enhancing safety, improving air quality and increasing the value of the state's transportation assets.

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## Pease River Productions Presents The Goodlett Gospel Jamboree

Pease River Productions is proud to spotlight our area's talent at the Goodlett Gospel Jamboree, June 21, 2008 at 7 PM.

To lead off the nights performance will be "Just the Gospel" with Marion Payne, Don Barnes, and Rob Roberts from Quanah; Fred Glover from Crowell, and J. Martinez from Vernon bringing you the best in Country Gospel Music. Marion Payne's talent with making and playing his own musical instruments is phenomenal.

Fred also plays with The National Swing Band of Texas and is a multi-talented musician, bass, lead guitar, fiddle - he can make them all talk.

Don Barnes is undoubtedly one of the most talented Gospel singers you will ever hear, and can pick a mean guitar. Rob and Martinez have worked with youth groups for many years and have a real heart for the Gospel.

"Spirit Wind" with Monte Lumpkin, Beth Smith, Regina Harris, Mark Sanger, and James Harris will delight you with a range of Christian Gospel from old time sacred hymns to the newest in contemporary Christian music.

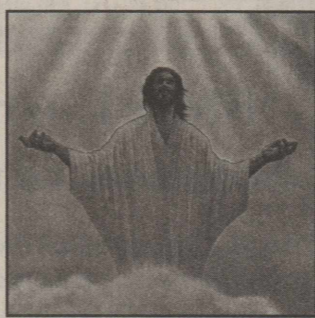
They will make your heart sing. Beth, Regina, and Mark provide the vocals while Monte both sings and plays guitar. If you haven't heard James Harris at the keyboard, get ready to be amazed at this talented young man.

And if we're real good, there may be a delightful surprise performance by a wonderful group of youngsters.

Come on out to the Goodlett Gospel Jamboree June 21 for an inspiring evening of Christian music.

Pease River Playhouse is located in Goodlett, Texas off of Hwy 287 between Quanah and Childress, Texas

## God's Promises



By Jim Reid, Pastor  
O'Brien Baptist Church

Most of us are motivated, in fact driven toward success. Virtually every one wants to get ahead. So, how do we do it? When will our financial position change? Will a promotion be enough, or will just a good raise be effective? What are the answers to peace with our finances?

I want to ask you to read the following scriptures. Now I don't want you to quickly read it or throw this article down. What I'm asking you to do is to meditate upon God's Word and listen to Him speak to your heart!

7 "From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept them.

Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of hosts. "But you say, 'How shall we return?'

8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.

9 "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you!

10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.

11 "Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the LORD of hosts.

12 "All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land," says the LORD of hosts.

Could it be possible that Holy God who is sovereign and created all things that exist could and would "open for you the windows of Heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows?"

Ask your Christian friends if these scriptures are true and know that God speaks absolute truth!

Find peace, all peace, His peace by coming to God. We are praying for you to have His peace.

## OBITUARIES

### Trevor Austin Tears

Trevor Austin Tears, age 5, of Knox City, nestled into a peaceful rest on Sunday June 15, 2008.

Visitation will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday June 20 at Smith Funeral Home in Knox City, Texas.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday June 21, 2008 at the Abundant Life Church in Knox City with burial immediately following in the Knox City Cemetery.

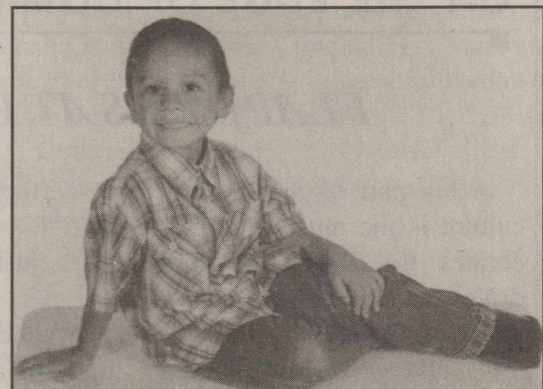
Trevor was born on February 25, 2003 in Abilene, Texas to Tanya Tears and Gilbert Flores. He was raised by his maternal grandparents Allen (Papa) and Janice (Nana) Rhodes of Knox City. Trevor attended Head Start and graduated from Pre-K at Knox City Elementary. He was active in Wild Horse & Burro Shows, Little League and Little Dribblers.

Trevor was preceded in death by his cousins Kaitlyn and Natalie Rhodes and Castilina Norton; Great-Grandparents Glenwood & Ethel Laursen; Great-Uncle Gordon Laursen; Great-Grandpapa Samuel Rhodes Jr.; Great-Uncle Andy Rhodes; Great-Great-Aunt Irene Pierce; Great-Great-Uncle Carl Pierce; and Great-Grandpa Ralph Tears.

Survivors include older brothers Isaac Flores and J.C. Espinal Jr. of Knox City; Papa and Nana; mother of Munday; father of Goree; Great-Grandmother Ruth Rhodes of Ft. Worth, Texas; Uncle Tim & Aunt April (Abu) Watson of Vera; Uncle Melvin & Aunt Traci Rhodes of Independent, Missouri; Uncle Mark & Aunt Leslie Smith of the Country of Turkey; Uncle Rodney & Aunt Wendy Rhodes of San Angelo, Texas; Nana Pat Ivie of Bridgeport, Texas; several Uncles, Aunts and Cousins.

Trevor enjoyed life. He began his day with whaling, "Good morning, good morning, good morningggg!" throughout the house. Trevor was 100% BOY through and through. Whether he was climbing, running or jumping on the Rampoline (trampoline) there was never a dull moment. Though rambunctious and unpredictable Trevor spent his time wisely. He graced our lives with a multitude of memories. Trevor will be missed greatly by his family and friends. Pallbearers include: Cousins Derrick and Donnie Northrup of Vera; Robert Norton of Knox City, and Fred Ledesma of Knox City. Honorable pallbearers are Trevor's Classmates

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made at the Citizen's Bank in Knox City, Texas. A memorial for account Treavor has is at Citizen's bank in the name of Tim Watson.



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## Benjamin "Badlands" Parade A Blast

The Benjamin Homecoming Parade proved to be quite a show. This is not a surprise for those who have attended the previous year's Homecoming ritual.

The appropriate theme for this year was "The Badlands" and there were plenty of Badland participants.

Randolph Barnett was this year's "Badlands King" and Peggy Atkinson Shropshire was crowned his "Badlands Queen."

The award for Best Horseman went to Kylie Tolson.

The Best Overall Float went to the Benjamin Mustang Cheerleaders and Football team with their proud display of purple and gold colors.

Best Horse Drawn Float was awarded to Redford Ranch.

The Best Motorized Vehicle was brought in by Chance Propps and Jessica Moorhouse entitled "Badlands or Bust."

And last but not least, Ashley and Tony Barson pulled in the Best Individual Entry with their float, "Farmin' the Badlands."

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## "The 501"

By Hanaba Munn Welch

Read the covers. Do not buy.

That's my rule for dealing the magazines that bombard me at the grocery store check-out. Bombard? That's right. All those slick covers with their slick solutions to life's challenges bombard my senses. It's a battle.

Sometimes I break my own rule and toss a magazine in with the groceries.

The purchase is easily rationalized. All the justification is right there on the cover - must-buy information like "107 ways to ease up, slow down, and have the most blissful summer ever!" plus an "INSTANT OUTDOOR ROOM" described as "Your own dreamy haven in only an hour."

An outdoor room. Hmmm. That thought intrigued me. Maybe it's because I like screen porches and sleeping on the roof.

But who can build a room in an hour? Not even an HGTV carpenter works that fast. And how could it be outdoors and still be a room?

Too many questions to mull over in the checkout line. For the price of the magazine, I'd have all the answers.

The price? If they'd wanted me to know, they would have printed it bigger. Like a yacht, if you have to ask, you can't afford it. I bought the magazine anyway.

Once home, I began searching for the "instant outdoor room," looking first in the table of contents. Mistake. Checkout line magazines don't make it easy to find anything that way. Otherwise, someone caught in

line might have time to check the cover blurbs against the contents, find the articles and, duly disappointed, decide against the purchase.

So I leaned on the kitchen counter and methodically started turning pages, front to back. On page 92, there it was - not a room but a three-sided tent. Described as a \$499 ten-foot-square polyester canopy, the outdoor room was simply No. 59 in a list of 72 things to do or buy to simplify summer living. Whatever happened to 107 - the number on the cover? Like I said, the organizational goal is to confuse the reader.

By the way, tip No. 58 suggests that anyone who wants to erect an outdoor room should first find a level spot. Good advice.

Five subsequent tips suggest how to furnish and decorate the fabric cabana with things like wall art, a sofa, battery-powered candles in wooden birdcages and a rug for the floor - nice touches for a backyard retreat and all for a total of just about \$4,000, tent included.

Nice, but would it work in hot and windy West Texas? Better to string up a tarp and hang a lantern in the middle.

Or, if you want flair, suspend some naked rusty bedsprings between two trees and lace them with twinkle lights. A friend of mine did. When the wind toppled both trees last week, she didn't lose much.

Is there room on the racks for one more trendy magazine? I can see the cover blurb already:

Save \$4,000 on a backyard retreat built to catch the Texas breeze.

Yep, I'd have to buy that one.

### "Singles and Single Again" Helping Some Find "Comfort Zone"

By AMY STRICKLAND

Several people around town may have seen the bright neon signs posted in various parts of Knox County: "Singles and Single Again."

Exa Lee Martinez and Buddy Norville, both of Munday, began the group. They held their first meeting on January 8 of this year and have been meeting once a month every since.

"More than once I found myself not going to a certain group function or activity because I felt like a fifth-wheel because I wasn't a couple," Exa Lee said.

Not any more. She states that these group meetings give singles a place to meet where they all have something in common. She says that here, singles have a "comfort zone."

Each newcomer is given a questionnaire, this is not an application. Once completed, it is turned back in and the group tries to arrange activities that best suit the group as a whole. Card games, board games, dice games or just sit and visit. The group has even had computer classes for those who were interested.

The meeting spots vary each month as to where the group will congregate, but it is always in Knox County. The purpose of this is to expose each participant to several different people to allow the development of more friendships and fellowship. Exa-Lee states she has about 13-15 "core members", (ones that attend each town's meeting) and the meeting usually last 2-3 hours but people are free to leave at their leisure.

In the near future, the group will have line dance classes, guest speakers, attending out-of-town events and a grief support group coming in the Fall.

## The Paperboy

By CHRISTOPHER BLACKBURN

Despite fast-food, bad driving, drugs, disease, alcohol, cigarettes, war, famine, etc., the U.S. life expectancy at birth hit a record high in 2006 of 78.1 years - a four month increase from 2005, according to government officials.

Good news for women ... you're out-living us. White and black females are living 81 years and 76.9 years, respectively while white and black males are living 76 years and 70 years respectively, according to figures released from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics.

The preliminary number of deaths in the United States in 2006 was 2,425,900, a 22,117 decrease from 2005. In 2006, we lost an average of 6,646 people per day - way more than the total number of U.S. deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan since the start of the war.

According to officials, the 2006 decline is likely the result of more mild influenza mortality in 2006 compared with 2005.

I guess that means deaths have been on the upswing the past couple of years? I guess we won't know for a couple of years sine it takes that long to get these figures complete.

Anyhow, I'm glad to be

among the living and wonder how long I can expect to live.

If you are an older gentleman, you need a regular sleep routine, according to the experts.

A poor routine leads to increased mortality rates among older men, University of Minnesota researchers have determined.

Misti Paudel, of the University of Minnesota, had a group of about 3,000 men age 67 and older tested for rest and activity biological rhythms via a wrist device called an actigraph.

The device tracked the men's movement, including the peak times of rest and activity, as well as the robustness of the activity, for 24 hours a day for an average of about a week between December 2003 and March 2005.

As of January 2008, there were 180 deaths in the group, and men who had peak activity times that were the earliest or latest had a much greater risk of death.

My schedule for the majority of the past three years has been crazy. I know for a fact I would benefit from a more steady routine which I'm trying to do. It's my own fault I have to work long hours, but I also have the remedy.

## Letter To The Editor

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am truly excited about bringing together friends and rural community partners for our First Ever Real Rural Tourism Symposium and sincerely hope you can join us, June 26th, 27th & 28th. Why a Symposium and why claim it is the First Ever Real Rural one? The Knox County visioning Team members recognized that tourism is vital to our rural economy. We've all seen innovative rural communities successfully ignite a rural renaissance with tourism. For them showcasing nature, culture, history, agriculture or Mayberry, has sparked new enthusiasm, created a new image and jump started their goal of preserving a much loved place for another generation. What we've also seen, sadly, is other rural communities, even those that appear to have a better location, prettier scenery, and more interesting stories to tell, continue to flounder, leaving folks totally frustrated. The money and energy they've invested in developing tourism doesn't seem to pay off and the town's more depressed than ever. Don't you wonder why? What determines the difference? We did!

We've developed this symposium format to address those questions. We believe traveling together to real rural locations, some thriving, some diamonds in the rough, with our speakers and assessment team will spark that genuine sharing of ideas and experiences in a relaxed atmosphere that defines a "symposium", so we can ask and answer each others questions. We also wanted to emphasize the need to address tourism in our rural locations on a holistic basis, not agri-tourism, nature tourism, historic tourism or cultural tourism but the whole picture, rural tourism.

Our speakers will all be real rural folks, with a real successful tourism business or community event in a really rural location. In most cases they will not only tell their story but address the challenges they discovered, their experiences good and bad, that will affect the developing location we are visiting. By Saturday, we'll know how they really did it, what worked and what went wrong, where they found resources and who really came through with support, and how they sustain and market long term. And, what's the payoff, for real, in their rural community? Is it really worth it?

The schedule and registration information are in the attachment I'm sending you. You'll see the real added benefit right away, We are going to have a great time! Please call me if you have any questions. I look forward to seeing you then!

Sincerely,  
Remelle Farrar

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Find out! What's going on, in real rural communities in the tourism business.  
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Enjoy! It's your chance to be treated like company, see who and what's already bringing tourists to Knox County.  
Get involved! Help develop Knox County's plan for the future.

Check out [www.thescoopofknoxprairie.blogspot.com/](http://www.thescoopofknoxprairie.blogspot.com/) or call Remelle Farrar @ 459-4121 for more information or to register for the Symposium. Knox County needs you!

# BENJAMIN NEWS

## Martin, Arron, Take Team Roping Title

By Gladene Green

It's been a very busy weekend. The Homecoming began Friday and continued through Sunday morning. Friday's activities began with registration at 3 pm. Visiting and snacks, compliments of the community continued throughout the evening. A roping took place at the Geddis arena Friday night and that lasted until the "storm" sirens sounded and the horsemen and spectators alike scattered. No storm but a good warning as it could have been with the tremendous lightning display folks were wise to get somewhere where they would be safe should they need shelter.

Saturday morning early began a full day of events. The breakfast on the porch at the Museum was wonderful. Good breakfast "eats", coffee and baked goods available for purchase. (Something to feed our hungry guests) Lots of folks were there enjoying visiting, eating and touring the museum.

Other events during the day were the parade at 10, business meeting at 3, a rodeo at the arena at 6 and a dance at 9. There was something all day and if anyone attended it all they were tired at the end of the day. The weekend concluded Sunday morning with a community Church service at the Baptist Church. Folks from each Church in town had a part on the program.

Rev. Troy Culpepper brought a wonderful Homecoming message after a while many said their good-byes and departed for home saying if God's willing, they plan to be back in 2010.

Many out of town visitors failed to register but many did. Following is listing of those who did register.

Several states were represented. (There are some I do not have the present place of residence.) Attending were Lynn and Patsy Nolan Stephens, Roswell, N.M.

Homer Stephens of Cheyenne, Wyoming

Gloria Stephens Price, Cathy Clowen Tomlison of Denton, Peggy Atkinson Shroshire-New Deal, Kenneth and Ila Mae Benson- Wichita Falls, Billy Ray Golden- Megargel, Wanda Benson Jennings of Wichita Falls, Mike and Brenda Driver of Albuquerque, NM

Patsy Bateman of Denton, Jerry Benson of Munday, Billy and Penny Trainham of Lubbock, Jarrel and Darlene Barnett of Baytown, Calvin Brown of Kingsland, Lucille McCanlis, Jimmy Golden, James Yarbrough and Eddie Yarbrough all from St. Paul MN., Nolan Parker of Stanton, Bennie and Barbara Norris Hogard of Andrews, Jerry and Jackie Snailum of Plano, Judy and Burt Leaverton of Knox City, Jerry and Cindy Leaverton of Henrietta, Betty Jo Barnett Riggs of Elk City, OK, Patricia Barnett Culver of Paris, TX, Dorothy Crenshaw Johnson of Canyon, Bill and Karen Crenshaw of Canyon, Buddy and Ruth Crenshaw of El Paso, Steven Bisbie of Cresson, Billy Bumpass of Arlington, David and Dolores Dikes of Fort Worth, Walter and Rachel Taylor of Vernon, Fred Louis (Screwdriver) Crenshaw of Abilene, Curtis Brown of Wichita Falls

Charles Jennings, Claude and Jennings of Weatherford, Brenda Conner Kemp of

Houston, Glenda Conner Ainsworth of Mississippi, Ance Redder of Decatur, Troy and LeAnn Golden of Goree, Craig and Bonnie Bohannon Howell of Nebraska, Jimmu and Helen Coppedge Green of Guthrie, Tommy Benson of Abilene, Peggy Jennings Sandlin of Paducah, Betty Clower Parker of Aspermont, Jack and Katy Ressel New of Liberty Hill, Beulah Golden, Homer and Jan Barton Rolston of Knox City, Shelia Jones DeLos Santos of Vernon, David and Wendy Jones of Bridgeport, Gary Coppedge of Stamford,

James Coppedge of College Station, Walter and Peggy Trainham Hertel of Munday

Mike and Gene Howse of Mansfield, Phil Boone of Abilene, The Homecoming King and Queen were Randolph Barnett and Peggy Atkinson Shropshire. And the earliest graduates atte

nding were Jamie Jackson Williams and La Moyne Patterson. They acted as Grand Marshals of the Badlands Parade. A good weekend for everyone and we hope plans are already being made to be back in years.

### Ungersgoes Surgery

Lorene Powers underwent heart surgery Thursday in Houston. She had an aneurysm on the aorta and Drs. Say the surgery was successful and after several days in the hospital she should be released and well on her way back to normal health. We thank God for that is wonderful news.

### New Arrival

Alexander and Even Miller was born May 8, 2008 in the Seymour Hospital. He weighed 8lbs and 12oz and 21 inches long. His parents are Terri Miller and Jose Pubido. He has lots of maternal grandparents who, no doubt will do their part in helping to spoil him. Grandparents are Kim and Brandon Gray of Benjamin and Donald Lee and Carla Miller of Guthrie. Great grandparents are Freddie and Lahay Cash and Donald and Kay Miller of Guthrie and great-great grandparents are Jim and Edith Cash of Crowell and La Moyne Patterson of Benjamin and several aunts, uncles and cousins including Mackinze Gray who is already advising on how to "rear him"!

Edith Cash of Crowell and La Moyne Patterson of Benjamin and several aunts, uncles and cousins including Mackinze Gray who is already advising on how to "rear him"!

### HERE 'N THERE

Jim and Bob Conner, Madelyn and Charlie of Slaton and Cheyenne and Caden Conner of Lubbock were here for the weekend for Homecoming and to visit Judy and Randolph Barnett.

Randi and Dillion Keys of Childress are here for a couple of days to visit grandparents, Mike and Debbie Moorhouse. Their parents are busy cleaning up after the storm windows, part of their roof and then siding on the house was damaged. Daughter Diane Evans and family had a good bit of damage too. But theirs was minimal compared to many and they feel very fortunate just to have a lot of cleaning up to get done.

Father's Day weekend guests of Mike and Debbie were daughters, Jessica of Tarlton State, Lynn and Michael Rogers of Snyder and Liz Nuthan and Taylor Herring of Munday.

Chance Propps of U.T. was here for Homecoming and to visit parents, James and Stasia.

Maggie Seidenherger of Tech attended the Homecoming events and visited parents, Wyman and Sylinda Meinzer.

Weldon Gideon was taken by ambulance to the Knox Co. Hospital Monday night. He was unresponsive and having other problems.

No word on his condition after he got to the hospital.

Carson Hudgens and his "rodeo team" won it all at the Haskell Rodeo.

Carson, of course, was in the Jr. events. The team was awarded medals and will be going to the World Finals in Amarillo in November. We congratulate Carson and his crew.

Weekend visitors in the home of Chance and Mindy Hudgens and family was his brother, Paul Shackelford of Graham.

Brett Bumpass who lives in Oregon joined his class of 1968 for a 40th reunion and to enjoy all the Homecoming events.

## ASPERMONT SMALL BUSINESS

### DO YOU NEED HELP....

**Paying a utility bill?  
Getting eyeglasses or dental work?  
Buying school clothes/supplies for your children?  
Paying an eviction or disconnection notice?  
Setting goals to achieve energy self-sufficiency or overcome poverty?  
Because you are elderly or disabled, trying to live on a fixed income?  
If you answered YES to any of the above questions and live in Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Stonewall or Throckmorton counties, you may be eligible for assistance from the Aspermont Small Business Development Center, Inc. The Community services Block Grant (CSBG) funds are used by ASBDC, Inc. to provide services to low-income households. There is an application process to determine eligibility for assistance, so call ASBDC, Inc. for more information.**

(940) 989-3538 or (800) 722-0137

## ASPERMONT SMALL BUSINESS

### NECESITA AYUDA....

**Pagando una cuenta de utilidades?  
Obteniendo anteojos o ayuda con los dientes?  
Comprando ropa escolar o necesidades para sus hijos?  
Pagando una noticia de expulsión o desconector?  
Determinando metas a realizar autosuficiencia de energía o triunfar pobreza?  
Esta Viejo o tiene inhabilitación, probando a vivir en unos ingresos fijados?  
Si contesta si a uno de las preguntas y vive en los condados de Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Stonewall o Throckmorton, es possible usted puede elegible para ayuda del Aspermont Small Business Development Center, Inc. El Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) y los fondos del Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CHEAP) estan usado por ASBDC, INC. para suministrar servicios a las familias con ingresos bajos. Hay un proceso de application a determinar elegibilidad para ayuda. Llame usted ASBDC, INC. para mas informacion o si tiene preguntas.**

(940) 989-3538 or (800) 722-0137

## Celebrate Juneteenth Today!

## 2007 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

(Consumer Confidence Report)

CITY OF KNOX CITY

Phone Number: 940-658-3313

**Special Notice for the ELDERLY, INFANTS, CANCER PATIENTS, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune problems.**

Some people, such as those vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population, require compromised persons such as persons with severely weakened immune systems, persons who have undergone recent organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants, are particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The EPA's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, guidelines on appropriate means to less a risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

**Public Participation Opportunities**

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each Month  
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Location: 902 F. Mann - City Hall  
Phone Number: 940-658-3313

To learn about future public meetings concerning our drinking water, or to request to schedule one, please call us.

**Where do we get our drinking water?**  
Our drinking water is obtained from the SURFACE water sources. It comes from the following: Lake of the Reservoir/Quilley, MILLERS CREEK RESERVOIR, A Source Water Suspendibility Assessment for your drinking water sources is currently being updated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and will be provided to us this year. The report will describe the susceptibility and types of contaminants that may come into contact with your drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions. The information contained in the assessment will allow us and the systems from which we receive water to focus on source water protection strategies. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, please contact us.

**ALL drinking water may contain contaminants.**  
When drinking water meets federal standards there may not be any health based benefits to purchasing bottled water or point of use devices. Drinking water, including bottled water, may occasionally be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of some contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

**Secondary Contaminants**  
Many contaminants (such as calcium, sodium, or iron) which are often found in drinking water, can cause taste, color, and odor problems. These and other contaminants are called secondary contaminants and are regulated by the State of Texas, not the EPA. These constituents are not a concern for health reasons. Therefore, secondary contaminants are not required to be reported in this document but they may affect the appearance and taste of your water.

**Definitions**  
**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest permissible level of a contaminant in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLs as is feasible using the best available treatment technology.  
**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.  
**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. This is a concentration of disinfectant that is necessary to control microbial contaminants.  
**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the toxicity of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.  
**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.  
**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other responses which are water system responsibilities.

**ABBREVIATIONS**  
NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Units  
MFL - million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)  
pCBL - picograms per liter (a measure of radionuclides)  
ppm - parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)  
ppb - parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)  
ppt - parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)  
ppq - parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter (pg/L)

Table 1: Contaminants in Drinking Water

Contaminant	Amount	Health Effect	Unit of Measure
Chloride	0.78	None	mg/L
Fluoride	0.13	None	mg/L
Lead	0.02	None	ppb
Copper	0.02	None	ppb
Iron	0.08	None	ppm
Manganese	0.01	None	ppm
Nitrate	1.5	None	ppm
Nitrite	0.001	None	ppm
Sulfate	10	None	mg/L
Total Dissolved Solids	100	None	mg/L
Total Hardness	100	None	mg/L
Total Suspended Solids	10	None	mg/L
Turbidity	0.5	None	NTU

Table 2: Disinfection Byproducts

Disinfection Byproduct	Amount	Health Effect	Unit of Measure
Trihalomethanes	0.02	None	mg/L
Halooxymethanes	0.02	None	mg/L
Trihalomethanes	0.02	None	mg/L

Table 3: Contaminants in Drinking Water

Contaminant	Amount	Health Effect	Unit of Measure
Asbestos	0.001	None	mg/L
Barium	1	None	mg/L
Beryllium	0.001	None	mg/L
Cadmium	0.01	None	mg/L
Chromium	0.1	None	mg/L
Copper	1.3	None	mg/L
Lead	1.5	None	mg/L
Nickel	0.07	None	mg/L
Selenium	0.07	None	mg/L
Silver	0.1	None	mg/L
Sulfate	250	None	mg/L
Total Dissolved Solids	500	None	mg/L
Total Hardness	500	None	mg/L
Total Suspended Solids	50	None	mg/L
Turbidity	5	None	NTU



# Brady Center To Prevent Gun Violence

Washington, D.C. — Georgia, Florida and Texas are the top suppliers of crime guns to other states, according to crime gun trace data recently released by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF) and analyzed by the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

Illegal guns generally flow from states with weak gun laws to states with stronger gun laws. In states with strong gun laws, criminals find it more difficult to obtain guns from local sources and frequently must obtain guns from traffickers supplied by out-of-state gun dealers. This fuels the "iron pipeline" described in past Federal law enforcement reports.

Georgia ranked number one in the nation in the total number of crime guns traced to Georgia gun dealers and recovered in other states in 2007, with 2,631 crime guns traced to Georgia and recovered outside the state last year. Florida ranked number two in 2007, with 2,328 crime guns traced to Florida dealers and recovered in crime in other states. Texas ranked number three, with 2,281 crime guns traced to Texas dealers and recovered in crime in other states.

According to the ATF data, these three states alone accounted for one-fifth of all crime guns trafficked across state lines and recovered and traced by law enforcement in 2007. Additionally, the number

of illegal firearms originating from these states is likely much higher, as these numbers represent only firearms recovered by law enforcement and successfully traced to a retail gun dealer. Crime gun traces generally cannot be completed if gun dealers fail to properly maintain firearm sales information or if firearm serial numbers are destroyed.

Gun dealers in Georgia, Florida and Texas were also major suppliers of the illegal gun market within each state. Texas gun dealers supplied more than 80% of illegal firearms traced and recovered in Texas in 2007. Florida gun dealers supplied 78% of illegal firearms traced and recovered in Florida in 2007. Georgia gun dealers supplied more than 75% of illegal firearms traced and recovered in Georgia in 2007.

States with strong gun laws generally supply fewer illegal guns to the criminal market while receiving more of their crime guns from states with weak gun laws. In 2007, ATF reported only 35 firearms recovered in crime outside New Jersey and traced to a New Jersey gun dealer. At the same time, 72% of crime guns recovered and traced in New Jersey in 2007 originated from gun dealers outside the state.

Also in 2007, ATF reported only 12 firearms recovered in crime outside Rhode Island and traced to a Rhode Island gun dealer. Nearly half of the crime guns traced and recovered in Rhode Island last year originated from gun dealers outside the state. ATF also reported no firearms originating from Hawaii and recovered in crime in other states in 2007. At the same time, 55% of crime guns recovered in Hawaii in 2007 were traced to gun dealers outside the state.

"Communities around the nation are paying a price for weak gun laws

in a few states that fuel interstate gun trafficking," said Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence President Paul Helmke. "These data patterns show why we need to pass common sense gun measures that make it harder for dangerous people to access dangerous weapons."

Crime guns and gun deaths by the numbers

Rank of states with most and least crime guns traced to in-state gun dealers and recovered in other states, and total number of crime guns traced to in-state gun dealers and recovered in other states, in 2007:

- Georgia - #1 - 2,631 crime guns
  - Florida - #2 - 2,328 crime guns
  - Texas - #3 - 2,281 crime guns
  - New Jersey - #48 - 35 crime guns
  - Rhode Island - #49 - 12 crime guns
  - Hawaii - #50 - 0 crime guns
- Percent of 2007 crime guns recovered in-state sold by in-state gun dealers:
- Georgia - 75.8%
  - Florida - 78.2%
  - Texas - 80.7%
- Percent of 2007 crime guns recovered in-state sold by out-of-state gun dealers:
- New Jersey - 72.1%
  - Rhode Island - 46.1%
  - Hawaii - 54.7%
- Gun death rate, per 100,000 population:
- Georgia - 11.7 gun deaths
  - Florida - 10.3 gun deaths
  - Texas - 10.9 gun deaths
  - New Jersey - 5.0 gun deaths
  - Rhode Island - 3.6 gun deaths
  - Hawaii - 2.2 gun deaths

ATF officials released a broad general set of crime gun trace data on the agency's website on May 9. That data is available at [www.atf.gov/firearms/trace\\_data/index2007.htm](http://www.atf.gov/firearms/trace_data/index2007.htm).

The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence is a national non-profit organization working to reduce gun violence in America through education, research and legal advocacy. Through its Legal Action Project, the Brady Center provides pro bono legal assistance to gun violence victims and public entities seeking to establish legal principles that will reduce gun violence. The Brady Center complements the legislative and grassroots mobilization efforts of its sister organization, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence with its dedicated network of Million Mom March Chapters, including chapters in Georgia, Florida, Texas, Hawaii,

# Energy Column

By Alex Mills

As crude oil and gasoline were reaching record highs recently, the U.S. Congress tried to pass several bills that would have severely damaged the domestic oil and gas industry. The bills would have raised energy prices, producers of crude oil and gasoline would have faced new regulations and taxes, and the implementation of a windfall profits tax.

The cap-and-trade bill would have created a monstrous bureaucracy - approximately 40 new agencies created to monitor the new programs - to redistribute some \$6.7 trillion in new tax revenues and carbon welfare handouts until 2050. Companies that exceeded the allowed carbon dioxide emissions would have to purchase emission allowances at an auction conducted by the federal government. The money collected would be redistributed by the federal government to those in need.

The bill would have punished "polluters", primarily producers of fossil fuels (crude oil, natural gas and coal), and made it more expensive for them to do business in the U.S. Obviously, the price of gasoline and other petroleum products would have increased, because gasoline would be in short supplies.

Even the reduced emission goal of 60% less carbon dioxide in 2050 than in 2010, had most experts scratching their heads about the last of technological advancements in place to reach those lofty goals. Projections had this drastic reduction similar to the emissions of 1910 when the U.S. had a population of about 100 million people compared to 400 million today and the economy was much smaller.

One of the goals of the legislation was to create a "free market" for the trading of carbon dioxide emission allowances. However, the "free market" concept blew up on the Senate floor as Senator after Senator criticized the bill for setting the price of the emission allowance and even setting the amount of emission allowance that would be available.

The bill garnered so much criticism that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nv) decided to not even call for a vote after nearly a full week of debate.

The other bill would have resurrected the windfall profits tax on the five largest oil companies. The bill was similar to the one passed in the 1980s that was a miserable failure, because it contributed to the decline in U.S. oil production and collected only a fraction of the taxes expected due to declining oil prices.

While the Congress was trying to punish the oil and gas industry, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and environmental groups were doing their part to restrict gasoline supplies further.

ConocoPhillips and EnCana Corp. had received a permit from the Illinois EPA to expand the capacity of a refinery in Roxana, Ill. that would enable the refinery to increase the volume of Canadian heavy crude it could refine.

The Sierra Club and the American Bottom Conservancy, both environmental groups, petitioned the EPA Environment Appeals Board in Washington to stop the project. The EPA Board agreed to do so even though the new refinery would use the latest state-of-the-art technology. ConocoPhillips said the sulfur dioxide emissions would be reduced 95% and nitrogen oxides slashed 25% once installed.

The upgrade would have taken the capacity from 60,000 barrels a day to more than 500,000 barrels per day by 2015.

Let's see; industry wants to provide consumers with another 400,000 barrels of refined product and cut emissions, but environmental groups protest and delay the project. The oil companies shouldn't be blamed for rising prices. It's the environmental groups that protest and restrict production that cause supply shortages.

Consumers must realize that oil companies want to produce and sell as much as they can. Environmental groups, however, use the courts, the Congress, and the regulatory agencies to stall and delay and prevent the expansion of petroleum products.

**If you would like to be a sponsor for the Church Directory please give us a call at 657-3142!**

## Aging Center Lunch Menu

June 23rd to June 27th

**Monday, June 23rd** - Salisbury Steak, Buttered Rice, Stir Fry Vegetables, Sliced Bread, Peanut Butter Rice Kripes Bars  
**Tuesday, June 24th** - Chicken Fritters On A Bun, Lettuce, Tomato, Pickles, Potato Chips, Cookies

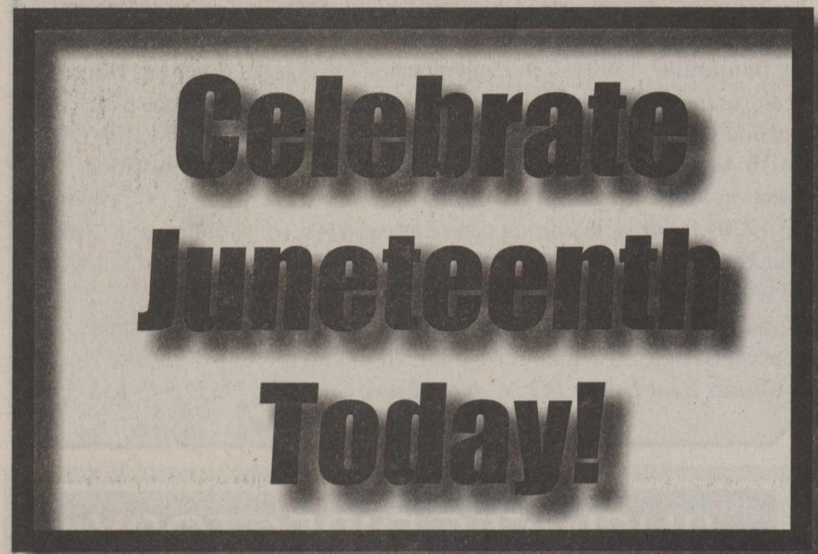
**Wednesday, June 25th** - Chicken Strips/Gravy, Buttered Potatoes, Layered Salad, Biscuit, Pudding

**Thursday, June 26th** - German Sausage, Pinto Beans, Spinach, Cornbread, Jello / Fruit  
**Friday, June 27th** - Beef Taco / Cheese, Lettuce & Tomato, Whole Kernel Corn, Dessert

**Alternate Desserts For Diabetics**  
 Call In Orders By 10:00 A.m.  
 657-3618

Orders Can Not Be Taken After 10 Am And Need To Be Picked Up After 11 Am

Your Cooperation Is Appreciated!  
 (Menu Subject To Change)



## KNOX COUNTY MINUTES

On June 9th, 2008 a Regular Meeting of the Honorable Commissioners' Court of Knox County, Texas at the Courthouse in Benjamin, Texas was held at 1:30 pm. The Honorable Judge Travis Floyd presided.

It was unanimous to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held May 12th, 2008.

The contract with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services was approved unanimously.

The motion to change all locks on the Courthouse passed 5-0.

The Court decided to table the discussion of supporting the county Information Recourses Agency in Developing New Software Systems for the Courts until a later date.

After considering the County Cellular Telephone Policy, it was decided to cancel the county cell phone contracts and qualifiers use their own phone and they will receive a \$50.00 phone allowance per month.

No action was taken at this time to change the benefits to keep them at the same level for the Texas County & District Retirement System.

It was voted unanimously to begin taking applications for County Veterans Officer.

The motion was made to approve financials to pay the bills and passed 5-0.

### KNOX CITY BID NOTICE

CITY OF KNOX CITY will be taking Sealed Bids on the Property Located in the Original Town, Block 26, E65' of Lots 11, E 45' of W 70' of 10 & E. 50' of 11-12, N/2 of W 25' of 10. This being the old City Hall and the one story building next door. Bids will be taken until 5:00 p.m. Monday, July 7, 2008 at the City Hall, 902 E. Main. The Council reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. Bids will be opened on July 10, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the regular



## Cash management

One thing we all know about cash is that there never seems to be enough of it. That's why cash management is an important part of keeping on top of the bottom line.

In agriculture cash flow can be very seasonal. It's not like other businesses. We can help you manage your cash flow with a cash flow plan that helps you make the most of every dollar.

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TIME & TEMPERATURE ~ 422-5459



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Dr. Oz. says Goji is the best way to restores muscle strength after a workout  
 108 N. Central 657-4313  
 Call 422-5153 for appointment



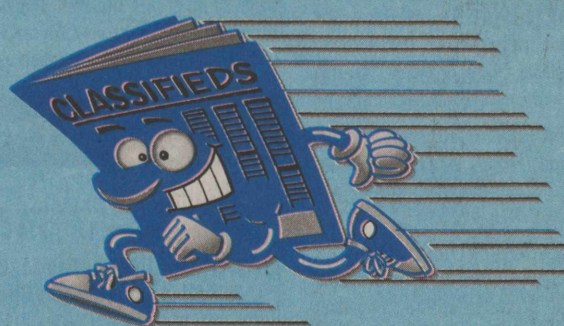
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