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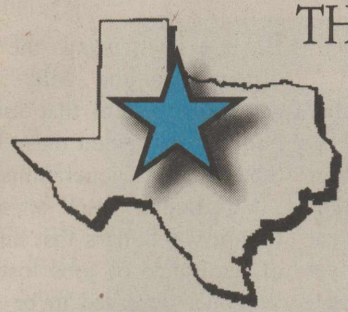
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THE KNOX COUNTY NEWS

PROUDLY SERVING THE KNOX COUNTY AREA

10 PAGES PLUS INSERTS
VOLUME XXXVIII

KNOX COUNTY, TEXAS
THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2009

75 CENTS
NUMBER 23

LOOKING AHEAD

Singles and singles again will meet 7:00 pm Friday 4/3 at the Knox County Aging Center.

"Catch The Vision"
"I Double Dog Dare You"
The Knox City Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet will be held Saturday April 4th 6 p.m. at the Wooden Nickel. For more information call 940-658-3442

The Brazos West Art Association is showing their artwork in the Knox City Chamber of Commerce Office. The beautiful paintings and Irish Potato Jewelry of local artists have been on display since last week and will remain for a limited time. To find out more about the Brazos Art Association or the artwork on display please contact the Knox City Chamber of Commerce office at (940) 658-3442 or visit 123 N. Central Ave. in Knox City.

Knox County Sales Tax Up 22 Percent

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Susan Combs today announced state sales tax revenue in February totaled \$1.74 billion, down 2.6 percent compared to February 2008.

"State sales tax collections declined in February as important sectors such as retail trade and construction continue to struggle," Combs said. "While state sales tax revenue has grown 2.8 percent through the first half of fiscal 2009, further declines are expected as the economy continues to weaken."

Combs delivered \$433.4 million in March sales tax payments to Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts. Local sales tax allocations are down 0.6 percent compared to March 2008. So far this calendar year, local sales tax allocations remain up 2.2 percent compared to the first three months of

2008.

State sales tax revenue for February and March payments made to local governments represent sales that occurred in January.

Combs sent March sales tax payments of \$291.1 million to Texas cities, down 0.7 percent compared to March 2008. Since Jan. 1, city sales tax allocations are 1.5 percent higher than the same period last year. Texas counties received sales tax payments of \$27.5 million, up 2.5 percent compared to one year ago. Calendar year-to-date, county sales tax allocations are 7.2 percent higher than last year.

The 150 special purpose taxing districts around the state received \$17.3 million in sales tax revenue, up 21.6 percent compared to last March. Ten local transit systems received \$97.4 million, down 4.3 percent.

For details of March sales tax payments to individual cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts, locate the Monthly Sales and Use Tax Allocation Comparison Summary Reports on the Comptroller's Web site at <http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/allocsum/compsum.html>.

Sales tax for Knox County and the surrounding areas are as follows.

- * Benjamin - monthly, \$843.62, down 23.26 percent; year-to-date- \$3,75.13, up 48.03 percent.
- * Goree - monthly, \$3,343.70, up 193.58 percent; year-to-date- \$4,413.33, up 96.38 percent.
- * Knox City - monthly, \$16,431.42, up 25.79 percent; year-to-date- \$55,609.67, up 12 percent.
- * Munday - monthly, \$10,086.31, up 3.64 percent; year-to-date- \$36,805.42, up 5.54 percent.



Knox County News Photo

Carson Lewis #6 (center) took home second place in his division at the Knox City Speedway during the Go Kart/Mower races.

Races Go Off After the Snow

By Tamara Smart

After the light snow with which Knox County realized the local interest in Go Karts. After that race, the Seymour Speedway acknowledged the track in Knox City which was built through the efforts of many. The KC track was then added to the Seymour circuit for the 2009 racing year.

The race on Sunday was the first race of the season, and although it didn't count for points in the overall season, 23 drivers hit the track ready to win.

It was only after the success of a debut race last October that Knox County realized the local interest in Go Karts. After that race, the Seymour Speedway acknowledged the track in Knox City which was built through the efforts of many. The KC track was then added to the Seymour circuit for the 2009 racing year.

The race on Sunday was the first race of the season, and although it didn't count for points in the overall season, 23 drivers hit the track ready to win.

The Knox City Chamber of Commerce sponsored the race and the KC Girls Softball Association ran the concession stand.

The next Go Kart race in Knox City will be on May 9, followed by races on July 25 (during the watermelon festival), and one in October.

For all the race schedules, participating drivers or list of winners visit SeymourSpeedway.com.

Front Porch Quilt Shop Celebrates Grand Opening

By Tamara Smart

Even with the residual snow dusting the ground surrounding Front Porch Quilts in Benjamin, guests from all over came to help Carol Dickson and Pam Duke celebrate the Grand Opening of their all purpose quilt shop.

Throughout the day, about 70 people were in and out of the front door of Front Porch Quilts, many of which had never gone in the shop before.

Over half the Brazos Valley Quilters Guild showed up to offer their support to the new business, as did several ex-students of the retired teachers turned entrepreneurs. There were many door prizes given out and refreshments were enjoyed by all in attendance.

Front Porch Quilts returned to their regular hours of operation on Monday after their Grand Opening and will continue to be operational on Monday- Friday, 10a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Knox County News Photo

The owners of Front Porch Quilts, Pam Duke and Carol Dickson proudly stand next to the sign displayed outside of their business. The Grand Opening of this little all purpose quilt shop was Saturday

April Is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Child abuse is failure to provide for a child's basic needs. There are four major types of child maltreatment: physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse.

Physical Abuse is physical injury that results in substantial harm to the child or the genuine threat of substantial harm from physical injury to the child. The physical injury (ranging from minor bruises to severe fractures or death) can result from punching, beating, shaking, kicking, biting, throwing, stabbing, hitting, burning, choking or otherwise harming a child. Such injury is considered abuse regardless of whether the caretaker intended to hurt the child.

- Suspect Physical Abuse When You See:
- Frequent injuries such as bruises, cuts, black eyes or burns without adequate explanations
 - Frequent complaints of pain without obvious injury
 - Burns or bruises in unusual patterns that may indicate the use of an instrument or human bite; cigarette burns on any part of the body
 - Lack of reaction to pain
 - Aggressive, disruptive and destructive behavior
 - Passive, withdrawn and emotionless behavior
 - Fear of going home or seeing parents
 - Injuries that appear after a child has not been seen for several days

Unreasonable clothing that may hide injuries to arms or legs

Neglect is failure to provide for a child's basic needs necessary to sustain the life or health of the child, excluding failure caused primarily by financial inability unless relief services have been offered and refused.

- Suspect Neglect When You See:
- Obvious malnourishment
 - Lack of personal cleanliness
 - Torn or dirty clothing
 - Stealing or begging for food
 - Child unattended for long periods of time
 - Need for glasses, dental care or other medical attention
 - Frequent tardiness or absence from school
- Sexual Abuse is when an adult engages in sexual contact or sexual activity with a child. Sexual abuse usually involves private parts. It can be especially difficult for boys and girls to tell someone that they are being sexually abused.

- Suspect Sexual Abuse When You See:
- Physical signs of sexually transmitted diseases
 - Evidence of injury to the genital area
 - Pregnancy in a young girl
 - Difficulty in sitting or walking
 - Extreme fear of being alone with adults of a certain sex
 - Sexual comments, behaviors or play
 - Knowledge of sexual relations beyond what is expected for a child's age
 - Sexual victimization of other children

Emotional Abuse is mental or emotional injury that results in an observable and material impairment in a child's growth, development, or psychological functioning. It includes extreme forms of punishment such as confining a child in a dark closet, making them the scapegoat, belittling and rejecting treatment for a child.

- Suspect Emotional Abuse When You See:
- Over compliance
 - Low self-esteem
 - Severe depression, anxiety or aggression
 - Difficulty making friends or doing things with other children
 - Lagging in physical, emotional and intellectual development
 - Caregiver who belittles the child, withholds love, and seems unconcerned about the child's problems



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OPINION

Obama's Chilling Effect on Capitalism

By Howie Rich

The tombstone for General Motors really should have read 1908-2008.

That's because December 2008 is when the bell finally tolled for GM - when the marketplace determined that a combination of poor management decisions, union pressures and a slumping economy had made the automotive giant's continued existence mathematically impossible.

Of course, that was also precisely when the administration of former President George W. Bush stepped in with a \$17.4 billion bailout for GM and Chrysler, with further funds contingent on the two companies creating a "path to profitability."

At the time, a skeptical American public heard talk of all the concessions that were being made by company executives, car dealers and the notoriously inflexible union bosses.

But it was former Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson who hinted that this massive infusion of taxpayer cash might be nothing more than the world's most expensive delaying tactic.

"If the right outcome is reorganization or bankruptcy, then isn't it better to get there through an orderly process where every effort is made to avoid it, and if it can't be avoided, everyone's prepared for it?" Paulson said at the time, comments which were echoed by the Bush White House.

Fast-forward to February 2009, when the "reorganization plans" of Chrysler and GM were unveiled - and shown to be nothing more than requests for even larger taxpayer funded bailouts.

Still, the "tombstone moment" was delayed another month until this week, which has brought us perhaps the most bizarre - and disturbing -

chapter in the evolution of the bailout culture that has infected our nation's capital.

This week, the President of the United States insisted on the removal of a private sector CEO. And once he had been removed, that CEO's severance package was governed by Treasury Department regulations.

No longer just bailing out companies, the White House is now determining who should run them and what their retirement packages should be.

Not only that, Obama has taken the unprecedented - and unnerving - step of guaranteeing all GM and Chrysler warranties.

Thank about that for a moment, in its ongoing attempts to revive a dying patient, the Obama administration has just put every American taxpayer on the hook for potentially billions in auto repairs!

Obama's auto task force is also calling the shots on which

models GM should produce and sell, and telling Chrysler who to merge with and for how much - all the while holding additional bailout billions over the heads of the two "private" corporations in case they refuse to abide by the government's wishes.

One pro-free market commentator told me that "Obama might as well have reached into the corporate boardroom and started running that company."

"That's exactly what he did," I said.

Obama's actions "should send a chill through those who believe in free enterprise," said Tennessee Senator Bob Corker.

How true. And yet even as the government is guaranteeing GM's warranties and providing an undisclosed amount of interim operating cash during this latest two-month reprieve, Obama and his socialist sycophants are pretending that they have

administered some "tough love" to the company.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

America should have never taken those first, fateful steps down the road toward our present socialist experiment. And yet \$13 trillion later, with the market still in shambles, jobs still on the decline and income levels flatter than pancakes, we're stuck with an administration that seems hell bent on pushing the envelope of government control as far as it will go.

How bad has it gotten for what's left of our free market?

Consider this - three months ago language like "socialist sycophants" would have been considered over the top.

Not anymore, though. What used to pass for rhetorical "red meat" among true free market supporters is now putting things mildly.

With each fresh interventionist encroachment,

Obama is twisting the knife deeper into the belly of an economic system that founded, built and sustained these United States through generations.

Certainly, based on tens of billions of dollars lost and tens of thousands of jobs lost, Rick Wagoner deserved to be shown the door at GM.

But that should be a decision reserved for GM shareholders.

The fact that such a decision was made unilaterally by the President of the United States - holding the taxpayers' checkbook in his hand as he made it - runs completely counter to everything this country stands for.

Yesterday's invisible hand has become today's iron fist.

We must unclench it, or risk joining our former Cold War adversaries on the ash-heap of history.

The author is President of Americans for Limited Government.

Don't Miss Your Chance to Hug A Kid Today!



The Paperboy

By Christopher Blackburn

Absolute Power

President Obama urged GM CEO Rick Wagoner to resign. The request was complied upon. Wagoner, 56, who spent 32 years with GM working all over the world, stepped down effective immediately. He was replaced as CEO by Fritz Henderson, the company's vice chairman and chief operating officer.

Obama did so with out any advice from Congress, according to Carl Levin (D), Michigan's senior senator.

"He didn't ask us about it, he informed us," Levin told reporters in a conference call Monday afternoon. "The president said he'd already decided."

According to reports, Levin said he and three other lawmakers were informed of the decision in a phone call Obama made from the Oval Office. Obama told the members of Congress that Wagoner needed to resign so that his administration could show the public it was making an effort at a fresh start with the auto industry.

Does that not sound strange to anyone but me? Is the president supposed to be in the business of firing people whom aren't in government?

Does that mean if your business receives money from a bank which received money from the government, Obama can have you fired?

Granted, Wagoner's company had lost \$82 billion the last four years and is a recipient of billions in taxpayer money, but shouldn't he be judged by the board and shareholders?

In Wagoner's defense, he was making a difference. He had cut GM's U.S. work force from 177,000 to roughly 92,000; closed factories; shed the unprofitable Oldsmobile brand; globalized GM's engineering, manufacturing and design; led a resurgence in quality and performance; and ushered in a more affordable \$14-per-hour wage for new hires, about half that of a former wage. These measures saved the company billions.

What really sunk Wagoner was the GM's focus on larger SUVs and trucks instead of smaller fuel efficient automobiles as fuel prices climbed.

By the way: GM's stock was down \$.92 Monday ... down to \$2.70 a share. That's a pretty good slip.

In fact, it's safe to say the market reacted poorly to the Obama-Wagoner news. Investors are probably worried about the prospect of the president handing pink-slips out.

Here's what worries me. The government is getting far too close to the private sector.

If a company is not viable, let it fail. If it is viable but needs to be restructured, let it enter bankruptcy.

What ever happened to the anti-trust legislation? They used to use it when a company was deemed too big. Anyone thinking that should have been the case with AIG?

Mr. President, I implore you, run the country, not businesses. Please protect our Mexican border, take out North Korea's missile and make sure Congress spends OUR money WISELY!

If Obama wants to reach beyond his powers and start firing people, he should start with Nancy Pelosi, Harry Reid, Chris Dodd and Barney Frank - as they know nothing about business but plenty about spending OUR money poorly. I bet the markets would react great to that news.

And before you Democrats get the rope for me and you Republicans begin praising me, here is something else to chew on.

At least there is leadership on the left. There is virtually no voice coming from the GOP. Where's the leadership? Who is going to step forward and become the new face of this downtrodden party?

It's a fact - one party rule in this country stinks. The GOP proved that and it cost them dearly. The Democrats continue to prove that point by spending like coeds on spring break with Daddy's credit card.

Our current economic situation and the government's reaction - dating back to the Bush Administration, make me want to puke.

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Christopher Blackburn is the president of Blackburn Media Group, owner of this publication. Feel free to comment on The Paperboy at <http://thenebastion.blogspot.com/>.

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

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 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.

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 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.

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 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 editor.

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 Monday - Thursday • 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

TEXAS CROSSWORD
 by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- discounted auto
- TXism for "against"
- TX Katherine Helmond role on "Who's The Boss?"
- TXism: "up and at ___ juice" (coffee)
- Amarillo hosts the ___ State Fair
- draws out or elicits column in many TX newspapers: "Abby"
- TX Perot financed rescue in Iran after this Khomeini took over in '79
- rock singer at TX Willie's Farm Aid IV
- manner of practice
- poker flush: five cards ___
- valuable minerals
- TXism: "___ a panhandle prairie"
- TX Gulf harbors
- Cowboy fans ___ strongly to "T-O's" release
- famous TX oil fire fighter "Red" (init.)
- in Hidalgo Co. on hwy. 88
- in Alpine: Sul ___ State University
- AIDS virus
- TX Johnny Horton sang "___ Alaska"
- Six Flags Over Texas character: "Sam"

DOWN

- Buchanan ___ TX
- TXism: "thinks he's the only rooster in the barnyard" (big ___)
- Wells, TX
- TXism: "has to sneak up ___ her hair" (homely)
- sermon passage
- TX Willie wrote "Blue ___ Rain"
- TXism: "lower than a snake's belly in a wagon ___"
- peer pressure desire (2 wds.)
- first female TX RR commissioner Guerrero and singer Horne
- Firm State Park
- TXism: "enjoyed about all this ___ stand"
- pickup wheel nut
- low water use garden in Ellis Co. on I-45
- tech. institute in TX (abbr.)
- TX Paula Prentiss film: "He and ___"
- TXism: "___ earned his spurs"
- elected county "legal eagle" (abbr.)
- Bevo's school
- TXism: "he ___ turnance to the devil" (persuasive)
- in Hidalgo Co. on 107
- bed support in Liberty Co. on hwy. 770
- in the Gulf
- a yellow TX wildflower
- roadside religious reminder?
- sandwich cookie
- TX Parker who was Davy Crockett saloon feature: spit ___
- TX Will's: "___ ha, take it away Leon"
- Gov. Dewhurst
- door swinger
- TX Roddenberry's "Star Trek" line: "Beam ___"
- predated the TX 7-11 Slurpee
- to lose luster
- TX historic locations
- Cybill of film "Texasville" (init.)

New Advertising Deadlines for The Knox County News is Friday at 2 p.m.

KNOX COUNTY AGING SERVICES

MENUS FOR APRIL 6TH TO APRIL 10TH

MONDAY APRIL 6TH

SLICED HAM
GREEN BEANS
SWEET POTATOES
HOT ROLLS
COOKIES

WEDNESDAY APRIL 8TH

PINTO BEANS/GERMAN SAUSAGE
TURNIP GREENS
CHEESY POTATOES
CORNBREAD
CAKE

FRIDAY APRIL 10TH

CLOSED-GOOD FRIDAY
HAPPY EASTER!!

ALTERNATE DESSERTS FOR DIABETICS

TUESDAY APRIL 7TH

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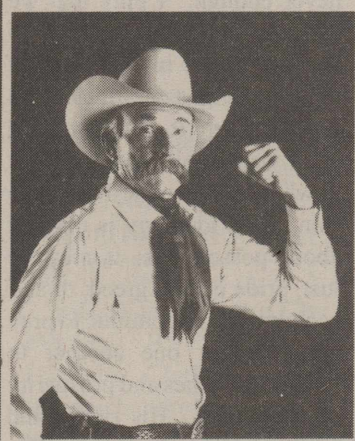
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CRACKERS
DESSERT

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ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

by Baxter Black, DVM

THE WORLD SERIES – A MISSED CHANCE

Since the collapse of the economy in October '08 I've become a sports fan in an effort to escape the barrage of bad news. I rediscovered the compelling yet inane lure of games, fans, players and broadcasters.

Oddly enough, escaping into sports is how I handled our last overwhelming national crisis, the bombing of the Twin Towers. During October 2001, the Arizona Diamondbacks played the New York Yankees in the World Series.

Concern about the terrorist attack was flooding the airwaves, our normal conversation and even our private thoughts. An overwhelming sympathy and compassion for NYC arose across the country. We non-New Yorkers emptied our hearts, our brawn and our pockets to help the ravaged city.

After the screaming, the confusion and the scalding grief, New Yorkers quickly regained their independence, pride and attitude. The World Series soon became the focus of the city's recovery. Players were encouraged to "win one for the city." America would rise from the ashes on the shoulders of the Yankees. The huge ticker tape parade was going to be the equivalent of Veterans' Day.

The national media joined the chorus. The opposing Diamondbacks were not cast as the bad guys, as much as just the acknowledged foe in this New York-centered American drama. For the minority of us who lived in the American outback, those of us who were Diamondback fans might have felt a twinge of guilt. In my case, I respectfully acknowledged the importance of the Yankees victory to the battered confidence of their supporters. But, with friends, my loyalty to Randy 'The Big Unit' Johnson and Curt Schilling never wavered.

It was one of the best, evenly matched, well-fought, exciting World Series ever played. Both teams deserved to win. Alas, the Diamondbacks won by a thread.

The story disappeared as quick as NYC and Yankee supporters could sweep it under the rug. The upstart, unknown Arizona team was quickly forgotten. We had spoiled their party.

I watched the 2009 Superbowl. A tough Steelers team, in Pittsburg since 1918, beat the Cardinals, home in Arizona for only 21 years. It was as close and exciting and fun to watch as the 2001 World Series. We lost. In this case the spoils and praise go to the victor, as it should.

I have often thought that after the '01 World Series, Phoenix should have proposed that the two cities each hold a ticker tape parade with both teams on display. It would have united the country in a way I don't think proud New Yorkers could have imagined. It would have been a visible demonstration of our feelings toward America's biggest and most vulnerable city, and New York City's hand reaching out beyond their own city limits where the rest of us live. It is a moment lost to history.



Named for the historic FW&D Engine 501. The 501 is always exactly 501 words and dashes long, whatever the topic. Welch, a freelance writer for Blackburn Media Group, divides her time mostly between Abilene and the family farm north of Vernon.

I once had a cow named Georgia. She's been on my mind.

Georgia was my first cow. Whether named for the song or the state, I don't know.

Not that she was really mine. When you're 5 years old, and your daddy says it's your cow, it doesn't necessarily mean she's really yours. Sure enough, when we sold her a couple of years later, I never saw the money. Instead, on rare occasions – like maybe twice – when we happened to drive down a certain country road several miles from our place, I saw Georgia herself, grazing away in her new surroundings.

Then, one summer when I was home from college and teaching swimming lessons, one of my students happened to be a granddaughter of the man who bought Georgia. I mentioned the cow, and, amazingly enough, she knew the venerable Georgia by name and told me she'd died not long before.

Wow! In regular cow years Georgia would have been about 100. Then I got my second surprise. Lightning killed her. Ouch.

But if you're an old cow, I guess that's not a bad way to go. In fact, in the bovine world it happens often enough to be a natural cause – sort of like for golfers. Chances of getting struck and killed by lightning must increase if you've got four feet planted on the ground or if you're carrying golf clubs or both.

For that matter, maybe cow horns attract lightning. Maybe that's how Georgia lived as long as she did. No horns. Nope, no poster cow she.

Georgia was a plain old black baldy – not the kind of cow that makes a good wall mount or even a fancy rug. Here's to Georgia anyway.

There you have it – my first cow eulogy and closure at last. Goodbye Georgia.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch and speaking of poster cows, here's a phone conversation I overheard just last week in downtown Grapevine:

"I bought a Texas longhorn. I shipped it by rail. It should be there in three or four days." What? Since when do guys in jogging attire buy cows? And ship them by rail?

I quickened my own pace to catch up with the cell phone talker, but he walked into a busy restaurant and disappeared into a crowd of people who also didn't look like cattle buyers.

Somewhere, I thought, a top-of-the-bloodline Texas longhorn must be ensconced in a special railcar, speeding over miles of track to a distant longhorn-deficient part of the country, like maybe upstate New York, where nondescript dairy herds dot the landscape.

OK, so maybe I got a little carried away with my imaginary scenario, no doubt energized by classy downtown Grapevine, where Mercedes and BMWs outnumber Chevrolet pickups and my car was the only one with farm dents. What do I know about the upscale end of the longhorn business? Maybe that's how shipping works – the cow gets a one-way ticket on Amtrak. Georgia would have gotten the senior discount.

Go Georgia.

MUSEUM NEWS

The Knox County Historical Commission will be recognized with the Distinguished Service Award for outstanding preservation work accomplished in 2008, on April 16th, at the Texas Historical Commission's Annual Preservation Conference in Lakeway. A slide show of photos from County Historical Commissions recognized will be presented. A letter of congratulations on a job well done was received and a certificate will be given to the Commission.

The Knox County Historical Commission began in January, 1964 when Mrs. C. C. Hoge was appointed chairman of the Knox County Historical Survey Committee. She took office in March and announced at that first meeting her prime aim would be to publish a history of Knox County.

Her next step was to ask Mrs. Josephine Hooper Campbell to take the responsibility of organizing and publishing a Knox County history. The third step Mrs. Hoge took was to ask Mrs. Campbell to appoint a History Committee composed of a member from each town in the county. It was an inclusive step that has been successfully used in many historical preservation projects since.

Members of the History

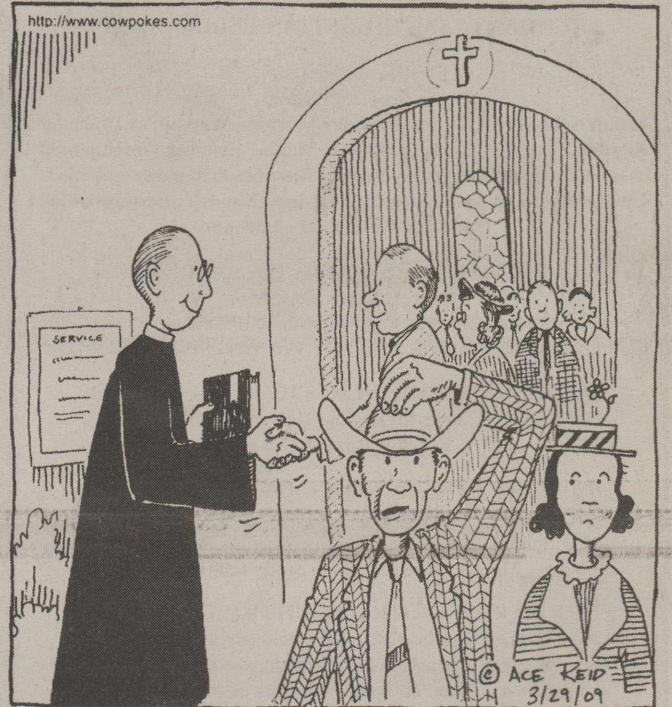
Committee were: Benjamin- Mrs. Frances Hinton Sams; Gilliland- Mrs. O. R. Miller; Goree- Mrs. W. M. Taylor; Knox City- Mary Reeder Vaughan and Josephine Hooper Campbell; Munday- Mrs. Effie Alexander and Mrs. Marvin Reeves; Rhineland- Mrs. V. M. Meadors; Truscott- Mrs. Myrtle Craig Smith and Mrs. Curtis Casey; and Vera- Mrs. Olen Coffman and Mrs. J. D. Jefecoat. Amazingly, the history of Knox County was researched, written, and published in 1966 by the Haskell Free Press, within two years of the project's beginning.

Since its inception the Knox County Historical commission has promoted many historical preservation projects, including a survey of Knox County cemeteries; a collection of obituaries of persons buried in Knox County and persons closely related to Knox County citizens; Knox County family stories; the Knox County Veterans Memorial; and information on each veteran whose name is engraved there.

Money raised from these projects and fundraisers since 1964 was collected, saved and finally used for the seed money for the Wichita Brazos Museum. A special "THANKS" goes to these early Knox County citizens with a desire to preserve Knox County history.

COW POKES®

By Ace Reid



"Yeah, I heard all that about gambling and drinkin'. If he knew how much I'd gambled on that string of steers, he'd be drinkin' too!"

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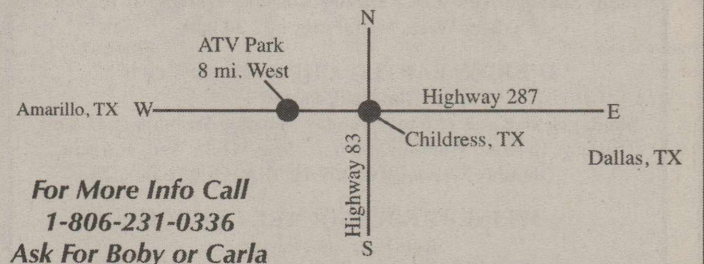
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BRIGHT IDEAS



By Alex Mills

President Obama's proposed changes to the tax code for the oil and gas industry could cost Texas more than \$20 billion over the next four years.

The potential hit to the Texas economy has caught the attention of members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Texas Legislature.

In a letter to U.S. Rep. John Spratt, chairman of the House Budget Committee, 16 members of Congress stated that America needs a national energy policy that recognizes the role that the domestic oil and gas industry plays in providing reliable and affordable supplies of energy to American consumers and businesses.

Texas signing the letter put together by Rep. Gene Green (D-Houston) are: Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Houston), Charles Gonzalez (D-San Antonio), Solomon Ortiz (D-Corpus Christi), Ciro Rodriguez (D-San Antonio), Al Green (D-Houston), Reuben Hinojosa (D-Beeville), and Henry Cuellar (D-Laredo).

"We are also concerned with the impact budget proposals may have on domestic energy production and job growth," the letter stated. "Increasing the costs of producing energy would further strip essential capital from new domestic investments and reduce our energy supplies. Lower energy prices and the tight credit market have already shed thousand of energy-industry jobs nationwide,

which disproportionately impacts small, independent U.S. energy producers."

The letter pointed out that independents - not "Big Oil" - drill most of the wells in the U.S. and produce a majority of the crude oil and natural gas. "America's independent natural gas and oil producers develop 90 percent of U.S. wells and produce 82 percent of U.S. natural gas and 68 percent of U.S. oil."

Independent producers are very different from the integrated oil companies, because on average independents have 12 employees.

The letter also noted that natural gas can play a significant role in the administration's goal of reducing carbon emissions. "Clean-burning natural gas is required to make energy-efficient products, make wind turbine blades and solar panels, provide back-up power to renewable energy projects, and to run biomass facilities," the letter stated. "If we make it more expensive or difficult to produce natural gas domestically, it will hinder our ability to meet our clean energy goals while increasing natural gas prices for all Americans."

The tax provisions referred to involve repealing percentage depletion and expensing intangible drilling costs, modifying the treatment of geological and geophysical costs and the exemption to the passive loss provisions for working interest owners, and repeal of the marginal well and enhance oil tax credits.

Some believe that the drilling rig count could be as low as 500 nationwide within 12 months (the lowest on record is 488 in March 1999 when oil was \$6 per barrel). Without replacing oil and gas reserves as they are produced, the nation's production capacity will decline drastically, resulting in the nation spending an additional \$36 billion for imported oil.

Texas will suffer losses in severance, sales and property taxes. The economy will decline because of the lack of drilling and production activity.

The potential reduction in the Texas economy has caught the attention of Texas Rep. Jim Keffer, chairman of the House Energy Resources Committee. He plans to talk to decision makers in Washington about the negative impact of the proposals.

More and more people are coming to realize that the tax proposals would severely harm President Obama's "energy independence" goals, and it would deal a negative blow to Texas.

Alex Mills is President of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers, which represents more than 3,200 members. The opinions expressed are solely of the author.

God's Promises

By Jim Reid, Pastor
O'Brien Baptist Church



There seems to be much to do about the new HDTV's. I can certainly appreciate the technology and would love to have one myself. Have you noticed the commercial currently running on television for one of our area electronics stores? The commercial shows a husband getting his wife's approval to go and purchase a new HDTV, then the music in the background surfaces loudly proclaiming, "I want it all, I want it all, I want it all and I want it now!" The song is from 1989 of a rock band by the name of Queen. The lyrics of the song continue on to speak of the desire of our generation demanding the need for self-satisfaction. The only real satisfaction that will satiate the desire of our generation is the prosperity of God. We are now in a time that our decisions will reflect our belief and our consequence. Here is an excerpt of the lyrics:

*Listen all you people
gather round
I gotta get me a game plan
gotta shake you to the ground*

*Just give me what I know is mine
People do you hear me
just give me the sign
It aint much Im asking
if you want the truth
Heres to the future for
the dreams of youth
I want it all (give it all) I want
it all I want it all and I want
it now*

This one track being, "I want it all, I want it all, I want it all and I want it now!" Is this a road to destruction? Does this type of thinking refuse sacrifice and the integrity of selflessness? We all can be tempted to live in this philosophy of greed.

King Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, speaks in the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes of the knowledge of seeking wealth for the sake of having it all.

*Ecc 5:10 He that loveth silver
shall not be satisfied with
silver; nor he that loveth
abundance, with increase:
this also is vanity.*

*Ecc 5:11 When goods increase,
they are increased that
eat them; and what
advantage is there to the
owner thereof, save the
beholding of them with
his eyes?*

The word "vanity" means emptiness, transitory, temporal. In essence saying, these things never satisfy, because it is never enough. I pray that we can encourage one another to see the deceit in this type of thinking and aspirations. To say, "I want it all, I want it all, I want it all, and I want it now", is a downward spiral to ruin. This ideology is not just about possessions; it may be lust, pride of life, greed, or self acclaim. Let us continue to pray earnestly for one another to realize the riches and prosperity of Holy God. His riches and prosperity or upward; they praise and glorify Him.

I pray that you experience the love of God in every way, every day.

Truscott-Gilliland News

The Wichita Divide got moisture last week. It was in the form of a typical snow storm, covering the grass, short weeds and mostly gone by noon.

Last Tuesday night Irma Bell, Chairman of the museum exhibit committee for Truscott, called a community meeting at the Truscott Center. The Wichita Brazos museum director, Mrs. Mary Jane Young of Benjamin described plans for the museums grand opening in June 2009.

Each of the communities in Knox County has been assigned a space in which to present the history of its community.

Each community can also use a glass case in its display. The cases have locks which will make items there more secure. However, since each case now exhibits a committee will have to empty the case of the present exhibits, prepare items for storage in labeled boxes, and place the boxes in museum storage.

Items for the new exhibit will be on loan to the museum for six months. A lender of an item will sign a loan form. The lender and museum will each keep a copy of

the loan form which will contain a description of the item of items loaned.

Suitable exhibit items could be photographs, newspapers or clippings, maps letters, official records of various types, clothing, and items used in household or for work, etc.

Information is needed about each item used. Photographs should name the people in the picture, and approximate time period. If individuals can't be identified at least give a general description of the group as: "students at the Truscott school about 1905."

Use of clothing items may be limited as the space will be small. Baby dresses, head gear, etc might work.

Maps which show the community or have a special significance could be interesting. Letters and records could be matted so as to display parts of interest.

Small household items and farm or ranch items need to be identified with and early day owner, if possible, plus information about how the item

was used.

A second meeting will be held soon so people will be able to bring their items. If there are duplications it may not be able to use all the items this time. However it is planned to make a list of historical items available so that future community exhibits can be done. Possible future exhibits include themes such as schools, churches, businesses, etc.

Others who can be contacted about the Truscott exhibit include Geraldine Tomanek, Ruth Lowrance, and Clara Brown, or anyone you know that lives in Truscott.

The meeting generated some enthusiastic talk and should promote a good turnout of loans. The cutting March 14 at the Daniel's arena had a good turnout despite cold weather. Eugenie Daniel reports the concession stand netted over \$800.00 for the Truscott Community Center. Joan Daniel and Irma Bell worked the stand with help from Seth Koehler and his mother. J.W. Sollis announced the event. It was a cold, wet rainy day, but it was a good one.

DEADLINE FOR ADVERTISING IS FRIDAY BY 2:00 P.M.

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Knox City, 11:00 a.m.
Thursday, April 9 Holy Thursday
Knox City, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, April 10 Good Friday
Knox City, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 12 Easter
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Benjamin Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
Knox City Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

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BENJAMIN NEWS

By Gladene Green

Did you see the snow on Sat? If you didn't get up and around pretty early & look out, I'm betting you missed it but it did happen & it was cold both Friday & Sat but by Sun., all turned back to more spring-like conditions. I'll say it again- Texas weather is so unpredictable!!

About Our Ill

Kenneth Roberts underwent gall bladder surgery on Tues in Wichita Falls accord to family members, he is doing pretty well, but no idea yet of when he may come home. I'm sure he's ready but also know he wants to stay there until he's completely able to return. I know he would appreciate a cheery note. Send correspondence to Benjamin and I'm sure his family will get it to him.

Jan Carver had knee surgery in Dallas on Thurs. She thought she may come home today (Mon) but I haven't heard. At last report she was doing o.k. but will take some time for her to get completely back to normal.

Lorene Powers got a real good report from her cardiologist on Thurs. Of course, that was the news she wanted to hear.

Mark Brown was back in Abilene, Thurs. to see his Dr. We'll go back this week for some further tests. Right now he's feeling pretty well.

Here N there

The Sr. class sponsored a hamburger supper Thursday nite preceding the presentation of this years One Act Play- a Trip to Bountiful- (for the local crowd before the competition began). All who saw it had nothing but favorable remarks about the entire presentation (cast, crew and director). But when the first round of competition was completed Sat at Aspermont, we failed to advance. We did, however, have two on the all star cast- Devon Jones and Leigh Vanderpol received that honor & Devon was given honorable mention for best actress. Belle Gull again directed the play, doing a fantastic job as usual, but the judges saw something they didn't like as well as the others & tho we may not agree, they have the final "say so". The kids did well & have nothing to be ashamed of and we're proud of them.

The grand opening of "Front Porch Quilts" on Sat. has been termed very successful. Lots of folks showed up- some to look- some to shop but everyone was amazed that such a fabric shop was alive & thriving in Benjamin, TX!! Proof positive if you set your mind to something you can get it done & that's what Carol and Pa did & it's gonna be a success.

Samijo Russell is here for a few weeks after living in Lubbock since last summer. She's taking some time off before going back to work.

I learned this week of the death of Kathleen Michels & also of former Benjamin resident, Gene Taylor. Sympathy to both families. Judy and Randolph Barnett have been very busy since returning from another "work trip" & before leaving again on Thurs, (week before last) they met their grandkids, Cheyenne & Caden Conner in Paducah & brought them to Benjamin for a couple of days. Judy took them home on sat- (while Randy was in Dallas attending an aviation school) & visited with her sons Jeff and family of Lubbock & Jim Bob & family of Slaton.

Randolph left Sun (22nd) for a weeklong fishing trip to a lake near Del Rio. A friend from Mineola made the trip with him.

The city-wide clean-up day sat. was postponed & will be held later. So don't despair, if you have trash out by the road, it will be picked up soon.

The Easter Sunrise service will be 7 a.m. Easter Sunday outside at the Methodist Church. Breakfast will follow inside & everyone is invited & urged to attend this most holy service.

The First Baptist church is the host church this year & Troy Culpepper will be bringing the message.

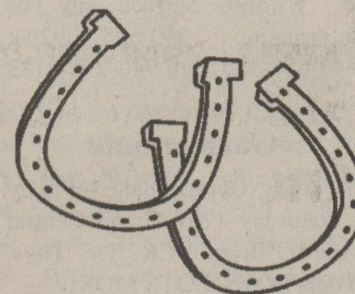


Chasity Tolson, the only girl on the Jr. High track team from Benjamin, participated in the Knox City Greyhound Relays. Be sure to check out next weeks issue for the Jr. High results.



Bryston Pierce competes in the Long Jump in Knox City's Greyhound Relays Thursday March 26. For full junior high results see next week's issue.

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION - Rule 114 & 101 - Rules of Civil Procedure

CLERK OF THE COURT

Annette Offutt, Clerk
50th District Clerk
Benjamin, Texas 79505

Attorney: Bethany F. Lucking
703 Scott Ave.
Wichita Falls, TX 76301

THE STATE OF TEXAS

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorneys do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty two days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."

To: JOSE GONZALES, Respondent, Greeting:

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Petitioner's petition at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this citation, the same being Monday the 4th of May, 2009 at or before 10 o'clock a.m., before the 50th District Court of Knox County, at the Courthouse in Benjamin, Texas.

Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed on March 19, 2009 In this case, numbered 9219 on the docket of said court, and styled IN THE INTEREST OF: NEVAEH JOLIE GONZALES, A CHILD.

The names of the parties to the cause are as follows: Alejandro & Eida Martinez are Plaintiffs and April Oudems & Jose Gonzales are Defendants.

A brief statement of the nature of the suit is as follows, to-wit: ORIGINAL PETITION TO TERMINATE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP ADOPTION OF CHILD as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and the Seal of said Court, at office in Benjamin, Texas, on March 19, 2009.

ATTEST: Annette Offutt, District Clerk
Knox County, Texas

(Seal) By: Angela Loffiss, Deputy
Angela Loffiss

THIS COPY OF CITATION WAS DELIVERED TO YOU ON THE 27th DAY OF March 2009
By: Debra W. Houston CONSTABLE OR SHERIFF
KNOX COUNTY, TEXAS
BY: McGowan DEPUTY
AM PM 109

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - Rule 114 & 101 - Rules of Civil Procedure

CLERK OF THE COURT

Annette Offutt, Clerk
50th District Clerk
Benjamin, Texas 79505

Attorney: Bethany F. Lucking
703 Scott Ave.
Wichita Falls, TX 76301

THE STATE OF TEXAS

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To: JOSE GONZALES, Respondent, Greeting:

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Petitioner's petition at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this citation, the same being Monday the 11th of May, 2009 at or before 10 o'clock a.m., before the 50th District Court of Knox County, at the Courthouse in Benjamin, Texas.

Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed on March 23, 2009 In this case, numbered 9220 on the docket of said court, and styled IN THE INTEREST OF: CHRISTOPHER GONZALES, ET AL CHILDREN.

The names of the parties to the cause are as follows: Isabel Diaz are Plaintiffs and April Oudems, Jose Gonzales & Ben Gonzales are Defendants.

A brief statement of the nature of the suit is as follows, to-wit: ORIGINAL PETITION TO TERMINATE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP ADOPTION OF CHILD as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and the Seal of said Court, at office in Benjamin, Texas, on March 23, 2009.

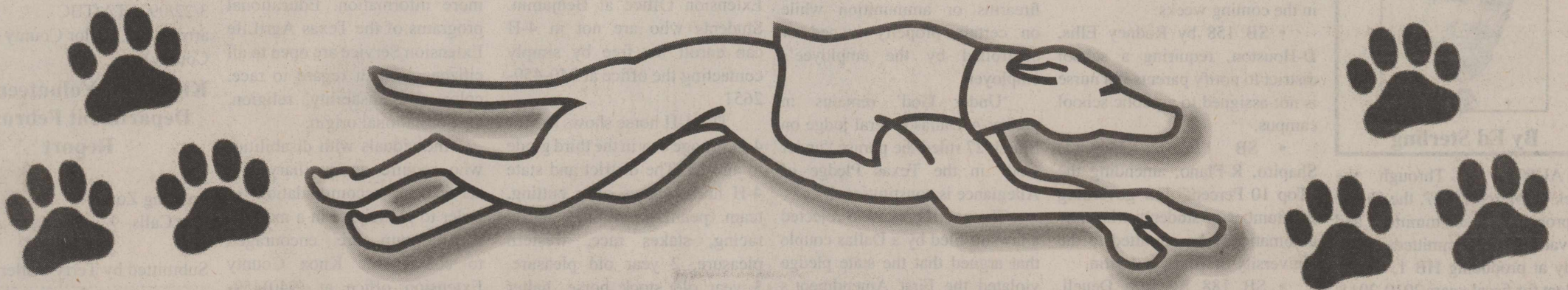
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Knox County, Texas

(Seal) By: Angela Loffiss, Deputy
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April 2, 2009

KNOX CITY SPORTS



Greyhounds Second in Knox City Relays

Knox City- The Greyhound Relay took place this past week, even though Mother Nature did her best to derail the event. Many schools around the area participated in the 2-day Meet. Jr. high held there competition on Thursday March 26th followed by High School on Friday March 27th.

Knox City High School girls scored 94 bring in a 2nd place victory. Results from the Relays are as follows:

GIRLS

Team Standings: Newcastle V 105 pts, Knox City 94 pts, Crowell V 59 pts, Aspermont 59 pts, Stamford 36 pts, Jayton 30 pts Moran 30 pts, Woodson 25 pts, Jayton 16 pts, Rule 10 pts, Newcastle JV 0 pts, Crowell JV 0 pts,

Knox City Individual standings:

- 2400 Meter Run- 5th place Esquivel, 6th Place Espinosa
- 400 Meter Relay- 1st place Knox City time 54.9
- 800 Meter Run- 1st place Knox City time 1:58.09
- 200 Meter Dash- 1st Place Knox City Gutierrez 28.09
- 1600 Meter Relay- 2nd place Knox City 4:49.58
- 1600 Meter Run- 3rd place Espinosa 6:59.36 6th place Esquivel 7:14.38

- 100 Meter Dash- 4th place Gonzales 14.24
- 800 Meter Relay - 1st Place Knox City 1:58.09

Knox City High School boys also came in 2nd place in the overall standings.

BOYS

Team Standings: Crowell V 86 pts, Knox City 82 pts, Newcastle V 79 pts, Aspermont 73 pts, Woodson V 47 pts, Rule 36 pts, Jayton 33 pts, Moran 20 pts, Paint creek 17 pts, Newcastle JV 10 pts, Stamford 0 pts.

Knox City Individual standings:

- Shot Put- 5th place Strickland
- 400 Meter Relay- 1st place Knox City 47.81
- 110 Meter Hurdles- 3rd place Clark 19.58
- 800 Meter Relay- 3rd place Knox City 1:45.02
- 400 Meter Dash- 2nd place Coleman 56.14, 5th place Carter 1:00.37
- 200 Meter Dash- 2nd place Lewis 25.11
- 1600 Meter Relay- 3rd place Knox City 3:59.60
- 300 Meter Hurdles- 3rd place Clark 53.19
- 100 Meter Dash- 3rd place Coleman 11.96

Jr. High results not available at press time.

Cold Weather does not stop the Knox City Relays

Last week Knox City hosted its first invitational track meet in 4 years. The junior high meet on Thursday ran off smoothly. There were sixteen junior high teams entered in the meet. Team totals and times were not kept and every student entered in an event received a ribbon. Ribbons were given for first through sixth places in each heat of each race. This allowed everyone entered in a running event to receive a ribbon, something that is not usually done at most track meets. Since the meet was ran in this manner there are no official results to post.

Late Thursday night a cold front blew in and made for a frigid track meet on Friday. The meet was scheduled to have 18 teams, yet due to the weather several teams dropped out. The teams that braved the weather ran all of the running events and threw the shot put and discus as the only field events.

Track meets are a huge fundraiser for the school and they produce a large influx of out of town visitors to our small community. A track meet of any scale is impossible to host without the help of the community as a whole. With this said the Knox City coaching staff would like to send out a special thanks to the people who helped with the meet. From running off field events, working in the press box, picking races or timing races, the people of Knox City volunteered to assure these track meets ran as smoothly as possible, despite the

frigid temperatures.

I hate to name names for fear of leaving someone out, but the people who contributed deserve to be recognized. If I leave your name off the list and you helped with the meets please forgive me.

Our thanks go out to:

- Rick Reid
- Tracy and Paula Carter
- Dusty and Julie Bradley
- Jeff and Michelle Stanfield
- Rick and Christie Moeller
- Jeff and Monica Fox
- Louis Baty
- Dale Turner
- Rick and Tammy Gonzales
- Sharon Wainscott
- Cody Manning
- Mark Tucker



Knox County News Photo

Jordan Carter receives the baton from Bandy Moller in the 1600 meter relay event at Friday's Greyhound Relays In Knox City.



Knox County News Photo

Lacy Pierce enduring the freezing weather as she participates in the 800m event at Knox City's Greyhound Relay's.

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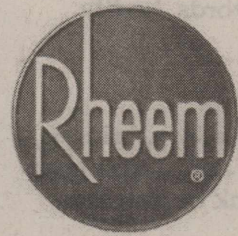
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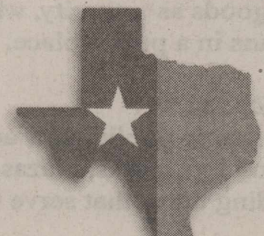
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Thanks For Reading

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital HIGHLIGHTS



By Ed Sterling

AUSTIN - Through the week of March 23-27, the House Appropriations Committee and its various subcommittees toiled away at producing HB 1, a state budget for fiscal years 2010-2011. Hopes are that the budget bill may reach the House floor for debate in mid-April.

Appropriations Committee Chair Jim Pitts, R-Waxahachie, on March 27 said, "We are faced with very difficult and uncertain times in our economy. We have to make some difficult decisions." Speaker Joe Straus said he's confident the narrowly divided 150-member House, composed of 76 Republicans and 74 Democrats, can work together to pass a budget without the necessity of a special session.

Despite the ponderous weight of passing a budget on House shoulders, the lower chamber did manage to vote out the committee substitute to Austin Rep. Dawna Dukes' HB 873, a bill that recognizes Texas is behind other states in offering film incentives.

Intended to create movie industry jobs in Texas, HB 873 lowers the state grant threshold for a film or television program from a minimum of \$1 million in in-state spending to \$250,000 and lowers the percent that must be filmed in Texas from 80 percent

to 60 percent.

Senate bills advance to House

The Texas Senate approved more than 60 bills during the week of March 23-27 and sent them on to the House for consideration.

Here are a few of those bills, to be scrutinized by House panels in the coming weeks:

- SB 158 by Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, requiring a school district to notify parents if a nurse is not assigned to a public school campus.

- SB 175 by Florence Shapiro, R-Plano, amending the "Top 10 Percent" law governing the number of students who may automatically be admitted to the University of Texas at Austin.

- SB 188 by Bob Deuell, R-Greenville, creating a hypodermic needle-exchange program to reduce the spread of communicable diseases, such as AIDS and hepatitis.

- SB 297 by Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, granting resident tuition rates and fees at public institutions of higher education for certain veterans and their spouses and children.

- SB 424 by Van de Putte, establishing and implementing school-based flu vaccination programs.

- SB 503 by Kevin Eltife, R-Tyler, requiring public notice of the name of each finalist for the position of superintendent of a public school district.

- SB 745 by Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, authorizing a state agency to allow its employees to submit travel vouchers electronically.

- SB 476 by Jane Nelson, R-Lewisville, amending nurse staffing and overtime rules.

- SB 506 by John Carona, R-Dallas, restricting operation and

movement of motorcycles during periods of traffic congestion.

- SB 572 by Shapiro, relating to transportation safety training requirements for certain child-care providers.

- SB 730 by Glenn Hegar Jr., R-Katy, relating to an employee's transportation and storage of firearms or ammunition while on certain property owned or controlled by the employee's employer.

"Under God" remains in pledge A Dallas federal judge on March 27 ruled the phrase "under God" in the Texas Pledge of Allegiance is constitutional.

The court's decision rejected a lawsuit filed by a Dallas couple that argued that the state pledge violated the First Amendment's Establishment Clause. The Legislature added the words to the state pledge in 2007.

In support of the ruling, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott said, "The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly held that patriotic acknowledgments of the Almighty are constitutional. Texans can rest assured that we will continue defending their children's ability to recite the state Pledge of Allegiance each morning."

SBOE alters science language The State Board of Education on March 27 voted 13-2 to change teacher manual language said to cast doubt on the scientific theory of evolution with the assertion that the various schools of thought have strengths and weaknesses.

The new language promotes the use of empirical evidence, logical reasoning and experimental and observational testing, "including examining all sides of scientific evidence of those scientific explanations so as to encourage critical thinking by the students."

Horse Validation News

Students who are interested in participating in any 4-H horse shows need to validate their horse(s) before April 24, 2009 by contacting the Knox County Extension Office at Benjamin. Students who are not in 4-H can enroll for free by simply contacting the office at 940-459-2651.

The 4-H horse shows are for 4-H'ers age 8 or in the third grade to age 18. The district and state 4-H horse shows offer cutting, team penning, roping, barrel racing, stakes race, western pleasure, 2 year old pleasure, 3 year old stock horse, halter classes, and much more.

The district show will be at

Steer Tag Orders Due April 15

Steer validation tag orders for the 2009/2010 stock show season are currently being accepted at the Knox County Extension Office in Benjamin until April 15, 2009.

If you are interested please call the office at 940-459-2651 or talk to your Ag Teacher about securing a tag for the 2009/2010 stock shows.

All steers must have a validation tag to be eligible to show in any stock show.

Steers will be tagged and validated between June 1, 2009 and June 30, 2009. Steer tags cost \$7.00 each and late orders after April 15, 2009 will be available for \$10.00 each.

State Fair Swine Tag Orders Due April 15

Swine validation tag orders for the State Fair of Texas are currently being accepted at the Knox County Extension Office in Benjamin until May 1, 2009.

If you are interested please call the office at 940-459-2651 or talk to your Ag Teacher about securing a tag for the fair.

Vernon and the state show will be at Abilene. Horses must be validated by April 24, 2009 to enter. Please contact the Knox County Extension Office for more information. Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in a meeting or program are encouraged to contact the Knox County Extension office at (940)459-2651.

Lamb and Goat Tag Orders Due April 15

Lamb and goat validation tag orders for the State Fair of Texas are being accepted at the Knox County Extension Office in Benjamin until April 15, 2009.

If you are interested please call the office at 940-459-2651 or talk to your Ag Teacher about securing a tag for the State Fair of Texas.

All lamb and goats must have a validation tag to be eligible to show in the State Fair of Texas.

Lambs and goats will be tagged and validated between June 1, 2009 and June 30, 2009. Lamb and goat tags cost \$10.00 each and late orders after April 15, 2009 will be available for \$20.00 each.

All hogs must have a validation tag to be eligible to show in the State Fair. Hogs will be tagged and validated between June 1, 2009 and June 30, 2009. Swine tags cost \$10.00 each and late orders after May 1, 2009 will be available for \$15.00 each.

Sheriff Report March 15-23, 2009

Hardeman, Christopher O. 3/19/95 Aggravated Robbery (F-1) Baylor County

Roberson, Lillian Von 3/22/09 FTA/TBC (M-B) arrested in Taylor County (Knox County)

Knox City Volunteer Fire Department February Report

Landing Zones- 1
Fire Calls- 9

Submitted by Terry Butler #214

We Appreciate You Are Readers. Thanks For Reading!

A SHORT STORY ABOUT A MOTORCYCLE AND A SUDDEN TURN.

When she was a young college student, Elisabeth Marra had a serious motorcycle accident that ultimately changed her life. Two years after the crash, her painful open fractures had failed to heal. Then she heard about a new and complex surgery pioneered by a surgeon who used a patient's own stem cells to concentrate the healing process. This time, her surgery and subsequent therapy were successful.

Elisabeth's experience caused her to re-direct her own career aspirations. Inspired by the medical professionals who helped her reclaim her active lifestyle, she changed her major to study physical therapy—a profession where her own experience could help other patients prevail through difficult recoveries.

We tell Elisabeth Marra's story here to illustrate two of the most profound messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If reading it inspires just one more person to achieve something special, then its telling here has been well worth while.

American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons
AAOS
CELEBRATING HUMAN HEALING
arthinfo.org

Deadline for news and advertising is Friday by 2 p.m.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF J. C. EATON, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of J. C. EATON were issued on March 23, in Cause No. 2488, pending in the County Court of Knox County, Texas, to: JANICE EATON.

The address of the Independent Executor is:

JANICE EATON
2335 CR 4214
Knox City, TX 79529.

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 24th day of March, 2009.

BOBBY D. BURNETT
P. O. Drawer 390
Munday, TX 76371
(940) 422-4525
(940) 422-5544 FAX

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CITY OF KNOX CITY Article 7.600

ORDINANCE REGARDING BEGGING, SOLICITATION OR VEHICLE INTERFERENCE

DEFINITION:

(1) AGGRESSIVELY BEG:
defined as begging which intimidates another person into giving money or goods.

(2) BEG:
means to ask for money or goods as a charity, whether by words, bodily gestures, signs, telephone or other means.

(3) INTIMIDATES:
means to intentionally say or do something, or to say or do something that a reasonable person should know would cause a person of ordinary sensibilities to be fearful of bodily harm. For the purpose of this ordinance, it is not necessary to prove that the victim was actually frightened and neither it is necessary to prove that the behavior of the person was so violent that it was likely to cause terror, panic or hysteria.

(4) OBSTRUCT PEDESTRIAN OR VEHICULAR TRAFFIC:
means to walk, stand, sit, lie or place an object in such a manner as to block passage by another person or vehicle or to require another person or a driver of a vehicle to take evasive action to avoid physical contact. Acts authorized pursuant to the Cities vendor and parade ordinances and regulations are exempt from the coverage of this ordinance.

(5) PANHANDLE:
means to ask for money or goods as a charity, whether by words, bodily gestures, signs or other means in a public place.

(6) PUBLIC PLACE:
means an area generally visible to public view and includes alleys, bridges, buildings, driveways, parking lots, parks, plazas, sidewalks and streets open to the general public, including those that serve food or drink or provide entertainment, and the doorways and entrances to buildings or dwellings and the grounds enclosing them.

PROVISIONS:

(1) IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL for any person to beg within the city limits of the City of Knox City.

(2) IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL for any person to stand, sit or loiter in the right-of-way of any street, with the intent to approach any motor vehicle for the purpose of soliciting employment, business or contribution from the driver or occupant of the motor vehicle.

(3) IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL for any person to aggressively beg or intentionally obstruct pedestrian or vehicular traffic in a public place.

PENALTY:

Begging, panhandling, pedestrian interference or vehicular interference in any form is a misdemeanor, which may be punished by fine of not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00).

ALL ORDINANCES OR PORTIONS THEREOF IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ORDINANCE ARE HEREBY REPEALED.

THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE UPON ADOPTION

DULY PASSED by the City Council of the City of Knox City, Texas on the 10 day of March, 2009.

Prophet Captures Attention

By Tamara Smart

On Sunday morning, Pastor Schnable stood in the pulpit and preached his weekly message. This week's theme "earthquake" was reflective of the rumble in the community that has been flowing since the Sunday prior when Pat Pritchard first stood in front of a Knox County group of believers and gave her testimony.

Pat Pritchard, an Australian prophet, arrived in Knox City on Saturday after spending the last seven weeks in Florida. She spends most of her time traveling and spreading the "Word". This is her first time in Texas. It is not often Knox County has a Tasmanian

for yourself, but about the future and about other people."

Pritchard has been a Christian for 55 of her 78 years of life, and has been "hearing the voice of

People, not only representing Foursquare, but many other congregations flocked to hear her preach. Thursday was ladies night, and women from all over

Knox County were in attendance honoring many of the local schools of belief. Pritchard decided on Thursday that she would extend her stay in KC until April 7.

"I have long waited for a woman to preach like her" was a comment made by Sammie Offield who was the "Sergeant" in charge of putting together Thursday night's Ladies night. Pritchard became the talk of the local community quickly for believers and non-believers alike.

Pritchard says God sent her to Knox City and plans to continue to preach throughout the rest of her stay here. Last Sunday, Pritchard went to Hamlin and spoke and will continue to travel to the nearby communities and spread the word.

To get a hold of Pritchard while she is still in Knox, call Foursquare Church at 658-3455.



Shown: Pastor of Four Square Church and wife, Gary and Amy Schnable stand behind Australian prophet, Pat Pritchard. Ms. Pritchard will be in Knox City until April 4th speaking to different local churches and parishes.

born guest, but even less often that that guest is a hailed prophet of God.

The word "Prophet" may invoke a questioning state of mind in many people. Pritchard described herself as a "prophet" explaining that a prophet is a person to whom "God speaks so loud and clear, you hear not only

God" for 23 of those years.

During her first week in Knox City, Pritchard preached every night and affected many people. On Monday, Pritchard met with people involved with local Christian leadership. On Tuesday and Wednesday the doors of Foursquare Church opened for an open forum at 6.

BCFS SPECIAL FEATURE (PART 1 OF 4): APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

What is Child Abuse? Child abuse is failure to provide for a child's basic needs. There are four major types of child maltreatment: physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse.

Physical Abuse is physical injury that results in substantial harm to the child or the genuine threat of substantial harm from physical injury to the child. The physical injury (ranging from minor bruises to severe fractures or death) can result from punching, beating, shaking, kicking, biting, throwing, stabbing, hitting, burning, choking or otherwise harming a child. Such injury is considered abuse regardless of whether the caretaker intended to hurt the child.

Suspect Physical Abuse When You See:

- Frequent injuries such as bruises, cuts, black eyes or burns without adequate explanations
- Frequent complaints of pain without obvious injury
- Burns or bruises in unusual patterns that may indicate the use of an instrument or human bite; cigarette burns on any part of the body
- Lack of reaction to pain
- Aggressive, disruptive and destructive behavior
- Passive, withdrawn and emotionless behavior
- Fear of going home or seeing parents
- Injuries that appear after a child has not been seen for several days
- Unreasonable clothing that may hide injuries to arms or legs

Neglect is failure to provide for a child's basic needs necessary

to sustain the life or health of the child, excluding failure caused primarily by financial inability unless relief services have been offered and refused.

Suspect Neglect When You See:

- Obvious malnourishment
- Lack of personal cleanliness
- Torn or dirty clothing
- Stealing or begging for food
- Child unattended for long periods of time
- Need for glasses, dental care or other medical attention
- Frequent tardiness or absence from school

Sexual Abuse is when an adult engages in sexual contact or sexual activity with a child. Sexual abuse usually involves private parts. It can be especially difficult for boys and girls to tell someone that they are being sexually abused.

Suspect Sexual Abuse When You See:

- Physical signs of sexually transmitted diseases
- Evidence of injury to the genital area
- Pregnancy in a young girl
- Difficulty in sitting or walking
- Extreme fear of being alone with adults of a certain sex
- Sexual comments, behaviors or play
- Knowledge of sexual relations beyond what is expected for a child's age
- Sexual victimization of other children

Emotional Abuse is mental or emotional injury that results in an observable and material impairment in a child's growth, development, or psychological functioning. It includes extreme forms of punishment such as confining a child in a dark closet, making them the scapegoat, belittling and rejecting treatment for a child.

Suspect Emotional Abuse When You See:

- Over compliance
- Low self-esteem
- Severe depression, anxiety or aggression
- Difficulty making friends or doing things with other children
- Lagging in physical, emotional and intellectual development
- Caregiver who belittles the child, withholds love, and seems unconcerned about the child's problems

Tracy Wayne Richardson is BCFS' Universal Child Abuse Prevention Specialist, providing education, awareness, and a clear understanding of how our communities can help prevent child abuse.

BCFS' four-part special feature raising awareness about child abuse will be distributed on Mondays during April. For an interview with Richardson or another certified BCFS counselor regarding child abuse prevention, please contact 210-283-5136. For more information about BCFS, please visit www.bcfs.com

THE STATE OF TEXAS

In the name and by the authority of the State of Texas, notice is hereby given as follows: TO

COUNTY OF KNOX

Madelyn Goode Honea, Fleta Mayo, Dixie Bradley, Ettamae Frazier, Everett Barger, Dorothy Williams, Norris Barger, Jack Barger, Barbara Coffman and Dale Redding, if living, and if any or all of the above named defendants be dead, the unknown heirs of each or all of said above named persons who may be dead, and the unknown heirs of the unknown heirs of said above named persons, and the unknown owner or owners of the hereinafter described land, and the executors, administrators, guardians, legal representatives, legatees and devisees of the above named persons, and any and all other persons, including adverse claimants, the unknown stockholders of any defunct corporations, their successors, heirs and assigns, owning or having or claiming any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon the following described property, delinquent to Plaintiff herein, for taxes, all of said property being located in said County and State, to-wit: Lots 7 and 8, Block 1, Original Townsite of the Town of Goree, Knox County, Texas being that property more particularly described in Vol. 257, Page 525 of the Deed Records, Knox County, Texas; the North 77-1/2' of Lots 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24, Block 1, Original Townsite of the Town of Goree, Knox County, Texas being that property more particularly described in Vol. 199, Page 443 of the Deed Records, Knox County, Texas; Lots 9-11, Block 1, Original Townsite of the Town of Goree, Knox County, Texas being that property more particularly described in Vol. 257, Page 525 of the Official Public Records, Knox County, Texas; Lots 20 thru 23, Block 1, SAVE & EXCEPT the North 77-1/2', Original Townsite of the Town of Goree, Knox County, Texas being that property more particularly described in Vol. 257, Page 525 of the Official Public Records, Knox County, Texas; and Lot 6-1/2, Block 21, Elandel Addition, Town of Truscott, Knox County, Texas being that property more particularly described in Vol. 235, Page 395 of the Deed Records, Knox County, Texas.

Which said property is delinquent to Plaintiff for taxes in the following amount: \$740.06, exclusive of interest, penalties and costs, and there is included in this suit in addition to the taxes, all said interest, penalties and costs therein allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein.

You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by the Knox County Appraisal District, Plaintiff, against the above named persons, as Defendants, by petition filed on November 10, 2008, in a certain suit styled the Knox County Appraisal District et al vs. Madelyn Goode Honea et al, for collection of the taxes on said property and that said suit is now pending in the District Court of Knox County, Texas, 50th Judicial District, and the file number of said suit is 9201, that the names of all taxing units which assess and collect taxes on the property hereinabove described, not made parties to this suit are NONE.

Plaintiff and all other taxing units who may set up their tax claims herein seek recovery of delinquent ad valorem taxes on the property hereinabove described, and in addition to the taxes all interest, penalties, and costs allowed by law thereon up to and including the day of judgment herein, and the establishment and foreclosure of liens, if any, securing the payment of same, as provided by law.

All parties to this suit, including Plaintiff, Defendants, and Intervenor, shall take notice that claims not only for any taxes which were delinquent on said property at the time this suit was filed but all taxes becoming delinquent thereon at any time thereafter up to the day of judgment, including all interest, penalties and costs allowed by law thereon, may, upon request therefor, be recovered herein without further citation or notice to any parties herein, and all said parties shall take notice of and plead and answer to all claims and pleadings now on file and which may hereafter be filed in said cause by all other parties herein, and all of those taxing units above named who may intervene herein and set up their respective tax claims against said property.

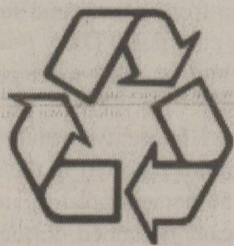
You are hereby commanded to appear and defend such suit on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance of this citation as set out below, said appearance and answer date being the 4th day of May, A.D., 2009, (which is the return day of such citation), before the honorable District Court of Knox County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse thereof, then to show cause why judgment shall not be rendered for such taxes, penalties, interest and costs, and condemning said property and ordering foreclosure of the constitutional and statutory tax liens thereon for taxes due the Plaintiff and the taxing units parties hereto, and those who may intervene herein, together with all interest, penalties, and costs allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein, and all costs of this suit.

This citation is issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court in the City of Benjamin, Knox County, Texas, this the 26th day of March, A.D., 2009.

Clerk of the District Court,
Knox County, Texas, 50th Judicial District

Angela Doffa
Deputy

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

CITY OF KNOX CITY

Separate sealed bids for WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT GRIT REMOVAL SYSTEM will be received by THE CITY OF KNOX CITY, until 1:30 P.M., April 14, 2009 at Knox City, City Hall, 902 E. Main, Knox City, Texas 79529 and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud. The project consists of the furnishing of all materials, tools, equipment, transportation, services, labor and superintendence necessary for the construction of a grit removal system at the city's wastewater treatment plant. It consists of a concrete structure and channels, grit removal equipment, electrical and various appurtenances.

The Contract Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Contract, Performance and Payment Bonds, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Plans, Specifications, and Addenda (if any) and Project Contracting and Compliance Provisions may be examined at the following location:

JACOB & MARTIN, LTD., Consulting Engineers
3465 Curry Lane, Abilene, Texas 79606

Bids will not be received from contractors who have not obtained original plans and specifications from Jacob & Martin. Bids shall be submitted on original documents and the entire specification book must be returned with bid. No faxes or copies of bid sheets will be accepted.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to awarding of the contract.

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained from JACOB & MARTIN, LTD., 3465 Curry Lane, Abilene, Texas 79606 (325-695-1070), upon payment of \$45.00 (nonrefundable) for each set. Checks should be made to the order of Jacob & Martin, Ltd.

A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of the CITY OF KNOX CITY, negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid.

CITY OF KNOX CITY

By: _____
Jeff Stanfield, Mayor

Date: _____

Eat This!

By RYAN MILLS

(Editor's Note: I've had numerous requests for this recipe since it first ran months ago. It is my wife Marci's cheese bread recipe. Instead of trying to keep up with who needs it and wants it, I'm gonna re run a previous column today. Not to mention, I will be treated to some of this for dinner tonight.)

I've put a lot of recipes in this space thus far and have heard a lot of comments about them. I appreciate the comments and I'm actually just glad someone besides my mother and wife are reading it. I had no idea how popular this column would be and I appreciate my readers. I'll keep the recipes coming.

Of all the recipes I've put in, though, there is one that makes almost all of them better.

My wife Marci's famous bread.

I'll tell you a quick story on my introduction to her bread, it wasn't long after my introduction to her.

We had been dating for about a month, circa May 2004, when I decided I'd impress her by cooking dinner for her. I made a dish called Chicken Scarpariello (I'll share it with you soon) and it did impress her. She was studying for finals as she was wrapping up her Accounting degree and I was cooking dinner. It was almost ready and she looked up from her books and said, "Hey, do you want me to make some bread?"

I said that would be fine and wasn't sure what she was going to make (I was hoping it wasn't going to be butter and garlic on white bread in the oven). This will be news to her and I might be in trouble, but as she said it I turned back to the stove, rolled my eyes a little, and went back to the chicken. Up to that point, which was only a month of dates, she had displayed no culinary prowess.

Needless to say the bread she made is the recipe that follows. She "invented" this recipe while she was a waitress at Desperado's in Amarillo years ago and it has evolved.

It trumped my Chicken that night and I've been requesting it ever since. It's the best bread I've ever eaten and in no way the end of my wife's culinary prowess.

Turns out, almost five years later, she can cook with the best of them.

But the bread is her opus. It is especially good with Italian food but is also good with steaks, chicken, pork or fish. It's even good by itself, cold, the day after much like pizza.

The best part is that it is very easy.

We have served this to countless friends at dinner parties and it never disappoints. It is quite sinful, however, so if you are on a diet this bread will ruin it, at least for the night. Heck, even if you are on a diet, you have to splurge occasionally. If I were you, I'd try this bread. You won't be sorry.

About the only thing I love more than this bread is the creator of the recipe.

A few tips before the recipe: You can't always get a full french loaf, at least a fresh one. We've made it with french loaf buns before and they work fine. Just cut them in half lengthwise and proceed as directed. We've never made it with fresh garlic, instead we buy the Spice World minced garlic that comes in a small jar. Also, we've used provolone instead of mozzarella for the topping and both are good. My favorite cheese of all is provolone so I sneak it in sometimes.

Marci's Famous Bread

Ingredients
1 French loaf
8 oz. block of cream cheese, softened

1 stick of butter, softened but not melted
1 tsp. minced garlic
2 tbs. parmesan cheese
2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese

Directions
Mix cream cheese and butter until well blended. Stir in garlic and parmesan and mix well. Slice loaf horizontally and spread mixture over both sides. Sprinkle mozzarella on top and put under broiler until cheese begins to brown. Remove, slice and serve.

Ryan Mills is the Chief Operating Officer of Blackburn Media Group. For ideas, suggestions or to submit a recipe contact him at index@chipshot.net.

WHEAT

researchers must find other ways to combat it.

Price said one way will be to work with wheat breeders.

"Because we found Triticum at such a high prevalence, it would be wise for the breeders to work closely with the pathologists when these new diseases come in," Price said. "We can work together to develop genetic resistance for problems facing us now and those that might affect us in the future."

Dr. Fekede Workneh, an AgriLife Research scientist in plant pathology, has been working to model the gradient of severity of wheat streak mosaic and its impact on grain yields across the field.

Volunteer wheat and grass vegetation are the green bridges that allow wheat curl mites to exist through the summer until the new wheat crop starts growing. The most damage appears to occur if infestation takes place early in the fall; however research is under way to determine the impact of time of infection, Workneh said.

The distance of these bridges from the wheat field can determine the severity of the virus damage, Workneh said.

"If it is a distant source, you will see sporadic and random occurrences across the field, because the mites are carried in the wind and their population gets diluted and dispersed," he said. "But the closer the source of mites, you will see more of a gradient virus infection in the field, beginning at the edge."

Workneh's advice is for growers to plant in mid-October or later if they know they have a source that will harbor the mites, and they want to break the green bridge between that source and the wheat crop.

"This probably is not practical advice for some, because wheat destined for grazing is planted early so that there would be enough forage for the cattle in the fall and winter," he said. "However, getting rid of any volunteer wheat nearby would definitely reduce the risk."

Chanda Henne, an AgriLife Research research technician in the entomology program, is trying to help growers recognize what plants, other than wheat, might serve as hosts for the mites.

She has verified that the wheat curl mite can be found on many grasses in the Texas Panhandle.

Henne tested six warm-

season grass species, including Texoka buffalograss, Blackwell switchgrass, Hachita blue grama, Spar Old World Bluestem, Wrangler Bermuda grass and Haskell sideoats grama to see which ones serve as reservoirs for the mites or carry the virus.

Her study was conducted at the AgriLife Research station near Etter, where these grasses are growing under full irrigation, limited irrigation and dryland conditions.

While she has been collecting data for only about five months, she's found the switchgrass and blue grama grasses had significantly more mites than the other species. Both of these are native species and commonly used in the Conservation Reserve Program fields.

"Every time we went out there to sample, the mites were present, but they were not always present on all species," Henne said. "The only grass species that had mites on it every time we sampled was blue grama."

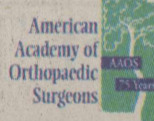
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POLIO.

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But Jeffrey Galpin did more than survive polio. He went on to a list of achievements in medical research—including being the principal investigator in applying the first gene therapy for HIV/AIDS.

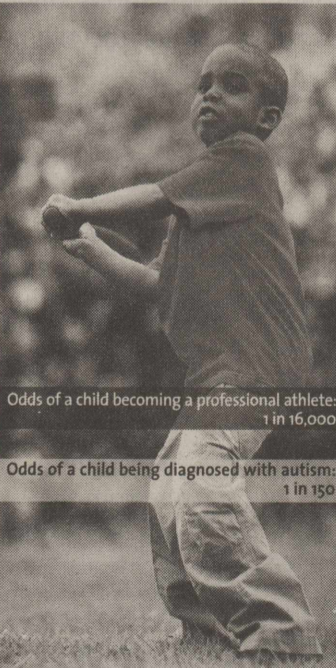
Dr. Galpin actually credits his own incurable condition for giving him the focus that made him so passionate in his research. His story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If Dr. Galpin's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.



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Crop and Weather Report

COLLEGE STATION – Rain and snow came to parts of the state – as much as 6.5 inches of rain in East Texas, 5 inches to parts of North Texas, and 2 inches in Central Texas – but passed over many other drought-stricken areas.

Even where rain fell, Texas AgriLife Extension Service reports showed a consensus that much more is needed to give any long-term relief.

"(A small amount of) moisture came in the form of rain, sleet and snow," said Ryan Martin, AgriLife Extension agent in Motley County in the Rolling Plains, west of Wichita Falls. "Although the moisture did help with winter wheat, it wasn't enough to relieve us from drought conditions."

"The county received 0.3 inches of rain over the past week," said Wes Utley, AgriLife Extension agent in Haskell County, west of Fort Worth. "However, the drought situation continues to prevail. Local wheat producers are skeptical of any good yields, and cotton producers are hoping for rains to help with planting coming up in the future months."

"After last week's rain and this week's warm temperatures, the winter grasses and weeds, and wheat and oats have picked up a little," said Josh Blaneck, AgriLife Extension agent in Somervell County, south of Dallas. "But it may be too late to do much long-term good, and more rainfall is desperately needed."

"Last week's rain has really turned things around," said Michael Berry, AgriLife Extension agent in Delta County, northeast of Dallas. "Another week without rainfall and livestock producers would have to start thinking about culling back herds even more."

"Much needed rain fell across the county in the last week. Three to 6 inches of rain were reported in all areas of the county," Joe Daniel, AgriLife Extension horticultural agent in Cherokee County, Rusk. "Bedding Plant producers report strong vegetable transplant sales."

"Recent rains gave Bexar County a small boost, but more moisture is needed," said Jerry Warren, AgriLife Extension agent in Bexar County, San Antonio. "Most parts of the county received about 2.5 inches of rain. This will help in the short run but much more is needed to replenish our bottom-season moisture."

"A tenth-inch rainfall did nothing but settle the dust for Jim Hogg County," said Larry Perez, AgriLife Extension agent in Jim Hogg County, south west of Corpus Christi.

The following summaries were compiled by AgriLife Extension district reporters this week:

CENTRAL: Pastures and small grains greatly benefited from last week's rain, but some counties remained extremely dry. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued. Stock tanks remained low. Warm days and nights caused some corn to emerge. Farmers were trying to plant remaining milo acreage.

COASTAL BEND: A small amount of rain fell over a three-day period. More rain was needed to replenish deep soil moisture. Planting was limited with some producers dry-planting to meet deadlines. Ranchers either continued to feed remaining livestock or sell off herds as grazing was virtually non-existent.

EAST: The region received between 2.5 and 6.5 inches of rain. Despite the recent rains, Newton County reported several wildfires. Cattle were in fair to good condition with supplemental feeding. There was an increase in reports of damage from beaver and feral hog activity. Spring planting and soil testing continued. Dairy prices continued to drop and feed prices remained high, causing more concern among producers.

FAR WEST: With the exception of Terrell County, which received more than 2 inches, there was no rainfall reported in the region. Land for chiles and cotton was about 50 percent pre-irrigated. Fall-planted onions were growing well. Pecans remained dormant. Alfalfa came out of dormancy and was slowly growing. Planting of spring wheat was completed with about 95 percent of the crop emerged. Irrigated wheat looked good.

NORTH: Last week's rain made a big difference. Soil moisture ranged from short to adequate, though winds were quickly drying out the topsoil again. Stock ponds were somewhat replenished by runoff. Livestock were in fair to good condition. Another week without rain and livestock producers would have had to further cull herds. Livestock producers reported cattle were backing off the hay, an indication that forage conditions were improving. Row-crop farmers were finishing corn planting as their fields dried out. Some of the corn crop emerged, but there were problems with crows eating the planted seed. Grain sorghum planting began. Wheat was in fair to good condition and growing rapidly, a dramatic change, after the rain. Cool-season forbes and annual grasses were improving pastures. Winter clovers and ryegrass were growing well, and the rains spurred rangeland into its spring growth pattern. Sweet potato growers were building beds. A sweet potato weevil was found in a home gardener's seed sweet potato, and the Texas Department of Agriculture was called. The department established a half-mile quarantine around the location.

ROLLING PLAINS: Wheat progressed quickly after a little rain. However, many of the tillers will not produce a viable head of wheat so yields will be down dramatically this year. Producers were struggling whether to harvest their wheat for grain, bale it or graze it. Hay is still in high demand in many counties. Fortunately, pastures were greening up, especially those sprigged in Bermuda grass and other improved varieties. Stock water tanks were still low. Some producers applied pre-emergent weed control aerially. Crop land was plowed and rowed; producers were waiting for a rain to begin spring planting. Producers were still supplying supplemental feed for livestock.

SOUTH PLAINS: The region experienced typical warm and windy spring weather. Soil moisture was very short to short. Producers continued to prepare for spring planting by working field beds. Winter wheat was in very poor to poor condition. Producers continued to irrigate winter wheat. Pastures and ranges were in very poor to poor condition. Cattle were in good condition and supplemental feeding continued.

SOUTHEAST: Range conditions improved. Temperatures were seasonal with heavy fog in the mornings. Cool season annuals flowered and showed good growth. Producers dry planted grain sorghum and corn until the rains came. Brazoria County had received on average 1.5 inches. The eastern part of the region around Alvin received 2 inches. The rain was welcome, but overall, the region is 25 inches behind normal from January 2008 to the present. Fertilizing activity was high prior to rains. The hay supply was short, though feeding was still active, slowed only by the rains. Livestock were doing well.

SOUTHWEST: Rain came but more was needed to sustain crops and fill the middle and lower soil profiles. Though the rains were not enough to cause recovery of rangeland and pastures, they reduced the incidences of roadside and field fires. Ranchers continued to provide heavy supplemental nutrition to their remaining livestock. Some stock tanks were partially refilled, but many remained low. The cabbage and spinach harvests continued. Potatoes, spring onions and spring cabbage were making good progress under heavy irrigation. Irrigated corn and sorghum planting was completed. Cotton planting continued. The wheat harvest will be one of the lowest in many years.

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