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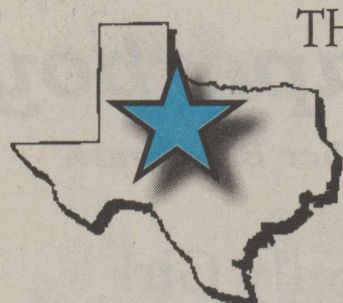


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THE

# KNOX COUNTY NEWS

PROUDLY SERVING THE KNOX COUNTY AREA

8 PAGES PLUS INSERTS  
VOLUME XXXVIII

KNOX COUNTY, TEXAS  
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2009

75 CENTS  
NUMBER 26

## LOOKING AHEAD

The April meeting of Knox County Retired School Personnel will be at 2:30 on Tuesday.

April 28th, at the Munday First United Methodist Fellowship Hall. Adam Bonner, Knox Co. Extension Agent, will present a program on 'Energy Conservation'. Hostess for the meeting will be Dorothy Myers.

Members are also encouraged to attend the District Texas Retired Teachers Association meeting in Wichita Falls on Monday, May 4th, to hear a message from TRTA Executive Director, Tim Lee. If you plan to attend, please call Joanna Delgado in Knox City to arrange transportation and to have your name counted for the meal which will be provided.

**FREEDOM WITH CHRIST** is a group that meets every Tuesday night at the Abundant Life Christian Fellowship (the church with the big black bell) in Knox City at 7 p.m. If you or someone you know suffers from ANY kind of addiction from food to drugs they can be set free through the power of Jesus Christ! For more information call 940-657-4146

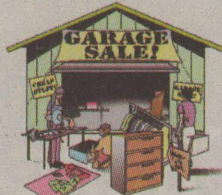
Abundant Life Christian Fellowship is meeting every Tuesday 11:30 a.m. for lunch and bible study. Come in and Join us for Tuesday with Christ! Everyone is welcomed!

## Garage Sale Anyone?

The Knox City Chamber of Commerce is seeking community input for the idea of a community wide garage sale.

This event has been tried before, and the Chamber is considering another attempt. The thought is that if a large number of people would agree to have their garage sale on the same day, perhaps May 23, the Chamber would host the event, providing advertising, "maps", etc. for the participants. The first step is to see if there is any interest from the community, and if so, to get a commitment to participate in this event.

This would be an excellent opportunity to clean out closets, garages, storage buildings, attics, etc. We would like to hear from you if you will commit to this event. Please contact the Chamber office at (940)658-3442.



## TEA, Munday CISD To Award Teachers

By Tamara Smart

At the end of the 2008-2009 school year, the kids of Munday CISD may leave their classes chanting about "no more pencils, no more books, no more teachers dirty looks", but this chant will only be applicable if the kids are not privy to those teachers faces as they receive their last paycheck for the '09 year.

In a world where teachers and school workers are arguably the most underpaid and under-appreciated resources in a community, in Munday there will be glimmer of fiscal appreciation reflected on that last check. Because of a grant awarded by Texas Educators Agency (better known as TEA), Munday CISD the district received an award for teacher excellence. This grant allows every employee (except Superintendent Robert Dillard) of Munday CISD to get a stipend for his or her hard work throughout the year. Specifically, each certified teacher will get an extra \$599.32 each.

In addition to that grant money which is equally distributed to MCISD employees,

the district matched that money with an extra \$550 for each certified teacher who is classified as "highly qualified" in the No Child Left Behind Act. In order for a certified teacher to be "highly qualified" they must have given their students benchmark tests where at least 70% of their students meet the benchmark standards (which invariably reflect how that student will do on the TAKS tests). All 40 certified teachers are classified "highly qualified" thus reflecting an extra \$1149.52 on their last paycheck of the school year.

Non-certified staff and certified non-teachers will also benefit from this award. Non-certified teachers and staff will see an extra \$250 on their checks and certified non-teachers (i.e. principals, nurses, etc.) will see another \$420.

Although Mr. Dillard will not reap any monetary benefit from these awards, he says that it is award enough to know that his hard working teachers and staff are being appreciated appropriately.



Photo by Tamara Smart

Standing water from Easter weekend showers still provide a picturesque landscape in front of O'Brien Baptist Church. These waters, though, will probably never withstand the six month process it takes to reach the water table under ground.

## April Is National Autism Awareness Month

Control and Prevention say autism may affect as many as one in every 150 children, making it more common than pediatric cancer, diabetes and AIDS combined.

Classified as a severe neurodevelopmental disorder with early childhood onset, the symptoms produce significant impairments in social, communicative, cognitive and behavioral functioning. According to Steven Moldin, Ph.D., research professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, these symptoms typically last through a person's lifetime. Many scientists believe that both genes and environmental factors play a role in the development of autism, but to date no specific genetic or environmental risk factor has been clearly established as a cause of the condition, Moldin says.

There are no cures for autism, but pharmacological, behavioral and psychosocial interventions can change the course of the disorder, he says. Some of the current treatment options include occupational therapy, dietary restrictions, sensory integration therapy and speech therapy, with most interventions featuring highly structured educational programs aimed at improving communication and social skills.

The earlier the intervention, the greater chance of a positive effect on long-term outcome, Moldin says.

According to Moldin, some early warning signs to look for include:

- losing or not having speech around 18 months

- little to no eye contact
- loss or lack of gestures
- repetitive speech or actions
- unusual reactions to the way things look, feel, smell, taste or sound.

Proper and comprehensive assessment is essential, says Moldin. It is very important to recognize the early signs of autism and seek early intervention services.

If you suspect autism in your child, he suggests that you seek out autism experts and related developmental disorders medical centers, hospitals or programs across the country.

Autism (sometimes called "classical autism") is the most common condition in a group of developmental disorders known as the autism spectrum disorders (ASDs).

Autism is characterized by impaired social interaction, problems with verbal and nonverbal communication, and unusual, repetitive, or severely limited activities and interests.

Other ASDs include Asperger syndrome, Rett syndrome, childhood disintegrative disorder, and pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified (usually referred to as PDD-NOS).

Experts estimate that three to six children out of every 1,000 will have autism. Males are four times more likely to have autism than females.

If you have more questions much information on autism can be found at [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org).



## Drought causes Knox County Water Table to Plummet

By Tamara Smart

Late last week, locals prepared for the rain. After seeing a little more than an inch of rain over Easter weekend, many people took heed to weathermen and their forecasts for torrential showers this past weekend.

Weather.com gave Knox County between 60%- 80% chances for showers all afternoon last Friday and into the morning Saturday. And while rain did pelt most of Texas, tornados hit several unfortunate towns, and night skies were lit with lightning & applauded by thunder, the towns of Knox County remained dry this weekend. In fact, if one was to watch the rain radars as the storms past through Texas, several storms literally split, going around Knox County.

What does another weekend without rain mean? Did the Easter rain help the drought condition which plagues Knox? The Easter weekend rain was pleasant, provided enough rain to green-up yards, give the sprouting wheat a nice drink, and fill the county with that amazing "rain" smell. Yet, the county-wide burn ban remains in place and the ground water table continues to drop.

Old timers of Knox County are not unfamiliar with droughts. There is much talk of the "drought of the 50's" when people fret about our dry conditions to the older folks. Mike McGuire, general manager of the Rolling Plains Groundwater Conservation District, spoke with Knox County News and reflected on the historical drought references. In actuality, in 1967, the ground water table was much lower than what it was in the 50's... and we are nearing that record low quickly.

Every year Mr. McGuire reads the water levels in several wells throughout Knox, Haskell and Baylor counties and keeps track of them on a spreadsheet which he has developed through the years. One of the wells of which McGuire keeps record, the "Herring well", is located almost exactly in the middle of Knox County.

Last year, the table at that well location was 22.25 feet; this January, McGuire measured it at 25 feet below surface. In the last year, the table has dropped 2.75 feet. The G. Tidwell well McGuire tracks measured at 28.75 ft in July of 2007; this year (17 months later) that well, which is outside of Goree, was at 37.33 ft- over an 8.5 foot decline in the table. McGuire usually measures these wells in the months of January- March because of the lack of pull from the local agricultural district in those months making his readings more accurate.

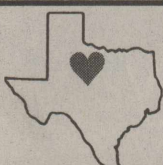
As usual, even without these severe conditions, weather is one of those topics that everyone talks about around lunch tables and in passing conversations. Barbara Rector, Knox City administrator, laughs when asked about the little rain that Knox City has seen and says, "we definitely need more rain- maybe one day we'll get to use our new siren!" Jeff Fox at Agrilience says the little amount of rain that fell on Knox soil was "better, but we still need a whole lot more. Anything helps."

But when can Knox County plan on having more rain and finally saying goodbye to this dryness? Even though Rolling Plains Groundwater General Manager, Mike McGuire prefaces his thoughts on future weather with "The only ones around here that predict the weather are newcomers and fools; & I am no newcomer and I'd hate to think of myself as a fool; I can say the next 45 days will tell us what kind of train wreck this drought has created." Hopefully, in the next year, Knox County will put up its own weather station so that locals can have a more accurate picture of what weather will actually manifest in Knox County. As of now, the closest weather station on which we rely is in Norman, OK.

With that being said, and observing how the blocking high in the Four Corners effects the rain patterns which flow from the South Pacific, McGuire sees no indication of this drought backing off.

Until there is some SUGNIFICANT rain, the citizens of Knox are urged to conserve and think safety first. Fred Ledesma, Chief of the Knox City Volunteer Fire Department, recognizes that Knox locals have "done a good job [in being safe]." He reminds while cooking out in these ideal beautiful sunny days, to keep a water hose handy-

For more information on water tables and how the drought affects them, people can reference the [http://wid.twdb.state.tx.us/ims/www\\_drl/viewer.htm](http://wid.twdb.state.tx.us/ims/www_drl/viewer.htm). Which is the Texas Water Development Board Groundwater Database.



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# OPINION



## The Paperboy

By Christopher Blackburn

### Ohhh Nancy - You Silly Girl

I'd like to publicly thank God Speaker Nancy Pelosi is not my U.S. Representative. How dare she and some of her cohorts resort to labels and name-calling. So far, some leading Democrats have referred to Wednesday's tea parties as gatherings of racists, Nazis and gun nuts.

Pelosi herself called efforts to get the government to tap the breaks on excessive spending "AstroTurf."

"This initiative is funded by the high end; we call it AstroTurf, it's not really a grass-roots movement," Pelosi said Thursday. "It's AstroTurf by some of the wealthiest people in America to keep the focus on tax cuts for the rich instead of for the great middle class."

Other House Democratic leaders took it a step further: One senior aide was circulating a document to the media that the tea parties were driven by corporate lobbyists and attended by neo-Nazis...

The tea parties are "not really all about average citizens," the document says ... Neo-Nazis, militias, secessionists and racists are attending them.

Watching the news last night in Amarillo, I saw parents, grandparents, children - all walks of life - all races. I saw the same thing in the state-wide and nation-wide coverage as well.

It's low for those living in their protective world - a world of millions, mansions and limousines - just like Pelosi - to denigrate Americans and flat out lie and portray events differently than they actually happened.

I paid attention to the tea parties. I watched them on MSNBC, CNN and Fox News. I never heard reports which were circulated and conveyed to the media by a few fringe Democrats.

I've got news for Pelosi and her buddies, they are quickly getting into the same smug boat Republicans found themselves in back in 2006. Start thumbing your nose at the masses and you'll be shown the exit come November 2010.

On Wednesday, hundreds of thousands of people across the U.S. held peaceful demonstrations opposing massive spending by the government. Is it so wrong to question how trillions of taxpayer dollars are to be spent? Of course not.

Mrs. Pelosi needs to climb out of her ivory tower and look around for herself. We don't all live in San Francisco. We don't all think the government is the correct answer to all our problems. We don't all think that she, Sen. Harry Reid and Rep. Barney Frank are the answer. In fact, with their 33 percent approval rating, not many think they are the answer at all.

The 58.8 percent of American which think this country is on the wrong track want real answers. They include Democrats, Republicans and Independents. So someone tell me, what is so wrong with wanting OUR money spent wisely?

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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://thenewbastion.blogspot.com/>.

## Mob Rule Comes to Washington

By Peter Schwartz

In dealing with AIG, why are people pussyfooting around? They believe that the bonus money was stolen from the public and must be retrieved by any means possible. So why not bypass the niceties and just send in some well-armed "enforcers" to confiscate the bonus recipients' cars and houses and bank accounts?

If this raises fear about ushering in mob rule, it's too late. AIG employees have been crudely vilified, they have been targets of death threats, a U.S. senator has urged them to kill themselves, protestors "tour" their homes, they have had to hire security guards and AIG has removed its name from the front of its Manhattan offices.

This mass hysteria is being fueled by the government, which is proceeding on the premise of: "Get the money back first, rationalize later." The House passed an extraordinary piece of punitive - and unconstitutional - legislation to tax away almost all the bonus money. New York's attorney general, abetted by the threat of making their names public, has gotten many of the recipients to "voluntarily" return their bonuses. Perversely, the rights of captured Islamic jihadists generate greater concern in Washington.

All these actions are tantamount to rule by mob action.

A mob is driven by rampant emotionalism, with no concern for facts - facts such as: Are these particular recipients guilty of anything? Are they competent individuals, necessary to keep the company operational? Would they have resigned without the inducement of the bonuses? Didn't Washington consent to the bonuses at the time of the bailout? Aren't the recipients entitled to the bonuses by contract?

The essence of mob rule is arbitrary and unchecked force, in disregard of all rights. If so, then when the government spends our money with virtually no limits - when trillions of dollars are gleefully disbursed through unrestrained horse-trading and arm-twisting among members of Congress - when trillions more are poured down the rat holes of failing companies at the uncontrolled discretion of bureaucrats - when government "czars" can select a company's CEO and dictate its product line - then what we have is government by mob rule. That is, we have government with arbitrary, unchecked power to do as it wishes - which means: government unconstrained by the principle of individual freedom.

Like any mob, Washington desires a scapegoat. It blames capitalism for the mortgage and credit crisis, in order to divert attention from the real culprit: government intervention. Every housing-related measure taken by Washington has made the standards for homeownership looser than they would be in a free market. Government has stepped in to override private companies' aversion to undue risk. Regulators criticized banks for turning down too many mortgage applications. FNMA and FHLMC were created to encourage the issuance of mortgages that would not be prudent in a free market. The FDIC anesthetizes depositors against risks taken with their funds. And the entire Federal Reserve exists to pump paper money into the economy, and to keep interest rates artificially low - often below the rate of inflation - so that more lending occurs. Yet when this house of cards collapsed, it is capitalism that was denounced, and more government power that was demanded.

The administration's latest proposal, for a "systemic risk regulator," should leave little doubt that it seeks carte blanche in ruling the economy. This is a plan for an economic dictator, an "enforcer" who will have the frightening authority to oversee every decision that, in his opinion, significantly influences the economy.

Of course, once the mob-rule mentality takes hold, everyone becomes a potential target. If you obtain a mortgage or a college loan, the government may subject you too to "risk regulation." You may be told that you can't buy a plasma TV or take a vacation or quit your job, because the risk to your finances is "unacceptable." But isn't that a purely private decision? - you will indignantly demand. If government power keeps expanding, however, there may no longer be any private decisions.

Peter Schwartz is the author of *The Foreign Policy of Self-Interest: A Moral Ideal for America*. He is a distinguished fellow, and former chairman of the board, of the Ayn Rand Institute.

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**ACROSS**

- TX "Dandy" Don on Monday
- Night Football aquatic reptile for short
- bootmaker Tony
- ex-Ranger star, "Pudge" Rodriguez
- TX Steve Martin film "Dead Don't Wear Plaid"
- org. that operates public radio stations in San Antonio (abbr.)
- TX Ginger won Academy for "Kitty Foyle"
- bucket excavator made by TX Case
- golf achievement: \_\_\_\_\_ one
- TXism: "I ziggled when \_\_\_\_\_ have zagged"
- TXism: "mean as \_\_\_\_\_ bull"
- remove cattle head projections
- ex-UT star Campbell \_\_\_\_\_ is more
- TXism: "snug as a bug \_\_\_\_\_"
- past TX bumper sticker: "\_\_\_\_\_ Too, Eddie"
- sporty Ford, slangily
- TXism: "happy as a kid in \_\_\_\_\_"
- this Steven produced "Poltergeist" starring TX JoBeth Williams
- TXism: "duck weather"
- insane defendants get treatment \_\_\_\_\_ hospital
- Stephen F. Austin's love interest in Michener's "Texas"
- long fish found in TX
- TXism: "it's high \_\_\_\_\_"
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ snake can still bite"
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ in cement"

**DOWN**

- TXism: "does a cat have \_\_\_\_\_?" (yes)
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ a rodeo clown"
- town of "Old Cora," TX oldest ct. house
- read quickly
- "tween Wed. & Fri.
- Harris & Gallup business (2 wds.)
- TX Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ Duke
- this NY surprise
- this NY Center was a target on 9/11
- lotion ingredient
- Astro opponent from Cincinnati
- TXism: "croaks"
- campground found throughout TX
- TXism: "he's \_\_\_\_\_ spring chicken"
- Charles' 1st wife: "Lady \_\_\_\_\_"
- TX Perot's first naval rank (abbr.)
- cowboy covers
- attracted like a duck to water \_\_\_\_\_
- slop
- TXism: "hitched to \_\_\_\_\_ double harness" (married)
- professional abbr. of 11-down
- TXism: "by the skin of \_\_\_\_\_ teeth"
- TXism: "fat \_\_\_\_\_ a boardinghouse cat"
- "Honest \_\_\_\_\_"
- TXism: "not one red \_\_\_\_\_"
- Joe Ruiz Grandee was 1st state
- this Warren starred with TX Quaid in "Tough Enough"
- this Coolidge sang with TX Kristofferson
- Oklahoma town
- TX rodeo king Mahan (init.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Olde Shoppe
- \_\_\_\_\_ conscience be your guide"
- man or boy
- unable to speak

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**COTTLE COUNTY 4-H**

**Announces Horse Show Dates**

By Dana Wright

The Cottle County 4-H Horse Club will host a series of five horse shows this year at the Paducah Rodeo Arena. There will be three age divisions: Pee Wee - 8 & under, Juniors 9-13 and Seniors 14-19 years of age. Pee Wee judged events are Halter and Pee Wee Walk-Trot, speed events are Poles, Barrels, Stakes and Flag Race. Junior and Senior judged events are Halter, Showmanship at Halter, Western Pleasure and Western Horsemanship, speed events are Poles, Barrels, Stakes and Flag Race. Entry fees for Pee Wee's are \$3 per event or \$15 for everything, Junior and Seniors are \$4 per event or \$25 for everything, there will also be a one-time electricity fee of \$10 per family. The horse shows will follow State 4-H Horse Show Rules available at the following website HYPERLINK "http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/"http://

texas4-h.tamu.edu/ and western attire is required in order to compete (hat, long sleeve shirt, long pants and boots). Points will be taken from each of the horse shows and awards will be given at the end of the series in each age division. You must attend 3 of the 5 shows in order to be eligible for awards at the end of the series. For more information or rules contact County Extension Agent Justin Nash (806)492-3151 or Dana Wright (806)596-4322 or HYPERLINK "mailto:dwright@lyntegar.com"dwright@lyntegar.com

**Horse Show Schedule:**

Saturday, April 25 - Books open at 8:00 a.m. start at 9:00 a.m.  
Friday, May 1 - Books open at 5:00 p.m. start at 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday, June 6 - Books open at 8:00 a.m. start at 9:00 a.m.  
Saturday, June 20 - Books open at 8:00 a.m. start at 9:00 a.m.  
Friday, July 10 - Books open at 5:00 p.m. start at 6:00 p.m.

**Relay For Life Kicks off Saturday at KC track**

By Tamara Smart

After months of planning, this Saturday the fruits of many peoples efforts will be seen at the Knox City Track as Knox County hosts the Relay for Life to support the American Cancer Society.

Although the relay actually begins at 3 pm on Saturday afternoon, the events will begin noon with a survivor's lunch at the Baptist Church. With relay will kickoff with a "survivors lap" followed by a second lap featuring care givers. At 4:00 pm, the 2009 "Hero of Hope", Karel Davis will receive special recognition.

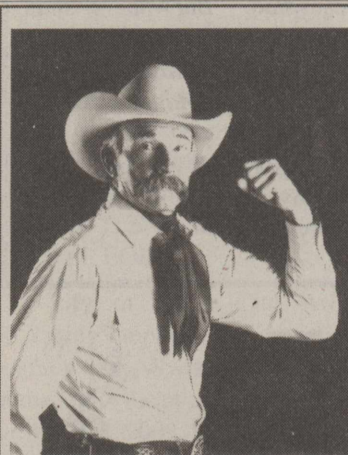
There are 9 teams signed up from all over Knox County and surrounding areas. There will

be activities all day and night including booths featuring food, drinks and other fun stuff for the whole family. There will be music and entertainment for all ages- even a bouncy house will be set up for children entertainment.

Luminarias will be on sale all day for spectators and participants to buy and set around the track at the 9:30 lighting ceremony.

So far the Relay has been a success. The organizers and participants have raised a lot of funds for the cause and are hoping to raise a whole lot more.

Knox County News will have a follow up story about the turnout of these events next week.



**ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE**

by Baxter Black, DVM

**FUTURE COW**

Amidst the calls that there should be a Greenhouse Gas Tax on ruminant animals (meaning cows; NOT meaning goats, rice, termites or water buffalo), exciting research is being done genetically to address the issue.

Purebred breeders have long kept track of individual animals. Many qualities are examined. Average Daily Gain (ADG) is a prominent marker used to evaluate the performance. But, even more critical is Conversion (pounds of feed per pound of gain). A 'good Conversion' means that it takes less feed to produce a pound of beef.

The significance of using less feed correlates directly to producing less methane and carbon dioxide. Studies in fed cattle, have shown that the difference between the top third of the pen and the bottom third can be as high as 40%! 40% less feed to produce that same pound of beef, thus 40% less greenhouse gases expired in the atmosphere.

Is that a reasonable trait to search for when selecting breeding stock? If it were within reality, it would be the equivalent of hybrid cars, quadrupling our nuclear reactors, or capturing all the hot air that comes out of Congress to turn windmills on Washington D.C Mall.

At present we can envision selectively breeding to increase cattle that convert more efficiently. But how 'bout finding the gene or chromosome that affects digestive efficiency? Does it exist? Is cloning raising its hand in the back row?

Genetic manipulation will probably be the driving force for medical miracles in the next fifty years. We have achieved miracles in plant production since Booker T. Washington tickled his first sweet potato. It is a science that is scary yet breathtaking.

In fifty years the questions of 'man-made' global warming may be proven, or forgotten like Global Cooling and Worldwide Famine or the Y2K collapse. Regardless, being able to use less natural resources; be they oil, grain, coal, trees or grass, just makes sense. Agricultural research, private and public, is at the forefront on finding the answers. Agriculture can't put a man on the moon, but we can feed China.

All this high-minded thinkin' gives me confidence and pride in our way of making a living. Even when I'm slogging out into the lot to check on a calvy heifer. We may not have methane on our minds but . . . somebody does.

Thanks for Reading  
*The Knox County News*

**COW POKES®**

By Ace Reid



"Don't worry too much about yore drinkin' and Hell raisin', son, I've found old age has done more for me than all the preachers in the world!"



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**The 501**

by Hanaba Munn Welch

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.

Here's to tea, my tax bailout.

Coffee and Cokes are my drugs of choice, but sometimes tea works better - like right before the April 15 tax deadline. Yes, I know American taxpayers staged some sort of Boston Tea Party demonstration last week, but I was too busy working on taxes to read email or watch TV to know how to participate. Was I supposed to mail a teabag with this year's tax return? I didn't. Instead, as my husband slept, I brewed myself a cup of Bigelow's Lemon Lift tea to stay awake to figure depreciation and tackle other tasks that accompany my once-a-year bookkeeping for my half of our joint return.

Nope, when it comes to figuring and paying taxes, some of us don't have enough nerve to do anything that might call attention to our carefully prepared returns. Me, I wouldn't have dared to mail the IRS even that little paper tag from the teabag string. A tax audit means going through the whole tax preparation ordeal all over again - not a pleasant thought. Makes me want another cup of tea.

At this point, let me say I'm talking about hot tea rather than the iced stuff we Texans drink like water to wash down a meal. Hot tea is different. It's ritualistic, both by virtue of how it's brewed and because it's steeped in tradition, our tax legacy included.

A teakettle works best for boiling tea water unless a spouse is sleeping within earshot. On tax night, I used

the microwave. Beep.

The cup choice is important too. If English bone china isn't handy, pick a sturdy mug. Teacups are for socializing anyway. Mugs are for getting things done - like taxes.

Bottom line (Form 1040, line 75), my mug of tea kept me going until 7 a.m. Then I crashed, as tired as if I'd just washed off an Indian disguise after a daring trip to Boston Harbor to throw tea off a ship. Indeed, a tea dumping expedition to anywhere, even the Brazos, would have been better than filling out tax forms all night, but I didn't consider it an option. Maybe it was.

To wit, the husband of a friend, filing individually, claimed a jillion dependents on his return so he wouldn't have to pay taxes. That lie was his protest. After a few years, the IRS took note. He went to prison. His choice.

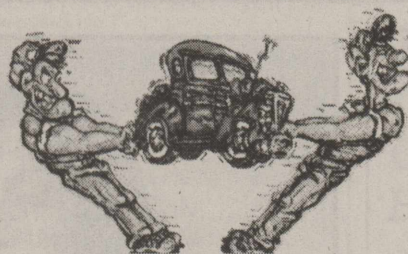
Another acquaintance of mine didn't like paying taxes because she didn't want to finance wars. Frugal, she purposely worked too little to owe taxes, giving up her car for a bicycle and eventually giving up the bicycle to join an order. Her choice.

My husband and I are less sensational. We grumble, but we pay. O-V-E-R is how we spell tax relief.

This year, we both unwound with hot tea - my husband because he had a cold and me because it just seemed like the appropriate thing to do on April 15 to squeeze one more cup from the tea bag.

We appreciate you, our readers!

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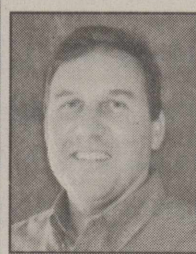
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# Lone Zebra Mussel Found in Lake Texoma

AUSTIN—For the fifth time in four years, an alert citizen has assisted Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) in their efforts to keep zebra mussels from invading Lake Texoma.

On April 3 Brent Taylor, an employee of a private landowner on the south shore of Lake Texoma, reported to TPWD Inland Fisheries biologist Bruce Hysmith that he had found a suspected zebra mussel on a boat-house communication line under water.

The find marks the first time the dangerous exotic species has been found living in Lake Texoma. It is known to occur at several other sites in Oklahoma.

TPWD personnel confirmed the identification and inspected the boathouse but found no additional specimens.

Hysmith immediately notified the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Tishomingo, Oklahoma; local game wardens and area marinas to be on the alert.

In 2006, Texas appeared to dodge a bullet when Tim Ray, an employee of a marina in

Pottsboro, found zebra mussels on a boat that had been brought from Wisconsin. In 2007 Ray again found zebra mussels on a boat from the Ohio River. Both boats were decontaminated before being put into the water.

In 2008 Marty Ulmer, an employee of a Denison marina, found zebra mussels on a boat arriving from Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. In 2009 Bobby Vaughn, an employee of another Denison marina, found zebra mussels on yet another boat from Wisconsin. Both boats were decontaminated prior to launching into Lake Texoma.

In all these instances the individuals stated that they were previously aware of the threat from zebra mussels and made a practice of watching out for them.

Zebra mussels are native to Asia and were first found in the United States in 1988. They have since spread to 24 states from Michigan to West Virginia to Oklahoma to California.

The aquatic invaders are about 5/8-inch long and usually have striped shells. They can live for several days out of water and can be dispersed overland by trailered boats, though their main method of spread is by free-float-

ing larvae.

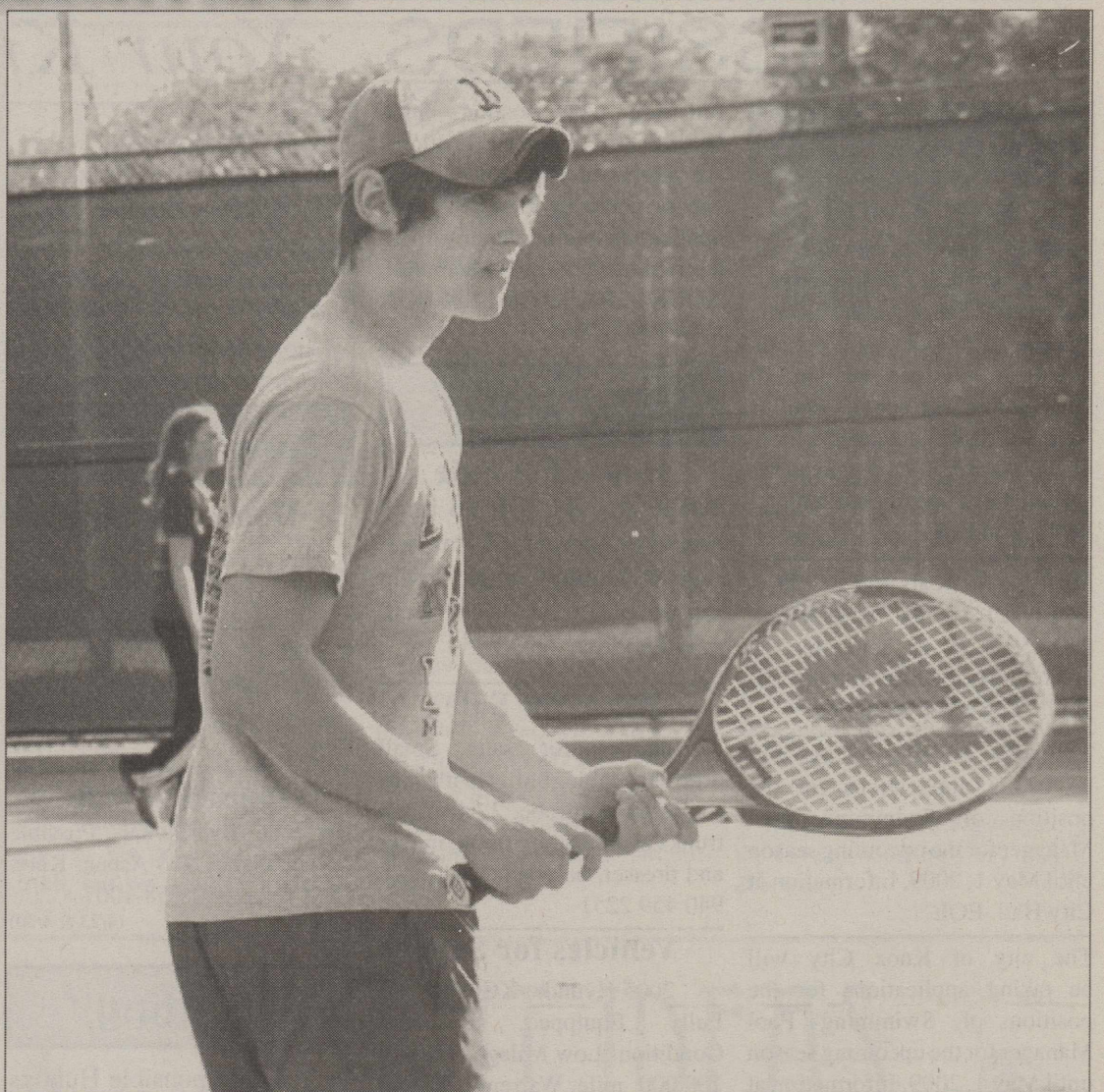
Zebra mussels can multiply rapidly to the point of clogging water treatment plant intake pipes, fouling boat bottoms and possibly depleting food sources that fish and other aquatic species depend on.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) nonindigenous aquatic species web site calls zebra mussels "one of the most important biological invasions into North America." That site contains photographs and information that can be used to identify the organisms.

Experts say public education is the key with problems like zebra mussels. Only through the vigilance of people like Taylor and Ray and the thousands of anglers and boaters on the water daily can the threat from invasive aquatic species be stymied.

"Biologists and game wardens can't be everywhere," said Phil Durocher, director of TPWD's Inland Fisheries Division. "We need all anglers, boaters and other recreational users of our lakes to watch for zebra mussels and contact their local biologist, game warden or lake controlling authority if they think they've found one."

"Texas and Oklahoma are working jointly on this issue because of the danger these invaders could spread to other water bodies," said Barry Bolton, Chief of Fisheries for ODWC. "We are asking our recreational users to be vigilant not just on Lake Texoma but on other lakes in Texas and Oklahoma as well."



Courtesy photo

Dillon Loftiss attended the Area Tennis meet this past Monday in Abilene, Texas. The Mustangs advanced to Regionals, results for Regionals will be in our next issue.

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Thanks For Reading!

### Benjamin Area Track Results:

**Dylan Benson** - 800 meters 2nd place 2:08 will advance to Regionals.

**Gilbert Nevarez** - 3200 meters 8th place, Pole Vault DNP

### Benjamin Area Tennis Results:

**Jessica Vanderpool** - Region Medalist

**Benjamin advances to Regionals!**

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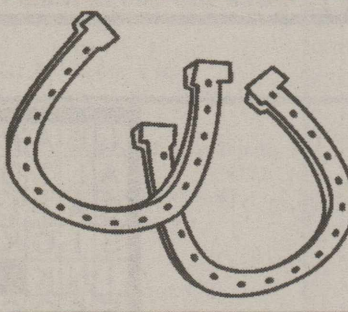
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## Legal Notice

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Childress  
Contract 0496-02-017 for LANDSCAPE in KNOX County will be opened on May 08, 2009 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

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Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.  
NPO: 29552

State Office

Constr./Maint. Division  
200 E. Riverside Dr.  
Austin, Texas 78704  
Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div Office(s)

Childress District  
District Engineer  
7599 U.S. 287  
Childress, Texas 79201-9705  
Phone: 940-937-2571

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

## Legal Notice

Knox City-O'Brien CISD School Board Election

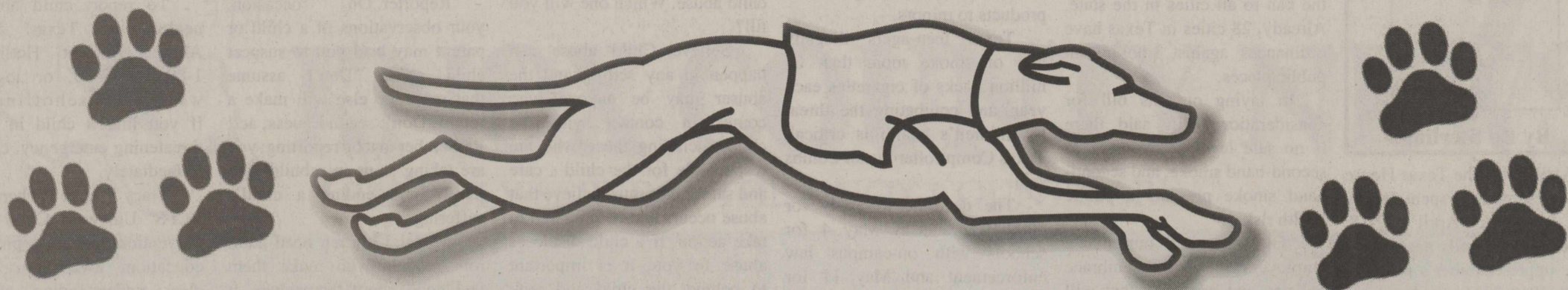
Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on May 9, 2009, for voting in a General election, to elect two board members.

Location of Polling Place: Knox County Aging Services Building, 601 North Avenue E

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at Knox City City Hall, 902 East Main between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. beginning on April 27, 2009 and ending on May 5, 2009. Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to: Barbara Rector P.O. Box 128 Knox City, Texas 79529.

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on May 1, 2009.

# KNOX CITY SPORTS



## Hounds Drop Games Against Hamlin, Roby

The Hounds faced off against the Hamlin Pied Pipers and the Roby Lions this past week, as they finish up district play.

The first game of the week was against the Pied Pipers, and unfortunately the Hounds came on the losing end of that game.

"Hamlin has a very funda-

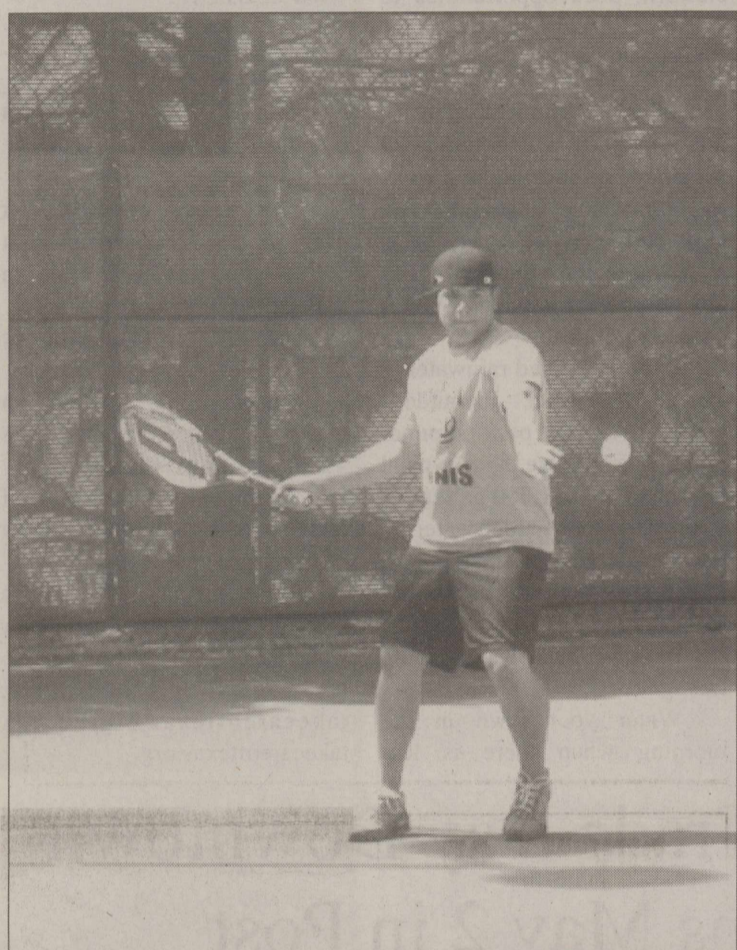
mental squad out there, and that is a little bit of what we are trying to achieve. So this was a learning experience for us." Coach Maxwell stated.

The Hounds followed their lost with their final road game against the Roby Lions. This was a great pitching duel, and the rest

of the Hounds played their best defensive game of the season, the Hounds ended up losing to the Lions 6-3. "This game was tied 2-2 going into the fourth, and then Roby just got some

little shots passed our defense. This was a wonderful game, and I really believe that this is something that our guys came use to build on in our next game and even next year." Coach Steele

commented. The Hounds end their season this Friday against the Stamford Bulldogs in Knox City, come out and support the Hounds in their last game of the year.



Courtesy photo

MJ Abila, above, and Mea Abila placed 1st at the area Tennis meet in Abilene, Texas. The Hounds have advanced to the Regional tournament.

### TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



#### NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR TPDES PERMIT FOR MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0010416001

**APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION.** City of Knox City, 902 East Main Street, Knox City, Texas 79529, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of TPDES Permit No. WQ0010416001, which authorizes the discharge of treated domestic wastewater at a daily average flow not to exceed 200,000 gallons per day. TCEQ received this application on September 29, 2008.

The facility is located approximately 0.5 mile north of the intersection of Farm-to-Market Road 143 and State Highway 6, on the eastern bank of China Branch in Knox County, Texas. The treated effluent is discharged to China Branch; thence to the Brazos River Above Possum Kingdom Lake in Segment No. 1208 of the Brazos River Basin. The unclassified receiving water uses are no significant aquatic life use for China Branch. The designated uses for Segment No. 1208 are high aquatic life use and contact recreation. All determinations are preliminary and subject to additional review and/or revisions.

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at Knox City Hall, 902 East Main Street, Knox City, Texas.

**PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING.** You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ holds a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING.** After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting a contested case hearing or reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court.

**TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST:** your name; address, phone; applicant's name and permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; and the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request

must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are germane to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission will only grant a contested case hearing on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application. Further, the Commission will only grant a hearing on issues that were raised in timely filed comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION.** The Executive Director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the Executive Director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and request to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

**MAILING LIST.** If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

All written public comments and public meeting requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice.

**AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION.** If you need more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Office of Public Assistance, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040. General information about the TCEQ can be found at our web site at [www.TCEQ.state.tx.us](http://www.TCEQ.state.tx.us).

Further information may also be obtained from City of Knox City at the address stated above or by calling Barbara Rector, at 940-658-3313.

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