30% Isolated T-Storms



30% Isolated T-Storms





High/Low 98°/73°

20% Isolated T-Storms



Partly Cloudy



Partly Cloudy



Partly Cloudy



KNOX COUNTY NEWS

Proudly Serving Knox and King Counties

Volume XXXVII

Number 37

8 Pages + 1 Insert Price 75 ¢

Looking Ahead

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, July 10th. Meeting will be held at City of Knox City (City Hall) building. 902 E. Main beginning at 7p.m.

SINGLES AND SINGLES **AGAIN**

The Knox County Singles and Singles Again will have their next monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, July 11th at the Benjamin Church of Christ, Benjamin, Texas. All singles...widowed, divorced or never married...are encouraged to join us for an evening of snacks, conversation, board games and dominoes.

112TH OLD SETTLERS **RODEO AND REUNION**

Thursday, July 10th through Saturday July 12th. nightly at 7 pm at the Seymour Rodeo Grounds. Parade will be Saturday afternoon at 5 pm. Cowboy Church Sunday morning at 8 am at the rodeo grounds.

LIVING BEYOND CANCER Tuesday, July 15th. First Assembly

of God, 1502 N. Ave. E, Haskell, Texas. Support group meeting for anyone touched in anyway by Cancer. Meeting begins at 5:30 and a light meal will be served.

K.C.R.A 2ND ANNUAL RANCH RODEO AND OPEN **BRONC RIDING**

Knox City, Texas July 25th and 26th. Begins at 7pm both nights. Ranch Rodeo: \$500 per team (team of 4 or 5). Open Ranch Bronc Riding: \$100 per man. Only taking first 20 entries for rodeo and bronc riding. For more information call: Riley Carver 940-256-1866, Tony Hunter 940-256-8807 or Andy Paul Jones 940-256-1050. Come join the fun at the Watermelon Festival and

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.

JOHN WESLEY ADVENTURE

SERIES Knox City & Benjamin United Methodist Churches will be hosting the Amazing John Wesley Adventure Series on July 27-29, 2008 at the Knox City First United Methodist Church at 406 SE 2nd Street. Dr. Rev. Tom Fuller, General Evangelist for the United Methodist Church will present the series starting on Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. during the regular church service and each evening at 6:30 p.m. A meal will be provided prior to each of the evening programs. The Amazing John Wesley Adventure is a concentrated, three day presentation Dr. Fuller brings to local churches, on the life and beliefs of John Wesley. The public is invited to attend. Please call Knox City FUMC office (940)658-3517 if you plan to attend or need more information.

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Knox City, Texas

Knox County Hosts First Ever Real Rural Tourism Symposium

By Remelle Farrar

Visitors from across the state pioneered Knox County's Real Ranch Country Trail rating it as "fabulous family fun" last week during last weeks 1st Ever Real Rural Tourism Symposium.

The trail's and Knox County's first foray into regional tourism development drew participants from San Saba to Farmersville, Austin to Canadian with 66 people registered for the three day seminar and activities.

Gathering on Thursday evening for a get-acquainted tour, to find out what our neighbors are doing in Foard and Baylor Counties, served to prime the pump for Friday and Saturday's assessment and planning mis-

Thursday night explorers were treated to an outstanding example of "destination dining" with succulent steaks, and a great explanation of what and how by owners Duane and Margie, Doug and Angie Johnson at the Longhorn Steakhouse.

They also experienced an eye-opening treat at the Comanche Springs Astronomy Campus, which few in the group had even imagined in this area, and with Carolyn Henry and Stacy Henry sharing the stories of Crowell and Foard County's successful funding and renovation of a beautiful and functional Activity Center and the 12,000 acre Teacup Mountain recreation site leased by Foard County from the Corps of

Engineers and managed by the non-profit Pease River Partners. Rusty and Malinda Moore hosted the group at their Crazy Lady Trading Post and Raggedy Creek Ranch a true one-stop shop offering everything from booking your trip, outfitting your hunting experience, buying all your take it home gifts, feeding you while you're here, processing the meat and getting the mount done then bringing you back and hosting your special event.

Wow, talk about inspiration for conversation on the ride

Friday's road trip wound through Knox County beginning at the Courthouse in Benjamin, viewing our national landmark Brazos River Bridge, learning about Knox City's awning, tractor art and mural projects and touring the old City Hall build-

While there resource specialists from the Texas Historic Commission and Texas Department of Agriculture offered suggestions on financial support for historic and downtown building renovation and members of the tour group, many of whom were tourism and economic development professionals, shared their own experiences and ideas with the local tour group members.

From Knox City the group went to Munday enjoying the sculpture and streetscape across



Precipitants of the First Ever Real Rural Tourism Symposium touring the old Knox City Hall Building

from Munday Elementary, learning how the project was funded and is maintained, viewing the ongoing work on the old church being renovated into a theatre and Munday's award winning Keep Munday Beautiful cam-

Miller Creek was termed a "destination draw" that, although outside Knox County, can bring many visitors to Goree, Munday and Knox City. Positioning it self as the Gateway to Miller Creek makes sense for Goree, advised the tourism experts, as does that City's attempts to support the clean-up and promotion of this neighboring attraction. Bob Rogers, representing Texas Parks and Wildlife and Dick Wilberforce, with the Texas Prairie Rivers Region, inspired the group with stories and examples of their nature tourism success, piggy backing private landowner and small town programs on public sites, to everyone's advantage.

With Roger's example of the success of a program as simple as "Turtle in a Bucket" and Wilberforce's 5 minute assessment of the seemingly endless possibilities for bird and wildlife observers right on the peninsula where the group was standing, locals and visitors loaded back up in their cars excited to see what lay around the next bend of the trail, convinced they could hold a visitors interest right in there own backyard.

Tours of downtown Goree, with the animated planning discussions led by Tammy Trainham, an eye opening visit to Todd Leak Farms and its 20,000 + native plants watered and

See TOURISM on Page 8

CITY PARK AND POOL RECEIVE A "FACE LIFT"

Repairs and remodeling got underway on June 24th at the Knox City Park, just in time for summertime fun.

Robert Crowell Welding of Seymour, Texas replaced the roofs over the picnic tables in the City Park.

The City Pool also received a new roof. Replacement of the pool's roof included enclosing the men's and women's dressing

The dressing rooms were previously open with no roof at all so the change is a welcomed one by the swimming pool patrons.

The Knox City Swimming Pool was built in the 1950s by the Knox City Lions Club. Shortly thereafter it was turned over to the city for upkeep and maintenance.

This is the first major remodeling project since the installation of the building at the park.

206 E Main St. Knox City, Texas 79529 940-658-3715

Rector, Barbara Administrator, states this project was developed by the City of Knox City Economic Community Development Corporation. (KCECDC)

This is a city council board which helps to determine the disbursement of sales tax money received.

The KCECDC is responsible with the maintenance and upkeep of Knox City.

Rector reports the next KCECDC meeting will take place Tuesday, July 22nd at City

The meeting will begin at 5:30 and it is open to the public. Rector urges the community to participate in these meetings.

"We have new board members with great ideas," Rector states, " but the public's involvement is always important."

Mark your calendars and bring your ideas and lets all help keep Knox City a beautiful place to call home

Knox County Sales Tax Rebate Up 13.45 % Last Month

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs today announced that the state collected \$1.8 billion in sales tax revenue in May, a 4.7 percent increase over May 2007.

For the first nine months of fiscal 2008, state sales tax collections are up 5.8 percent over the same period in fiscal 2007, Combs said. While increases are smaller than in 2006 and 2007, growth in state sales tax revenues continues at a healthy rate.

Combs sent cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$459 million in June local sales tax allocations, up 9.3 percent compared to June 2007.

Combs sent June sales tax allocations of \$306.3 million to Texas cities, up 8 percent compared to June 2007. So far this calendar year, city sales tax allocations are up 5.4 percent compared to the same time period last year. Texas counties received sales tax payments of \$28.4 million, up 13.2 percent compared to last June. So far this year, sales tax allocations to counties are up 6.4 percent compared

In addition, \$17.3 million went to 135 special purpose taxing districts around the state, up 21.3 percent compared to last June. Ten local transit systems received \$106.9 million in sales tax allocations, up 10.2 percent compared to a year ago.\

State sales tax collections in May and local sales tax allocations in June represent sales that occurred in April and were reported to the Comptroller in May.

Roland Marion, Penman Services Supervisor states, "Our city is fortunate to have people who understand what shop "Knox City First" is all about."

For details of June sales tax payments to individual cities, counties, transit systems and special pur- See REBATE on Page 8



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TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION **State Capital HIGHLIGHTS**



By Ed Sterling

AUSTIN - About two-thirds of the 10 million schoolchildren in Texas are not up to physical fitness standards, according to a study by a private company and funded by \$2.5 million in private donations.

The Texas Education Agency on July 1 publicized preliminary results after 2.6 million of the state's 3.4 million children in grades 3-12 were tested.

Test results show elementary school kids tend to be more fit than older kids.

Roughly one-third of third-

Fitness Testing Of Schoolchildren Shows Plenty Of Room For Improvement

grade boys and girls tested in the "Healthy Fitness Zone."

Testing revealed that an even lower rate of middle school students scored in the zone and that high school students were less fit than middle-schoolers.

The testing measures body composition, aerobic capacity, strength, endurance and flexibility. Each student must have a skin fold test and attempt a one-mile run, curl-ups, pushups, trunk lift and shoulder stretches.

Parents or guardians may obtain a copy of their child's "Fitnessgram" report from the child's school.

The legislation that instituted the testing and daily physical exercise requirements was written by Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, and sponsored by Rep. Rob Eissler, R-The Woodlands.

This issue has a cash side to it. According to the TEA, the

Texas comptroller found that Texas businesses spent an estimated \$3.3 billion in 2005 on costs related to obesity.

Costs included disability coverage, lower productivity, absenteeism and health care.

Steroid Testing Results Released

These are preliminary results, but in the spring term only two out of more than 10,000 Texas high school athletes tested positive for anabolic steroids in their systems in a random screening program mandated by SB 8 passed by the 80th Texas Legislature in 2007.

Student-athletes in grades 9-12, regardless of sport, gender or participation level are subject to screening.

TheUniversity Interscholastic League said 40,000 to 50,000 student-athletes will have been screened by the end of the 2008-2009 school year.

The program costs the state \$3 million to administer.

Branch Named To Powerful Board

Texas House Speaker Tom Craddick on July 1 appointed state Rep. Dan Branch, R-Dallas, to the Legislative Budget Board.

Branch replaces state Rep. Fred Hill, R-Richardson, who resigned from the post. Hill, 68, is not seeking reelection in the

Hill was elected to the House in 1988 and is the 13th most senior member of the 150-member chamber. Branch, 50, elected to the Dist. 108 House seat in 2002, plans to seek a third twoyear term.

The 10-member Legislative Budget Board was created by statute in 1949.

The board analyzes, develops and recommends appropriations for all state governmental agencies and provides the Texas

Legislature with a state budget at the beginning of each regular legislative session.

Craddick and Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst serve as joint chairs of the board.

Besides Branch, other members include Senate Finance Committee Chair Steve Ogden, R-College Station; House Committee on Appropriations Chair Warren Chism, R-Pampa; Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock; Rep. Jim Keffer, R-Eastland; Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston; Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo; and Rep. Sylvester Turner, D-Houston.

Meanwhile, on the subject of budgets and budgeteers, Gov. Rick Perry on July 2 named Mary Katherine Stout as his director of budget, planning and policy.

The Texas A&M graduate has been serving as vice president of policy and director for Texas Public Policy Foundation's Center for Health Care Policy.

The foundation is a nonprofit, non-partisan, research institute based in Austin.

Craddick Vs. Dingus In November

Speaker Craddick will face an opponent in the November general election: Democrat Bill Dingus of Midland, a recent former member of the Midland city council.

Dingus resigned from the city council on April 21 and announced his candidacy for the seat occupied by Craddick for the last 38 years.

The Republican Party of Texas contested that Dingus was ineligible to run because he was still serving on the city council when he filed for candidacy.

A Travis County state district court ruled Dingus not in conflict with the state's prohibition on dual office holding and eligible to run.

COW POKES®

By Ace Reid



"Naw, I ain't gittin' throwed off, I ain't got on yet!"

Kay Bailey Hutchison UNITED STATES SENATOR, TEXAS

Supporting Healthy Lifestyles for Texas' Youth

Summer in Texas is now in full bloom. Unfortunately, many children will spend their free time not on swings at playgrounds but in front of televisions at home, consuming hours of programming full of advertisements for unhealthy foods. Others will spend time on the

Internet instead of playing outside with their friends.

This lack of physical activity among our youth is contributing to an American healthcare crisis: childhood obesity.

We must work together to reduce the harmful influence that inactivity can have on our kids. and promote healthy living that is vital to their long-term wellbeing.

Texas ranks sixth nationally in the percentage of obese youth (ages 10 - 17), and many of these children are at risk of significant health problems, including Type 2 Diabetes. Since 1990, the number of children diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes in our country has jumped 15-fold. This is extremely troubling because diabetic children face lifelong medical problems.

Fortunately, a number of

36 TX Ginger did

what Astaire did

but "backwards

42 TXism: "his blood

is colder

broadcasters and corporations are taking steps to foster healthy and active lifestyles. They are demonstrating that they are willing to be part of the solution.

The Walt Disney Company is phasing out the use of its characters in promotions that market unhealthy products, and it is developing shows that demonstrate the benefits of exercising and eating well.

Nickelodeon, one of the national networks for youth, has an initiative called "Let's Just Play." which inspires young viewers to be more active. On the network's annual "Worldwide Day of Play," it suspends programming for a block of time so kids can go outside and run around. I hope that Texas parents will help me support the continuation and expansion of these efforts.

Broadcasters in our state are also creating initiatives that nurture wholesome living. Many of these endeavors are communitybased and address physical, nutritional, and mental health.

This is a good start, but there is much more that can be done to curb the epidemic of childhood obesity. We can help shape the content of the shows our children listen to and watch by encouraging media companies, broadcasters, and marketers to air responsible programs and advertisements.

Finally, a foundation for healthy habits must be reinforced at home.

In the 2008 Farm Bill, I created an elementary school pilot program that invites parents to become involved in nutritional education along with their chil-

This initiative is modeled after the very successful Coordinated Approach to Child Health (CATCH) Program which helped significantly reduce the number of overweight fifth graders in El Paso.

By using the major influences in a child's life -- from parents, to teachers, to their favorite television characters -- we can help reverse childhood obesity. We can all be part of a national movement to cultivate positive lifestyles and good health that young Americans can carry into adulthood.

Kay Bailey Hutchison is the senior U.S. Senator from Texas.

43 TX Roddenberry's

45 "in" so. of the border

48 infamous '50s Dallas

the Lonely"

stripper Candy

55 TX Roy Orbison's

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47 east TX alligator

The Knox County News

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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

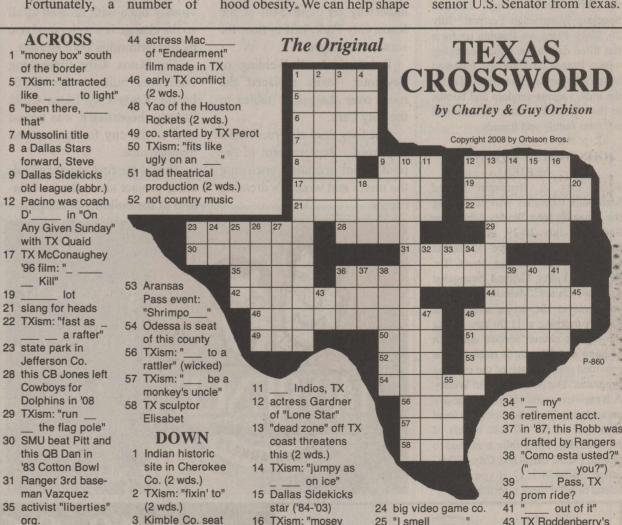
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column!" Holtz (init.)



ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

GRANDPA TOMMY SAVED THE WORLD

We were watching The History Channel at Grandma's casita. It was a story about the USS Enterprise being attacked. It was 1945. They were describing acts of heroism that occurred. Stories of men risking their lives, staying with wounded comrades instead of swimming to safety. Stories that never made the paper or were recognized but were remembered only by those brave souls who dogpaddled in the waves next to a burning ship 3 miles above the sea floor.

It was one of those moments where my son and I were engrossed. I said, "Isn't it funny, the only person in this house who really understands what we're watching, is asleep in his chair." Grandpa Tommy. Kansas farm boy, Junior Petty Officer, on a rebuilt WWI destroyer, operating as troop ship on the Pacific ocean, docking only twice in ports other than atoll island landings.

Now asleep in his chair, 89 years old. He has no scrapbook of his service, no contact with those of his caliber who went through the cauldron of war, no medals or pins commemorating his contribution. The only souvenir I'm aware of is his "coconut knife" US Navy issue, which he gave to his grandson. When the subject of war comes up his lighthearted response is, "I saved the world."

It's his joke. It comes and

goes so quickly. The subject changes and the opportunity to ponder his answer disappears. Which is unfortunate, because he, and countless thousands of others did save the world. Anyone who doubts that Germany and Japan had intentions of conquering us all, is deluding them self. Seldom has freedom and slavery or good and evil been so clearly defined. But at the time America reluctantly joined the Allied Forces in 1942, it was not so clear; there were many doubt-

Elected leaders make decisions of enormous consequence. They put the wheels of war, peace, conflict and resolution into motion. Korea, the Soviet Union, Vietnam, Lebanon, Kuwait, Bosnia, Somalia, Afghanistan, Iraq, North Korea, Iran...China?"

Elected leaders ride into battle, voices loud, sabers rattling and flash bulbs popping, on the backs of men like Grandpa Tommy who answer the call and if they are lucky, come home to the welcoming arms of a thankful country.

Political leaders are honored on President's Day. Grandpa Tommy is honored on Flag Day, July 4, December 7, Memorial Day, and, I guess, every day that I draw a free breath.

I'm proud and I'm gonna tell him I appreciate that he saved the world...soon as he wakes up.

Attention Diabetics!

"I'm not really a teacher,"

Crowell Hosted The 2008 Western Swing Music Camp

Hanaba Munn Welch Correspondent

CROWELL (Special) -- On a cedar-studded ridge a few miles west of Crowell, the twostory Bowen Ranch log lodge shines an unlikely white in the July sun and pulses to the upbeat sounds of guitar and fiddle tunes. There's no place like it.

What's happening this week on the Bowen is Western Swing Music Camp. It's a time and place for aspiring musicians, young and old, either to learn to play Western Swing music or learn to play it better.

Country standards find their way into the repertoire. So do a few Buddy Holly tunes, courtesy of Grammywinner Tommy Allsup, chief guitar instructor at the camp. Allsup, Holly's last lead guitarist, is famous for losing a coin toss that cost him his seat on the plane that crashed and killed the young

Holly in 1959. Chief fiddle instructor is Bob Boatright, an accomplished performer and teacher whose sixdecade career spans most of his life.

Both Allsup and Boatright have played with a long list of top-name musicians, but both are comfortable in off-stage roles as teachers of their respective crafts.

"We like teaching Western Swing and Western music -- to see these young kids adapting to Western music and Western Swing and enjoying what they're doing and trying to earnestly learn to play it," Boatright said.

Allsup doesn't think of what he does as teaching.

play "Faded Love" and like it. Fiddler John Jennings, 13, is

Grain Prices Hit All-Time High as Valley Growers Harvest

Allsup said. "I just show them

ian J.W. Sollis, a retired educa-

tor. For him, camp is an exten-

sion to his career -- icing on the

type of Country music alive,

particularly Western Swing mu-

sic," Sollis said. "I like to see

the young people. It's the thrill

of my life. It adds to my love of

education. It's prolonging my

interest in education and young

the teen and pre-teen category

-- too young to remember Bob

Wills and other musicians who

popularized the musical genre

but not too young to learn to

"It's my desire to keep this

Camp director is octogenar-

stuff. They pick it up."

cake, so to speak.

from Nocona. He's been playing the fiddle for five years and doesn't apologize for his favorite music -- even if his peers don't share his interests and taste.

"It's better than the new stuff," Jennings said. "It's better than Classical." It's Jennings' second year to

attend the music camp -- a place where he can connect with other people his age to play the music they all like.

Maybe it's natural that Western Swing music from the 1930s and 1940s should still be Many of the campers fall in popular -- even among some young people -- in the part of the country that spawned it in the first place, namely Texas and Oklahoma and, later, thanks to the Dust Bowl migration, California.

If anything is a surprise, of Sollis, Allsup and Boatright.

it's the current popularity of Western Swing in other parts of the world.

Ask Allsup. He's just back from his latest trip to Europe.

"We've played Western Swing in England, Scotland, The Netherlands, Greece, France -- in the French Alps next to Switzerland," he said. "They all know 'San Antonio Rose.' 'Right or Wrong' is very popular. 'Milk Cow Blues' is very popular. They know that song. They have lots of questions to ask me about Bob Wills."

It's a small world when it spins to Western Swing.

More information about the yearly music camp is available from J.W. Sollis at jwsollis@yahoo.com. The camp is a project



LEARNING THE BASICS of guitar, Kathryn Cude, left, of Munday and Jami Shooter of Wichita Falls practice under the eye of instructor Neal Butler, partially visible, of Comanche. Guitar and fiddle students of various ages and skill levels have been learning to play Western Swing music at a music camp on a ranch west of Crowell. Fiddle player Ryder Cude, brother of Kathryn, is also a camp participant.

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WESLACO -- Grain sorghum market prices are said to be phenomenal as growers in the Lower Rio Grande Valley begin harvesting an estimate half million acres, according to Texas AgriLife Extension Service experts. But the larger than usual grain crop comes at the expense of cotton acreage, said LeeRoy Rock, the cotton integrated pest management specialist in Weslaco.

"Market prices are at about \$10.71 per hundredweight," said Rock. "That's almost triple the price growers have traditionally gotten for years."

John Norman, a crop private consultant, said that for many years, growers got only \$3.50 to \$4 per hundredweight. "I've never heard of prices exceeding \$9 per hundredweight," said Norman, a 35-year veteran of the Valley's agriculture scene.

"It hit \$9 back in 1996, but that price didn't hold; it soon dropped back down to normal. But these prices of almost \$11 per hundredweight seem to be holding steady. It's pretty phenomenal."

Norman attributes the higher

grain prices to the coattails of corn prices. "The price of corn drives the price of grain," he said. "Grain sorghum has always been considered the stepchild of corn. If corn prices go up, so does grain sorghum and vice-versa." Norman attributes the higher prices to the increased demand for corn for ethanol production plus speculative buying. Most of the Valley's grain sorghum is exported to Mexico where the majority is sold as poultry feed, Norman said.

"Some goes to cattle feed, and some is put to ethanol, but poultry is big business in Mexico." Another common trend for grain sorghum is that it takes up the slack when cotton acreage drops, as it has been doing steadily in extreme south Texas for several years, Norman said.

"Cotton acreage has been steadily declining since the late 90s when the Valley planted 250,000 acres," he said. "After that it held steady at 200,000 acres per year until about 2005.

In 2007, we planted 100,000 acres, and it dropped to only 91,000 acres this year." Those figures are a far cry from

the Valley's cotton heydays, Norman said. "In 1948 and 1949, the Valley was planting a million acres of cotton," he said. "Back then this four-county area had 138 cotton gins. We've only got 12 now.

Today's gins are far more efficient than they were back then, but as cotton moved out of an area, the local cotton gin would go out of business."

Low cotton market prices contribute to its declining acreage in the Valley, Texas and the U.S, said Manda Cattaneo, AgriLife Extension cotton integrated pest management entomologist in Gaines County, in West Texas.

"Low market prices and the increased cost of cotton inputs, like diesel, fertilizer and seed, plus the risks of weather and insects, all force growers to switch to grain sorghum, corn, soybeans or even wheat," she said.

"Grain elevators in the Valley already have several orders for sorghum, so they're ready for growers to start cutting grain and bring it to them."

Despite the steady decline in cotton acreage, Cattaneo thinks

cotton will always be around. "My guess is that cotton acreage will remain at 95,000 acres," she

"Growers will not stop planting cotton because it's a good rotational crop." At about 70 cents per pound of lint, Norman said cotton prices to growers are just below the break-even price of 72 to 73 cents for the Valley's dryland farmers.

"That low price for cotton is what's keeping acreage down all over the country," he said. "But next year is shaping up to be a banner year for cotton growers. Carryover cotton from last year was low worldwide, consumption of cotton is high and decreased acreage this year could all force cotton prices up for 2009." The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates the country's cotton acreage for 2008-09 to be 9.38 million acres, down from 10.83 million in 2007-08.

Texas plants almost half the country's cotton acreage, according to the USDA. It estimates the Lone Star State will plant a total of 4.72 million acres in 2008-09, down from 4.92 million last year.



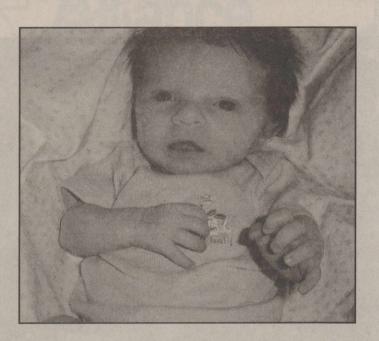
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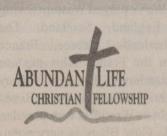
BABARAEWASA



Jathan Dale Bishop

Russell and Kristin Bishop of Wichita Falls are proud to announce the arrival of their son, Jathan Dale Bishop. Jathan was born June 13, 2008 at 5:18 am. He weighed 5 pounds and 0 ounces and was 18 1/2 long. Jathan was welcomed by grandparents Buddy and Tonya Cypert of Haskell and Debbie Wilde of Knox City. Great grandparents are Billy and Donna Cypert of Munday and Pansy Hale of Knox City. Proud aunts and uncles are Cody and Breann Cypert of Lubbock, Brad and Jacy West of Haskell, Tiffany Wilde of Abilene and Jarek Wilde of Knox City.

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God's **Promises**

By Jim Reid, Pastor O'Brien Baptist Church

For most people emotional hurt comes too often. Hurt may happen in a moment or over a period of

There are so many ways to bring hurt into someone's life; young, old, child or adult, man or woman.

When we experience hurt and emotional pain, many lash out in retribution or vengeance, but it seems most people simply bury this pain deep in their heart.

They wonder why you want to hurt them. They don't understand why you keep doing it, especially when you say, "I love you." I want to let the Word of God encourage you in your

Read the following verses of scripture and let God remove the hurt and listen to Him say, "I love you". His love is always healing.

Do not fear for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, sure-



ly I will uphold you with My righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41: 10 NASB).

For God is not a God of confusion, but of peace. (1 Corinthians 14: 33a)

Cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken. (Psalm 55: 22 NASB).

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds (Psalm 147:3 NASB).

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of peace, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in Me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4: 8,9 NASB)

May God bless you this week with His love and His peace.



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OBITUARIES

Wanda Durham

Wanda Durham, 81, passed away Wednesday, July 2, 2008 in Dallas, Texas. A Graveside service will be held Saturday July, 5, 2008 at 2pm in the Johnson Cemetery, Munday, under the direction of Mansell - Smith Funeral Home. A viewing will be held Saturday from 12 to 1pm at the funeral home in Knox City.

Wanda was born May 27, 1927 in Knox County, Texas to the late John Lindsey and Janie Fay Lindsey. Wanda was married to B.R. Durham who preceded her in death. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Survivors include a daughter Marcella Parker; one son Charles Durham; daughter-in-law Holly Durham; two granddaughters Jensen Durham age ten and Kennedy Durham age seven and a step son Bruce and wife Patricia Durham.

THANK YOU

The family of Trevor Tears would like to acknowledge their deepest gratitude for the acts of sympathy that has been shown to them during their time of loss. To the Abundant Life Church family, words cannot express the appreciation that we have towards you and Pastor Tex Cox. Allowing our family to join in your sanctuary and blessing us with a meal meant more to us than you can ever imagine. To the pallbearers, we realize that Trevor's death was difficult for you as it was for us, you stood as warriors in honor of Trevor and we thank you. To the honorary pallbearers, his classmates, we are pleased that you and your family joined us in the celebration of Trevor's life. As you walk through the course of your life, never forget that there is a special angel watching over you. To all that visited, prepared or purchased food, and offered gifts or gave money towards the benefit account our hearts are gratified. As life turns a new leaf, we will never disregard your kindness. Although our Trevor will never be here on this Earth, his life and love will never be forgotten.

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He was standing on the dam, screaming "I got one, I got one" not knowing what to do next. His uncle and I told him to reel it in. So in a panic, he started churning his hand in an attempt to reel his fish in. His Uncle Cal hurried over with a net, however, his fish was just out of reach and got off the hook and swam away. A couple of more pointers and I was confident my son, Jackson, who just turned 5, would be able to reel in his own fish.

Jackson was enjoying spin casting, which he learned the day before. He was equipped with a Tazmanian Devil fishing rod and reel purchased for him at the age of 1 by his late grandmother. This was his first opportunity to show it off.

I didn't keep track, but I'd say I spent an equal amount of time fixing his line as I did casting myself. Of course, I had to learn once upon a time and I'm lucky my teacher taught me patience, because it was fully exercised on this trip.

Back to the fish story: On Jackson's next cast he hooked another rainbow trout. This would be his fourth one, but he had yet to land one. This time he remembered to reel it in like he'd been taught, and at last he had his first fish. Out of the water and into the creel, he had come a long way in three days.

It wasn't a record setting fish by any stretch, but it was just the right size for Jack. I don't think I've ever seen anyone as fired up as he was at that moment. An hour later when we returned to the cabin and his mom, we got to relive the tale. Ten minutes after that, we relived it again, and so on...

Obviously Jackson was not the only one proud as I am retelling the tale in this column.

Fishing was one of many firsts for Jackson this last week. His brother Sutton, too, experienced many firsts on this family vacation to Colorado.

We got to do some hiking, see different birds, look at the snow in July.

One of the neatest things we did was searching for waterfalls. My wife and I took the boys on an adventure around the vicinity and found three waterfalls.

Two she and I had seen before. and one we never knew was there. Each discovery ended with a short hike to the falls and a photograph to commemorate the occasion. My wife and I were as fired up as the boys, mainly because of their reaction but also because of our love for nature.

Where we vacation in Colorado is a special place to us as it has been in the family for nearly seventy years. It is secluded, and unless it's an emergency, it's purposefully hard to get in touch with us.

It's odd being that secluded because of how busy we are in our day to day lives. In fact, we were three days into our vacation before I relaxed and really began to enjoy it. It proved to me that I don't stop and smell the roses nearly enough.

I've got to learn that times like this past week are fleeting as our children continue to grow. I promised myself a long time ago that I would not look back on my children's lives and wonder where our time together went. Sometimes I get away from that promise a little, but thankfully my wife sees to it that there is plenty of

Jack's fishing experience will become more common place, as I promised him that there is a bass in Childress County with his name on it.

I've been fishing as long as I can remember and those memories with my grandfather and father are some of the best ones I have. Now I have the opportunity to carry out that tradition with my sons and I'm sure one day they'll look back on our experiences together with the same fondness that



By Hanaba Munn Welch

Germs. Where do they get those names?

Take salmonella. If I were a salmon, I'd take offense. When I hear the word, I see tiny bacteria crawling around on a raw salmon steak.

Then my mind goes to another image -- a little town somewhere in Italy.

For me, Salmonella with a capital works either as the name of the mountain village or the name of an Italian lass who lives there. She's pretty and has dark hair and flirts with the village guys around the town square in the evening, where the water in the fountain is - you guessed it -- contaminated with salmonella.

The word sounds plural to me. Germs are never alone. Neither are girls like Salmonella. But I looked it up, and the plural is "salmonellae." You Latin scholars already knew that. Now we all do. Add an "e" in my sentence about the fountain.

Then there's botulism. Picture a bottle, either brown or green. It's full of bottled up botulism bacteria, all wanting to bust out. Are those the same organisms strong enough to make cans bulge? Maybe they are. But canism just doesn't have the same ring.

So as not to start rumors about word origins and risk upsetting either the bottle or can industry, let's look up botulism. DICTIONARY PAUSE.

It's from "botulus," the Latin word for sausage. Now the sausage industry can take offense.

To cover all bases, go back to "salmonella." The word honors Dr. Daniel E. Salmon (18501914), an American veterinarian. I liked my Italian fantasy better, but Dr. Salmon should get his due. I'll think of him the

next time I wash my hands.

As for E. coli, the colon in my fifth-grade colored-pencil drawing of the alimentary canal comes to mind. That image notwithstanding, I imagine that E. coli germs are somehow attacking my email even as we speak.

Behind it all is Mr. E. coli, villain par excellence. He wears a black cape and top hat and sports a pencil-thin moustache. Does he think he's superior to us common types who use first names, some double?

GOOGLE PAUSE.

I just looked up the E. It's for "Escherichia." Suddenly I feel a kinship with Mr. E. coli. I know what it's like to have a strange first name.

Indeed, Google "hanaba," and here's what pops up:

"We have isolated a new mutant, hanaba taranu (han), which affects both flower and shoot apical meristem (SAM) development in Arabidopsis thaliana."

I'm not sure, but I think that's bad news. And to think, my parents thought they were naming me for a little Indian princess.

Meanwhile, let's all be happy we can't actually see these little organisms and mutants with the curious names.

You dedicated newspaper readers have the most to smile about. All those dark smudges around your house? They're not dirt. Instead, they're just from the newsprint ink that gets on your hands when you read the

All you have to worry about is whether The 501 is conta-

Watermelon The Next Passion Fruit?

COLLEGE STATION -- A cold slice of watermelon has long been a Fourth of July holiday staple. But according to recent studies, the juicy fruit may be better suited for Valentine's

That's because scientists say watermelon has ingredients that deliver Viagra-like effects to the body's blood vessels and may even increase libido.

"The more we study watermelons, the more we realize just how amazing a fruit it is in providing natural enhancers to the human body," said Dr. Bhimu Patil, director of Texas A&M's Fruit and Vegetable Improvement Center in College Station.

"We've always known that watermelon is good for you, but the list of its very important healthful benefits grows longer with each study."

Beneficial ingredients in watermelon and other fruits and vegetables are known as phytonutrients, naturally occurring compounds that are bioactive, or able to react with the human body to trigger healthy reactions, Patil said.

In watermelons, these include lycopene, beta carotene and the rising star among its phyto-nutrients - citrulline - whose beneficial functions are now being unraveled. Among them is the ability to relax blood vessels, much like Viagra does.

Scientists know that when watermelon is consumed, citrulline is converted to arginine through certain enzymes.

Arginine is an amino acid that works wonders on the heart and circulation system and maintains a good immune system,

"The citrulline-arginine relationship helps heart health, the

immune system and may prove to be very helpful for those who suffer from obesity and type 2 diabetes," said Patil. "Arginine boosts nitric oxide, which relaxes blood vessels, the same basic effect that Viagra has, to treat erectile dysfunction and maybe even prevent it."

While there are many psychological and physiological problems that can cause impotence, extra nitric oxide could help those who need increased blood flow, which would also help treat angina, high blood pressure and other cardiovascular problems.

"Watermelon may not be as organ specific as Viagra," Patil said, "but it's a great way to relax blood vessels without any drug side-effects."

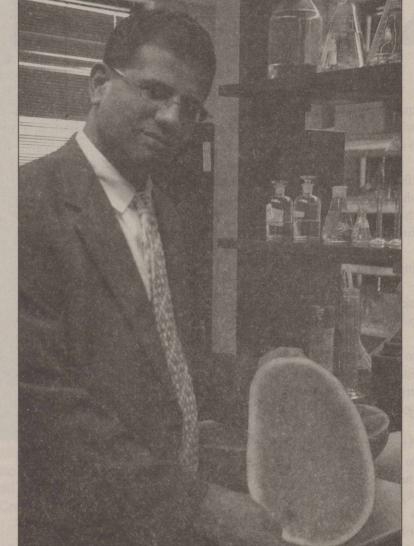
The benefits of watermelon don't end there, he said. Arginine also helps the urea cycle by removing ammonia and other toxic compounds from our bodies.

Citrulline, the precursor to arginine, is found in higher concentrations in the rind of watermelons than the flesh.

As the rind is not commonly eaten, two of Patil's fellow scientists, Drs. Steve King and Hae Jeen Bang, are working to breed new varieties with higher concentrations in the flesh.

In addition to the research by Texas A&M, watermelon's phyto-nutrients are being studied by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service in Lane, Oklahoma.

As an added bonus, these studies have also shown that deep red varieties of watermelon have displaced the tomato as the lycopene king, Patil said. Almost 92 percent of watermelon is water, but the remaining 8 percent is loaded with lycopene,



an anti-oxidant that protects the human heart, prostate and skin

"Lycopene, which is also found in red grapefruit, was historically thought to exist only in tomatoes," he said. "But now we know that it's found in higher concentrations in red watermelon varieties."

Lycopene, however, is fatsoluble, meaning that it needs certain fats in the blood for better absorption by the body, Patil said.

"Previous tests have shown that lycopene is much better absorbed from tomatoes when mixed in a salad with oily vegetables like avocado or spinach," Patil said. "That would also apply to the lycopene from watermelon, but I realize mixing watermelon with spinach or avocadoes is a very hard sell."

No studies have been conducted to determine the timing of the consumption of oily vegetables to improve lycopene absorption, he said.

"One final bit of advice for those Fourth of July watermelons you buy," Patil said.

"They store much better uncut if you leave them at room temperature. Lycopene levels can be maintained even as it sits on your kitchen floor. But once you cut it, refrigerate. And en-

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This is just to let you know that on June 23rd, the Knox County Commissioner's Court voted to lift the burn ban. We are still asking folks to call 657-5050 and let 911 know you are going to burn in order to prevent fire Units from being dispatched.

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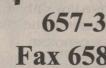
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By Dr. Alex Mills

Poor old ethanol has taken quite a beating lately. Amazing what can happen when prices of a commodity rise rapidly.

Not too long ago it seems like every politician from sea to shinning sea touted ethanol as the savior to our transportation fuel woes.

Now, that corn – the primary ingredient in U.S. made ethanol – has doubled in price, politicians are pulling back their support of government mandates.

Some have gone so far as to point out that the use of food products to make an energy product really makes little sense.

Recently, Texas Governor Rick Perry went to Washington to follow up on a letter he sent the Environment Protection Agency in April. Perry seeks a waiver in the mandate of 9 billion gallons on ethanol. He wants the mandate reduced to 4.5 million gallons. In 2007, the U.S. consumed about 6 million gallons.

Perry's actions mirror the position of groups, such as cattlemen and rancher, grocers, poultry, and others that feed corn to stock or people.

Perry said Texas produced 296 million bushels of corn and consumed 900 million bushels.

Perry pointed out that just a penny increase in corn prices adds more than \$6 million to the cost of corn for Texans.

Did Washington anticipate such fallout from the ethanol mandate? Hardly. Everyone from President Bush on down just knew that ethanol was going to be a win-win for everyone. The poor old farmer would win by making a profit off more corn sales.

Environmentalists would win by backing out some crude oil in favor of ethanol. The nation would win by reducing oil imports through increased ethanol

So, governments knowing that ethanol cannot compete with crude oil in a free market decided to give it a \$0.51 per gallon tax break, put a \$0.52 per gallon tariff on Brazilian ethanol, and mandate to consumers that you will use it.

After the tax breaks and mandates were implemented further studies were conducted. Scientists found that corn-based ethanol's energy content was considerable less than originally projected. As a matter of fact, some 30% less than gasoline.

Additionally, another study discovered that it took more energy to make ethanol than the net product.

Also, how much sense does it make to take an important food product, like corn, and turn it into a transportation fuel? Especially, when about 25% of last year's corn crop went to make ethanol.

Perry believes the mandates have led to increased use of corn which has led to shortage of supplies which has led to corn more than doubling in price to \$8 per bushel.

Whether EPA will lower the mandates is yet to be seen, but we definitely know that ethanol has been exposed, warts and all.

United States Department of Agriculture Plant Materials Center Knox City, Texas Weekly Weather Report

	Temperature		Rainfall
Date	Low	High	inches
07/01	64	92	
07/02	65	91	
07/03	65	92	.45
07/04	67	92	
07/05	66	92	
07/06	65	91	
07/07	67	94	
	2008 Rainfall (ytd)		9.83

Alley Notice

Most every household in Knox City at one time or another puts limbs and junk in their alley.

This is and always had been okay up to a point. This problem was discussed at the last City Council meeting. The City receives complaints over and over from citizens that their neighbors are putting their junk and limbs by the dumpster, and the dumpster is on the other side of the alley, not the side of the alley where the person lives that put the junk out there. That makes their yard and side of the alley look bad and they do not like it and want this garbage moved. Then this becomes the Cities problem and it should

The council has decided that if any household/citizen puts junk or limbs in the alley, you are to place it on your side of the alley behind your house. Not next to the dumpster or across the alley on your neighbors side. Also, it is not the City's total responsibility to pick up the junk and limbs in

the alleys; the city has limited employes and does alleys only when time allows as a courtesy to the citizens that are not physically able to haul or remove this garbage to the dump grounds located at the end of Northwest 6th street.

The Council would like to remind everyone that if you are physically able please carry your junk and limbs to the dump grounds. Or if you have hired someone please have them take the garbage to the City dump grounds. Remember the dumpster in the alley is only for household garbage and do not over pack the dumpster to the point that the garbage truck cannot pick it up. The dump ground is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings 8:00 to 12:00. The Dump Ground is open all day on Saturday with the hours being 8:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 to 4:00 pm. The Dump Ground is closed on Tuesday and Sunday.

Be a good neighbor and take care of your garbage.

BENJAMIN NEWS

By Galdene Green

Well, did everyone have a good 4th of July? It was pretty quiet around here- did have a few fireworks late in the day and saw a pretty good display in different parts of town after dark. So thankful no one was hurt and no fires were started so the intentions of having a good time was just that - with no bad results.

Report on our ill:

Lorene Powers is still making progress and just may be home by the weekend if all continues to go well. She's in rehab now and taking therapy several hours a day. And so far so good. I'm sure a card would cheer her up. Send her one here. Just Lorene Powers-Benjamin. She will get it and appreciate it. Even after she gets home she will be "housed in" for several days.

LaMoyne Patterson is still in ICU in UMC in Lubbock. He had a pretty rough weekend but reports today are that he seemed somewhat better, though still on a ventilator.

Please continue to pray for him and Lorene daily, as well as others with problems.

DeAnn Lamb seems a little better since she fractured her ribs. She's not quite as sore as she was, but still not 100%.

Weldon Gideon is getting

stronger every day. He's out and about some each day and that helps him to improve.

Sympathy

Sympathy to the family of Lawrence "Pee Wee" Reed to-day. Pee Wee died Tuesday. He had been in failing health for some time. His funeral was Saturday at Gilliand. He was the youngest brother of Benjamin resident, E.O. Reed.

Here 'N There

Mitzi Welch and son Mitchel were in Austin last week concerning her work as Chief Appraiser for Knox County.

Debbie Moorhouse and grandchildren Randi and Dillion Keys of children were in Lubbock Wednesday for Dillion to see his Dr. He got a good report for which we are so thankful.

Saturday guests of E.G. and Irene Reed were her brother, Bobby Clawson and her niece and her daughter, Tessa Gray and Niki all of Bangs. They all attended the funeral of Pee Wee Reed.

Ronnie and Susan White and their children enjoyed a family get together recently near San Antonio. Most of the children were able to be there and Susan said they all had a wonderful time and plan to make this an annual event.

The Knox City-O'Brien CISD is accepting proposals for the following:

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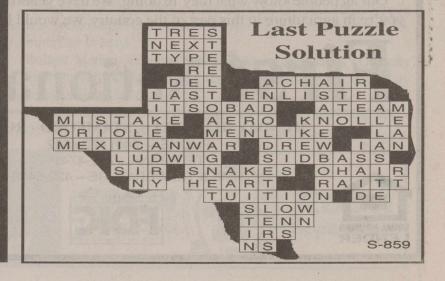


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Carbon May be a Cash "Crop" for Producers

AMARILLO - Agriculture producers may have a crop they can cash in on without having to plant or harvest anything extra, Texas AgriLife Extension Service specialists said.

Dr. Steve Amosson, AgriLife economist Extension Amarillo, said carbon sequestration is getting a lot of attention of late. Carbon sequestration is defined as the capture and secure storage of carbon.

It is estimated that U.S. agriculture could sequester 275-900 million tons of carbon dioxide annually through processes such as no-till or conservation tillage or rangeland improvement, as well as reducing methane gas emissions, Amosson said.

"It's a greenhouse gas reduction effort involving a pilot trading program for emission sources and offset projects," he said "First they determine eligibility, and then the carbon credits are sold on a market - the Chicago Climate Exchange."

The ultimate goal of the pilot program, which will continue through 2010, is to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide released into the air, Amosson

"Companies that want to market themselves as being clean or green are the ones who are buying these credits," said Luis Ribera, assistant professor and Extension economist in Weslaco.

"Large manufacturing operations can either do it themselves, by reducing carbon emissions, or they can buy the carbon credits from someone else as an offset," Amosson said. "Agriculture has been identified as one place they can buy credits from."

The voluntary carbon market in the U.S. peaked at over \$7 per metric ton and is now trading at about \$5.50 per metric ton,

Amosson said. By comparison, the mandatory European exchange is trading about five to six times higher than the U.S. market. If the U.S. goes to a mandatory carbon market, carbon credit prices could increase dramatically, he said.

"One catch in this game is that in the European market, ag credit doesn't count," Amosson said. "So the benefit of future and longer-term programs to agriculture will depend on how that is negotiated."

The criteria for crop-land eligibility in the pilot program are:

- The land must be in an eligible project area capable of being cropped.

- It must be crop land that recently was turned into grass or no-till or minimum till.

- It must be committed for five years of conservation till-

- It must have an annual cer-

tification of compliance.

The credits will be transferred every Jan. 1, with 20 percent held in reserve until the end of the pilot project, Amosson said. The transfer price will be determined by sale through the Chicago Climate Exchange, less a 10 percent service fee if an aggregator is used.

If a producer sequesters at least 10,000 metric tons of carbon, then there is no need for an aggregator and he will not have to pay the 10 percent fee, Ribera

There are also a verification fee, registration fee and trading fee that will be charged at the time of the transaction, Ribera said.

No-till cropping will result in 0.2-0.6 metric tons per acre, while seeding long-term grasses merits one metric ton and capturing one ton of methane through anaerobic digesters re-

sults in 18.25 carbon credits, Amosson said.

In Zone D, which consists of the majority of Texas north

of Interstate 20 and parts of Oklahoma, crop land can earn 0.2 metric tons per acre on dryland and 0.6 metric tons per acre on irrigated land if the operator follows a no-till or strip-till regimen, he said.

To determine rangeland project eligibility, the Natural Resources Conservation Service guidelines for managing the controlled harvest of vegetation with grazing animals are used, Amosson said. Stocking rates and livestock distribution criteria are defined according to county and state in the conservation service's prescribed grazing specification code.

Rangeland values are divided between non-degraded, which earns 0.2 metric tons per acre, and degraded, which collects 0.52 metric tons per acre, he

Methane capture is determined on the per head inventory basis, with dairy cows earning about 4.5 metric tons for every four cows on a dairy with an anaerobic digester, Amosson said. Feedlot cattle merit just under two metric tons for every eight to 10 cows.

The Chicago Climate Exchange works through "aggregators," private agents who can group together different contracts to meet the carbon credit needs of the buyers. The minimum contract size is 10,000 tons from a group of farms and in some cases each farm must have at least 250 acres, Ribera

With no-till or quasi-till practices, producers can earn \$1-\$3 per acre, and rangeland practices can earn and extra \$1 to \$2.5 per acre, Amosson said. The return for methane control is about \$10-\$25 per head inventory.

"It is definitely worth a producer's time to look into it, especially if he is already following these practices," he said.

For more information on the project, Amosson and Ribera suggested producers go to http:// www.chicagoclimatex.com or http://www.agragate.com.

Tourism

fertilized from the old fish tanks and drive by viewing of Knox County's only orchard had the entourage engaged in multiple "What if' conversations as they arrived at Ranger Creek Lodge for lunch.

Amid "oohs and aws " over the facility and expressions of surprise at the size of this major tourist operation, which brings guests from across the United States to Knox County, everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch, and the even more delicious air conditioning, while host Randy Walker shared the story of how this successful business started from the families need to diversify and find extra income from their traditional farming operation.

Rejuvenated, the tour moved to the beautiful and inspirational St. Joseph's Church in Rhineland, itself a parable for the ability of a farm community to accomplish greatness with hard work and dedication.

Imagining a group of farmers making bricks, carving alters and statuary over 30 years, through the Great Depression, drought, sandstorms and World War II then putting it all together to create the magnificence and beauty of this traditionally beautiful building would convince the most cynical of what a small group of dedicated souls can accomplish.

Crossing the Narrows, Knox County's National Historic Landmark, and the basis of Knox County's national recognition in natural science and historic circles, taking a few moments to reflect on its significance as the watersheds split, sending one rivers water to the Mississippi and the other to the Gulf of Mexico, changing bird and wildlife designations as "eastern or western" species and historically making up the major corridor where Native American, Military and Frontier civilizations moved across the country, inspired a flurry of suggestions and comments from the tourism, nature education, history and event professionals in the group on the potential marketing opportunities to bring visitors to Knox County.

Like all good tours, the Real Ranch Country Tour paused with plenty of time and opportunity to spend money with the merchants, back in Benjamin, before gearing up again for the evenings entertainment in Truscott. Following a visit with Wyman Menzer at the historic County Jail and primed for historic observation after a visit to the new Museum and presentation on the regions history by Clara Brown, participants literally stepped back in time on arrival in Truscott.

An old fashioned community dinner, horse drawn stage coach, chuck wagon and "war" wagon rides and tours of the historic renovation set the stage for storytelling, poetry and harmonica by Tibb Burnett and story in song with Andy Wilkinson, Texas Tech

University, Southwest Collection. Rested up physically and charged mentally with the sights and conversations of the last 36 hours the Symposium convened Saturday morning at Stanfield's Big Honker Lodge near Knox City. Welcomed by Knox City Mayor, and Lodge owner, Jeff Stanfield, the group began the day in awe of the fact that this small town business is the largest waterfowl hunting outfitter in the United States, even though many people in Knox County are unaware of its very existence.

Professional presentations and the report from the Assessment Team, led by Eden Texas' Economic Development and Tourism Director, Genora Young, soon turned to serious reflection and planning around the theme "How to Sell Your Hometown without Selling Your Soul".

Recurring comments by local participants like Jerry Bob Daniel, repeated their desire to diversify, to bring visitors to Knox County, to host them and have them enjoy our assets and life style and to be

sure that what they enjoyed while they were here was authentic, respectful of our roots and reflective of our integrity.

Andy Wilkinson led a discussion of how our art and history can frame that, Bob Rogers and Dick Wilberforce encouraged reflection on keeping it real and keeping it simple and bringing in other aspects of our natural resources.

All three were key to remembering that we have more to offer than hunting.

Just as these first businesses diversified from traditional commodity production agriculture to hunting, now we have the opportunity to diversify again, to expand our economy and opportunities to host and perhaps become home to others who enjoy and cherish the natural gifts we've been blessed with in Knox County.

Resource team members from Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Workforce Solutions, Texas Historic Commission, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Baylor County and Texas Prairie Rivers Region kept local participants busy taking notes as they presented sources for funding and technical support for local development and tourism projects and offered their own commentary on the possibilities they had seen over the last 3 days.

Steve Pepper, Knox City entre-

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preneur, closed the symposium's program with a local outlook and response encouraging and challenging the local group from his own changed perspective, to become aware and involved.

Pepper encouraged his friends and neighbors to do as he planned to, channel the time and energy used to develop success individually into a cooperative effort to preserve and develop Knox County together, benefiting each of us personally and communally.

Marla Hawkins was one of the participants in the tour. She stated it was the best tour she has ever

"It's nice to see what we have in Knox County through the eyes of someone else," Hawkins reported.

"Remelle Farrar is a great resource and valuable assets but it is up to us to maintain what we already have and continue to grow as a community."

County Visioning Team's Community Development Director, who organized the First Ever Real Rural Tourism Symposium when asked to comment on the success of the event and what she hoped to see come from it offered her favorite quote "Never, ever doubt the ability of a small, dedicated group of people to change the world. In fact it's the only thing that ever has."

Rebate

pose districts, locate the "http:// www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/allocsum/compsum.html" Monthly Sales Tax Allocation Comparison Summary Reports on the Comptroller Web site at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/allocsum/compsum.html.

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