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# KNOX COUNTY NEWS

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KNOX COUNTY, TEXAS

## **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. 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 Fall 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 throguht 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

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

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 and 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

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 person's lifetime. Many scientists believe that genes both and environmental factors play a role in the develop-

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 ser-

If you suspect autism in your child, he suggests that you seek out

autism experts autism and related developmendisorders 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 autisum can be found at 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

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 Agriliance 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://wiid.twdb.state.tx.us/ ims/wwm\_drl/viewer.htm. Which is the Texas Water Development Board Groundwater Database.

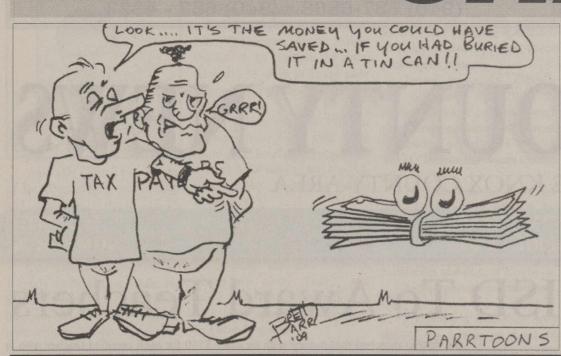


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Any erroneous reflection upon the character, reputation or standing of any individual, firm or corporation will be gladly orrected upon being brought to the attention of the editor.

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#### 44 TXism: "duck weather ACROSS TX "Dandy" Don On Monday TEXAS 46 insane defendants get treatment hospital CROSSWORD Night Football 48 Stephen F. Austin's 5 aquatic reptile love interest in by Charley & Guy Orbison for short 6 bootmaker Tony Michener's "Texas" 49 long fish found in TX 7 ex-Ranger star, 50 TXism: "it's high "Pudge" Rodriguez 8 TX Steve Martin 51 TXism: snake can still bite" film "Dead Don't Wear Plaid" 9 org. that operates public radio stations in San Antonio (abbr.) 12 TX Ginger won Academy for "Kitty Foyle" 17 bucket excavator Miserables" made by TX Case 54 "just 19 golf achievement: (challenge) 56 promise to pay 21 TXism: "I zigged 57 TXism: "can't when have zagged" 22 TXism: "mean as elastic" (liar) bull" 23 remove cattle DOWN from Cincinnati head projections 1 TXism: "does a cat 16 TXism: "croaks" 38 Joe Ruiz Grandee 28 ex-UT star Campbell have \_\_\_\_\_?" (yes) 2 TXism: "\_\_\_\_ 18 camparound found was 1st state 39 this Warren starred is more throughout TX 58 30 TXism: "snug as a 20 TXism: "he's with TX Quaid in a rodeo clown" spring chicken" "Tough Enough" 31 past TX bumper 3 town of "Old Cora," 23 Charles' 1st wife this Coolidge sang sticker: TX oldest ct. house with TX Kristofferson Too, Eddie' 24 TX Perot's first 32 professional abbr. 4 read quickly 41 Oklahoma town 9 'tween Wed. & Fri. of 11-down 35 sporty Ford, slangily naval rank (abbr.) 43 TX rodeo king

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## 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 partiers 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-Na-

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 then 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

means possible. So why not contract? bypass the niceties and just send in some well-armed "enforcers" to confiscate the bonus recipients' accounts?

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" removed its name from the front of its Manhattan offices.

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 their bonuses. Perversely, the rights of captured Islamic jihadists generate greater concern in Washington.

and must be retrieved by any entitled to the bonuses by

The essence of mob rule is arbitrary and unchecked force, in money with virtually no limits ushering in mob rule, it's too gleefully disbursed through demanded. unrestrained horse-trading and arm-twisting among members of Congress - when trillions more are poured down the rat holes of failing companies at the their homes, they have had to uncontrolled discretion of hire security guards and AIG has bureaucrats - when government fueled by the government, which by mob rule. That is, we have the economy. is proceeding on the premise of: government with arbitrary, 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 recipients to "voluntarily" return attention from the real culprit: government intervention. Every housing-related measure taken by Washington has made the standards for homeownership tantamount to rule by mob free market. Government has stepped in to override private A mob is driven by rampant companies' aversion to undue emotionalism, with no concern risk. Regulators criticized banks of The Foreign Policy of Selffor facts - facts such as: Are for turning down too many Interest: A Moral Ideal for these particular recipients guilty mortgage applications. FNMA America. He is a distinguished of anything? Are they competent and FHLMC were created to fellow, and former chairman of individuals, necessary to keep encourage the issuance of the board, of the Ayn Rand the company operational? Would mortgages that would not be Institute.

they have resigned without the prudent in a free market. The In dealing with AIG, why inducement of the bonuses? FDIC anesthetizes depositors are people pussyfooting around? Didn't Washington consent to against risks taken with their They believe that the bonus the bonuses at the time of the funds. And the entire Federal money was stolen from the public bailout? Aren't the recipients Reserve exists to pump paper keep interest rates artificially low - often below the rate of inflation - so that more lending occurs. disregard of all rights. If so, then Yet when this house of cards cars and houses and bank when the government spends our collapsed, it is capitalism that was denounced, and more If this raises fear about when trillions of dollars are government power that was

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 "czars" can select a company's frightening authority to oversee CEO and dictate its product line every decision that, in his This mass hysteria is being -then what we have is government opinion, significantly influences

Of course, once the mob-"Get the money back first, unchecked power to do as it 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 All these actions are looser than they would be in a no longer be any private

Peter Schwartz is the author

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

### **KNOX COUNTY AGING SERVICES**

MENUS FOR APRIL 27TH TO MAY 1st

**MONDAY APRIL 27TH** PEPPER STEAK **BUTTERED RICE** STIR FRY VEGETABLES BANANA PUDDING

**TUESDAY APRIL 28TH MEAT LOAF GREAT NORTHERN BEANS** 7 MINUTE CABBAGE CORNBREAD CAKE

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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.



### ON THE **EDGE OF COMMON SENSE** by Baxter Black, **DVM**

#### **FUTURE COW**

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

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

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

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

In fifty years the questions of 'man-made' global warming

our minds but . . . somebody does.

Amidst the calls that there should be a Greenhouse Gas

pound of beef.

Washington D.C Mall.

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?

weet potato. It is a science that is scary yet breathtaking.

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

expired in the atmosphere.

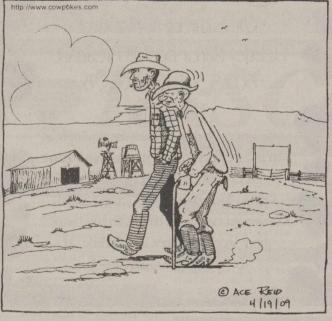
At present we can envision selectively breeding to increase

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.

## 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

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

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 oncea-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.

## 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.

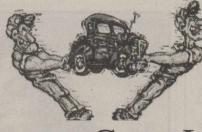
Knox County News will have a follow up story about the turnout of these events next week.



The Deadline For **News And** Advertising Is Friday by 5 p.m. 940-657-3142 kcnews@valornet.com

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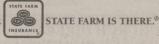
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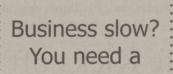
State Farm Insurance Companies . Home Offices: Bloomington, IL statefarm.com

## **Obituary**

Charlott McNitt

Mrs. Charlott McNitt, 56, of Knox City passed away Saturday. Graveside services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, in the Knox City cemetery with Paul Chambers officiating. Arrangements under the direction of Mansell Smith Funeral Home. Mrs. McNitt was born to the late Billy Joe and Willa Zoe Grisham in Ada, Oklahoma. She married Ted McNitt in 1981 and he preceded her in death in March, 2005. Mrs. McNitt was a waitress here in Knox City.

Her Survivors: 1 Daughter Nacona and J. L. Strickland, Abilene, Tx; 1 grandson: Andrew and Felicia Ingland, Vernon; and 2 granddaughters: Laken Strickland and Madison Strickland, Abilene.



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Beth Ann Reinisch to marry Robert Reed Underwood

"Ronnie and Lee Reinisch of Brady are pleased to anounce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter. Beth Ann, to Robert Reed Underwood. son of C.H. and Linda Underwood of O'Brien.

Beth is a 2001 graduate of Brady High School and attended South Plains College and Texas Tech University. She is currently employed at the Austin American-Statesman in Austin as an account manager for online advertising. Reed is a 1998 graduate of Tulia High School and a 2002 graduate of Texas Tech University. He presently works as a software developer in Austin.

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to the

Knox

**County News** 

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## KC AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY Subscribe

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Knox City

**Timothy Trimble, Pastor** Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00

a.m. No Sunday Evening Service

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Tex Cox, Pastor

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1400 The River 8:20 - 8:50 a.m. FOURSQUARE CHURCH - Knox City Gary A. Schnable, Pastor

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:50 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6:30 p.m. SANTA ROSA CATHOLIC CHURCH - Knox City

Father Charles Gorantla • Deacon Ben Vasquez Sunday Mass at 11 a.m. LIBERTY COMMUNITY C.O.G.I.C- Knox City

Gene Ward Jr., Pastor Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Services - 11 a.m. Monday Evening Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - Rhineland Father Charles Gorantla • Deacon Jim Novak Monday through Friday mornings, 8 a.m. Mass Saturday Mass at 7 p.m. • Sunday Mass at 9 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - Benjamin Sunday School at 10 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Benjamin **Timothy Trimble, Pastor** Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. • Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.

GILLESPIE BAPTIST CHURCH - Gillespie Matt Harrington, Pastor

Sunday School at 10 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST - Benjamin Bible Study at 9 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10 a.m.

THE BELIEVERS' CHAPEL - Highway 222

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

> O'BRIEN BAPTIST CHURCH - O'Brien Jim Reid, Pastor

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m., Mid-Week, Wed. at 6 p.m. Sunday Mornings on KVRP 97.1 at 9:05 a.m.

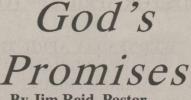
> WEINERT FOURSQUARE CHURCH Rob Harrison, Pastor Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

MUNDAY CHURCH OF CHRIST Adrian Fletcher, Pastor

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O'Brien Co-op Gin 658-3631



By Jim Reid, Pastor O'Brien Baptist Church

What is it today that we know what the truth is. can't seem to decide what truth politicians, everyone seems to have so many different ideas of truth? How do we, though we truly have very little insight into the real scenarios that we hear so much about, ever come to understand truth?

Everyone is concerned and alarmed about so many events in our nation today. The economy, the bail-out, bankruptcy, banks failing, jobs lost, futures and retirements gone! We may not like the truth, but we would all like to

What is truth? A man is? The media, the government, named Pilate asked Jesus this question:

John 18:37

Pilate therefore said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am

king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

If you want to know truth, forget about precepts or laws, philosophy, or creeds. Do not



that you can have your truth and I can have my truth. This does not establish truth; only opinions. Truth is in the Word of God; truth is a person not a concept. Truth is Jesus Christ.

When we deny Jesus Christ, we deny truth. His truth is absolute, not opinion.

Jesus said, "But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven. Matthew 10:33.

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



## BRIGHT IDEAS

By Alex Mills

and prices soft.

Department of Energy reports to previous years, because million barrels. that natural gas prices continue natural gas production has risen to show considerable weakness because of oversupply. Natural gas prices at Henry Hub are 74% below the July 2008 price of the natural gas production in \$13.31 per mmBtu, their lowest price since 2002.

"A lower level of industrial demand for natural gas continues to play a key role in the natural gas market being generally low said. "The economic weakness months."

eventually.

Baker Hughes reports that

(NYMEX) apparently believe and Ike. that led to the fall in industrial that the future for natural gas higher than the estimated five- natural gas in August was \$0.419 of 14% or \$0.2048. (11%) higher; six months out in

is 650 fewer than a year ago \$62.14 for the same barrel only and 798 below the peak of traded a year later in April 2010 The economic recession 1,606 on September 12, 2008. even though EIA reported crude continues to keep demand for Approximately 80% of the oil stockpiles at their highest natural gas and crude oil down drilling rigs explore for natural level in 19 years. The cause of gas and only 20% for crude oil. the rise in inventories was the The Energy Information It will take awhile for production decline in demand. Inventories Administration (EIA) at the U.S. figures to fall when compared rose 5.67 million barrels to 366.7

> Total daily fuel demand significantly during the past few average over 18.7 million barrels during the last four weeks a Additionally, most of decline of 5.2% over last year.

Gasoline stockpiles declined Texas comes from independent 944,000 barrels to 216.5 million producers who find it more barrels and distillate fuels fell difficult to decrease production 1.17 million barrels to 139.6 because of strong cash-flow million barrels, primarily because refineries operated at However, speculators on the 80.4% of capacity, which is the level of natural gas prices," EIA New York Mercantile Exchange lowest since Hurricanes Gustav

NYMEX gasoline futures demand may persist in upcoming prices looks higher. The closing closed at \$1.4468 per gallon for price on April 15 was \$3,693 per 30-day delivery and \$1.6516 for Natural gas stocks are 22.5% mmBtu. The price for the same April 2010 delivery an increase

OPEC seems to agree that On the supply side, producers November was \$1,239 (34%) demand will decline further as are reducing activity, which higher; and 12 months in April it cut its forecast for global oil impact natural gas supplies 2010 was \$1.941 (53%) higher. demand because of the economic The same is true of crude oil. slump. OPEC's new estimate Crude oil closed on NYMEX is 83.75 million barrels, which only 808 rigs were working at \$49.25, which is 26% lower is close to the forecast of 83.4 in the U.S. on April 3, which than the speculative price of million barrels of the International

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

## **Knox Family Wellness Clinic**

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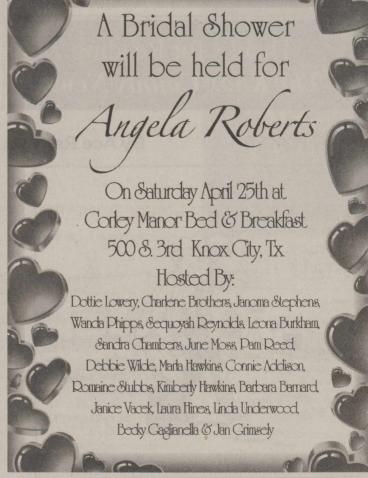
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Blossom's Boutique 111 N. Central 940-657-4011 Now offering Paul Mitchell hair care products and services. Come in for a professional color service and take home a free color hair care kit! Offer expires June 1, 2009.

PAUL MITCHE

\$10,000

Reduced

## ASSIFIEDS

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#### Help Wanted

Looking for individuals who love working with older adults. Team focused. Monday-Friday, 8:30am - 5:00pm, no on-call. Excellent pay and benefits. If interested please contact Pauline Velez, LCSW, at 940-839-7036 or 866-308-8500. Applications accepted until position filled. SMH is an EOE

Must be 55 years old or older-Work 21 hours weekly-Call 940-459-2229 or come by the Wichita Brazos Museum in Benjamin, Open 9-5, Mon.-Fri.

The city of Knox City will be taking applications for the position of Swimming Pool Manager for the upcoming season until May 1, 2009, Information at City Hall. EOE

The city of Knox City will be taking applications for the position of Swimming Pool Manager for the upcoming season until May 1, 2009, Information at City Hall. EOE

Munday Nursing center is accepting applications for a

full time LVN postion. Good Beneifts for full time postions/ All interested applicante should call or come by a facuilty forn application and intereveiw. If interested contact Lezli Meers RN, ADON or Rachel Gray RN-DON at 940-422-4541

#### For Sale

#### **House For Sale**

309 S. Ave. H 3BR/1B brick home on corner, 2 car garage w/ storage, large, newly fenced backyard, water well, new windows 657-1059

#### Misc. for Sale

Antiques for sale: Small drop leaf table, buffet with mirror, large wardrobe, 2 camel top trunks and 1 flat top trunk, mirror and dresser, oak table/desk. Call 940 459 2251

#### **Vehicles for Sale**

2005 Hyundai XG350L Equipped, Excellent Condition! Low Milage (40,000) 100,000 mile Warrenty! \$8000 Cash OBO 940-864-2491

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ing attention. Maybe they were distracted or didn't adjust for road conditions. Maybe the trucker was late, sleepy or did not maintain his rig. Many injuries, like head trauma, are not readily apparent. Apparent injuries, like burns, paralysis or death, have many underlying and life altering consequences for you and your family. Our experience can help you now and your family's future. Call us for professional insight.

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#### **New Listings**

For Sale

#### House For Sale

House For Sale: 3 Br, 1 Bath, Corner Lot. Fenced, Trees, Large Yard. Newly Remodled. \$28,000.00 (Firm). Call: Days -940-657-4883. Nights/Weekends - 940-658-3670 Or 940-256-1510 Cell.

#### **House For Sale**

For Sale By Owner- Possible Owner Fiance 903 Aspen, Knox City, Texas 940-658-1007

(4/23 & 4/30)

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#### Notices

#### RATE INCREASE

The City of Knox City has increased the water/ sewer/ garbage rates. Water rate is 1650 for the first two thousand gallons with 4.25 on each one thousand gallons over basic. Sewer rate is 15. Residential and 17.00 on flat rate commercial. Garbage rate is increased be 1.25 on residential with prorated on commercial by usage. For more information call City Hall 940-658-3313.

#### Notices

#### LEGAL NOTICE

That in accordance with section 30.05 Of the penal code of texas - (criminal trespass senate bill iii legislature), notice is hereby given that all lands of the W.T. Waggoner Estate are posted - save and except where written permission is given to come up on the same.

Gene w. Willingham A.B. Wharton We (54)

### 3 GMC DEALERSHIP PUBLIC AUCTION

Thursday, April 23, 2009 • 10:30 AM Downey Chevrolet • 1100 W. Dallas Ave., Cooper, TX Friday, April 24, 2009 • 10:30 AM Jim Ulrich Motors • Hwy. 19 @ E. Loop 304, Crockett, TX Saturday, April 25, 2009 • 10:30 AM

Ernie Guzman GMC • 12111 Katy Fwy., Houston, TX Visit web site for complete details. Each location offers a variety of shop, service & retail equipment all selling regardless of price. Judd Grafe TX License 13088. 13% buyer's premium, 3% discount for cash or guaranteed funds.

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NOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, we cannot guarantee products or services advertised. We urge readers to use caution and when in doubt contact the Texas Attorney General at 1-800-621-0508 or the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP. The FTC web site is www.ftc.gov/bizop

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609 S. Ave E. COME SEE THIS ONE!

4BR, 3 Ba. Master Suite, Pool

REAL ESTATE

Counts Real Estate

David Counts, Broker

Marla Hawkins, Agent Patsy Gonzales, Agent

102 North Ave. A (940)658-3390

Knox City, Texas

300 S. 4th \$30,000 3BR, 2Ba, Corner Lot 1109 S.E. 4th St. Reduced

2BR, 1 Ba, C H/AC, Siding 1202 SE Fourth Street: \$18,500 Cute home featuring a large kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. New roof, Steel Siding

\$35,000 **Brick home in Rochester:** 1400+/- sq ft. Brick home featuring a large kitchen/dining room, 3 bed rooms, 2 baths, garage, carport, small barn, large trees on a

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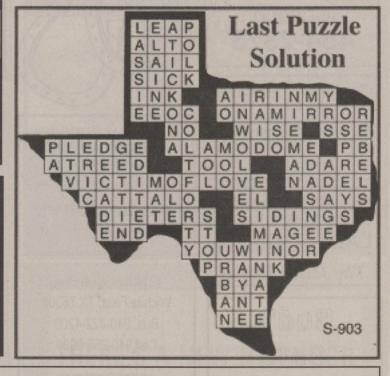
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#### **BID NOTICE**

ASPERMONT SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER, INC. is accepting invitations to bid for the 2009 Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) in the Heating and Cooling component. Bidders must be qualified to assess, as well as, repair, replace or retrofit central units, window units and all other major heating and/or cooling appliances for individuals who qualify. Counties to be served include: Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Stonewall and Throckmorton. To request a bid package please contact Wilda Giles at 940-989-3538 or 800-722-0137 or reply to PO Box 188, Asperment TX 79502.

#### Lone Zebra Mussel Found in Lake Texoma

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 boathouse 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

In 2006, Texas appeared to dodge a bullet when Tim Ray,

RELAX. IT'S RHEEM."

Phone: (940) 658-3322

If no answer: 657-4568

AUSTIN-For the fifth 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

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 an employee of a marina in method of spread is by free-float-

**Texas Air** 

Conditioning

License

**#TACLB005658C** 

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) nonindigeous 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 organ-

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 Abliene, Texas. The Mustangs advanced to Regionals, results for Regoinals will be in our next issue.

advance to Regionals.

Thanks For Readingl

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Gilbert Nevarez - 3200 meters 8th place, Pole Vault DNP Benjamin Area Tennis Results: Jessica Vanderpool - Region Medalist

Benjamin advances to Regionals!

Benjamin Area Track Results:

**Dylan Benson** - 800 meters 2nd place 2:08 will

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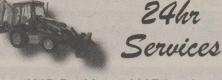
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## Legal Notice

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSFORTATION (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.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Frequalified 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 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** 

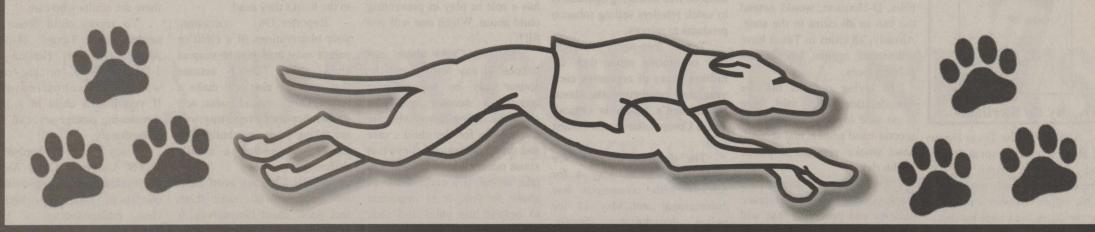
Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on May 9, 2009, for voting in a General election, to elect two board members.

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,

# OX CITY SPORTS



## Hounds Drop Games Against Hamlin, Roby

they finish up district play.

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

"Hamlin has a very funda-

the Hamlin Pied Pipers and the is a little bit of what we are trying defensive game of the season, Roby Lions this past week, as to achieve. So this was a learn- the Hounds ended up losing to ing experience for us." Coach the Lions 6-3. "This game was Maxwell stated.

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

tied 2-2 going into the fourth, The Hounds followed their and then Roby just got some

The Hounds faced off against mental squad out there, and that of the Hounds played their best 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

**TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY** 

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

PERMIT NO. WQ0010416001

application, Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at Knox

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

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

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

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

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

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

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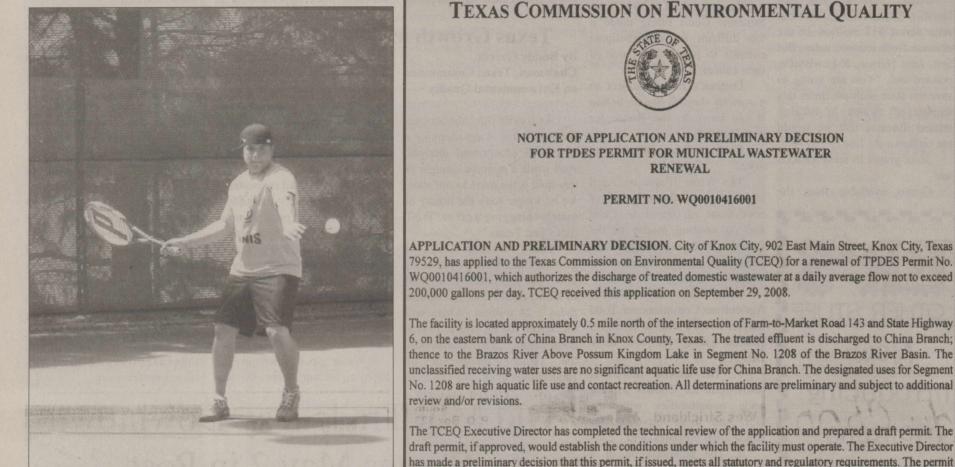
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Clint, Tonya, Carson & Cason "We unlock locked cars"



Courtesy photo

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

## Classifieds Get Results!

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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.

at a scheduled Commission meeting.

City Hall, 902 East Main Street, Knox City, Texas.

hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court.

contested case hearing.

the group's purpose.

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.TCEO.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.

Issuance Date APR 0 9 2009

## TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION **State Capital** HIGHLIGHTS



By Ed Sterling

AUSTIN - The Texas House of Representatives spent Friday and Saturday, April 17-18, amending and finally passing SB for the 2010-2011 state budget.

Senate version totals \$182.2 represents a 2.5 precent annual increase for the two years, a for Texas.

made by the House. If any of years of age. the House version's more than 400 amendments rubs senators Uresti's SB 1049 may cost the the wrong way, the bill will go state about \$12 million in tax before the bill can be forwarded save the state multiple times this to the governor.

Committee on Ways and Means is working on legislation to fund the appropriations.

Committee eyes smoking

ban Two dozen other states have outlawed smoking in public venues. Texas would join them if SB. 544, considered April 14 by the Senate Health and Human

Services Committee, passes. The bill, by Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, would extend the ban to all cities in the state. Already, 28 cities in Texas have ordinances against smoking in public places.

In laying out his bill for consideration, Ellis said there is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke, and secondhand smoke presents a public health risk.

"Our state and our state's 1, the upper chamber's proposal employers need to embrace policies and programs that will The House version of SB truly clear the air, improve 1 totals \$178 billion while the health for every Texan, and make a positive contribution to billion. The House version managing rising health care costs in Texas," he said.

Tobacco purchase age may rate below projected rates of rise The Texas Senate on April inflation and population growth 15 approved a bill by Sen. Carlos Uresti, D-San Antonio, Now, SB 1 goes back to the raising the minimum legal age Senate, where the body either to purchase cigarettes and other can accept or reject changes tobacco products from 18 to 19

Senate bill analysts say to a conference committee of revenue from tobacco sales. But senators and House members. Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Lewisville, Differences must be reconciled pointed out, "You are going to amount of money in tobacco The tax-writing House related illnesses that we would see on down the line."

State grants to stem tobacco

Grants available from the

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Texas comptroller's office are intended to help keep tobacco away from underage users.

Grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$150,000 can be used for tobacco education, keeping schools and school events tobacco free and sting operations to catch retailers selling tobacco products to minors.

Texas teen-agers illegally buy or smoke more than 67 million packs of cigarettes each year, and combating the threat to children's health is critical, Texas Comptroller Susan Combs

The deadline to apply for 2009-10 grants is May 4 for schools with on-campus law enforcement and May 11 for police departments, sheriffs, constables and district attorneys.

Senate passes mesothelioma

Following a four-hour floor debate, the Senate on April 16 tentatively approved 1123 by Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock.

The bill would expedite the process of lawsuits filed by patients with mesothelioma, a type of lung cancer related to exposure to asbestos.

Duncan said a recent Texas Supreme Court ruling made it too difficult for mesothelioma patients to prove the source of their cancer.

Duncan's bill is subject to a vote by the full Senate before it can move to the House for consideration.

Cuba policy changes are

The White House on April 4 announced the relaxing of restrictions on travel to Cuba and on sending money to the Caribbean island nation that has been under communist rule since

Upon that news, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples wrote a letter to President Obama asking for two more changes:

1. The easing of travel restrictions for Cubans seeking trade opportunities with the U.S. and those traveling for educational purposes; and

2. The authorization of a Texas-based air service that will offer direct flights to Cuba.

While I disagree with Cuba's By Rosa Latimer political philosophy, Staples Correspondent said, "I believe by expanding trade, Cubans can see the success of democracy and embrace a free market society, and at the same time, Texans will benefit through job growth."

> TOOFWA

## EVERYONE HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE

child; and it also takes a village to keep children safe. Everyone has a role to play in preventing child abuse. Which one will you

Believer. Child abuse can happen in any setting and the abuser may be anyone who comes in contact with the child, including those who are responsible for the child's care and safety. We must believe that abuse occurs and be prepared to take action. If a child discloses abuse to you, it is important to believe the child and seek support from professionals.

Observer. Be aware of the physical signs of child abuse and neglect, behavior changes, and changes in relationships with peers. Sometimes it is hard to determine what is different or out of place. Just remember, if it doesn't seem right, it usually

Listener. Listen to what children are saying. They may speak directly to you or they may tell a friend there is something

It takes a village to raise a wrong in their lives. They may also speak through play, their writing, or through their reaction to the books they read.

Reporter. On occasion, your observations of a child or parent may lead you to suspect child abuse. Don't assume that someone else will make a report. Don't second guess, act! Remember that by reporting; you are taking steps in rebuilding a family and ending a child's suffering.

Model. Children need adult role models who make them feel good about themselves. It is important for children to feel there are adults who consider them important. It is equally as important for children to carry these positive nurturing images forward into their adult life.

Advocate. Child prevention is a community issue. Connect yourself with others (such as BCFS, your church, PTA, civic organizations) and you will find colleagues and friends who share your concern. Seek opportunities to

get involved. As an advocate, you can make a difference in the child's life and demonstrate that there are adults who care.

To report child abuse or neglect, call Texas' 24-hour Abuse/ Neglect Hotline at 1-800-252-5400, or log onto www.txabusehotline.org. If you find a child in a lifethreatening emergency, call 911 immediately.

Tracy Wayne Richardson is BCFS' Universal Child Abuse Prevention Specialist, providing education, awareness, and a clear understanding of how our community can impact the prevention of child abuse.

This is the last piece in BCFS' four-part special series raising awareness about child abuse distributed 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, or to receive past pieces in this series please visit www.bcfs.net.

#### Texas Growth Makes Water Conservation Essential

**By Buddy Garcia** 

Chairman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

As I write this, almost onethird of Texas is experiencing a severe to exceptional drought. And while a periodic drought or dry spell is the norm in our state, we no longer have the luxury of merely shrugging it off as "Well, that's just Texas."

That's because Texas is growing, and growing fast. By 2060, our population is forecast to hit 46 million, almost double today's 24 million. Where will the water for all those Texans come from? The Legislature, the Texas Commission on

and other government agencies are joined by the commercial sector and various organizations in researching, planning, and exploring possible answers to that thorny question. But one answer is obvious: Water

Using collected rainwater instead of tap water—for outdoor watering during peak summer months can save the typical household up to 1,300 gallons of water. Lawn and garden watering make up nearly 40 percent of total household water use during these hot months.

Here are more water-saving

Water your lawn in the Environmental Quality (TCEQ), morning when there is less evaporation. Most lawns can get by with one inch of watering, once a week.

Fix leaky faucets. If everyone fixed just one faucet, it would save an overall 13 billion gallons per year of Texas water.

Use water-efficient showerheads. Replace older toilets with

water-efficient models to save 4,000 gallons of water per year.

Wash only full loads of laundry, and save 3,400 gallons of water per year.

These are just a few things that you can do. For other water conservation tips, go to **HYPERLINK** "http://www. takecareoftexas.org/"www.

## Old Mill Trade Day Downtown Begins May 2 in Post

The Trade Day experience is back in Post! The Post City Merchants and the Post Area Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring "Old Mill Trade Day Downtown" the first Saturday each month beginning Saturday, May 2. Visitors to Post's Main Street can shop in one of the dozen stores as well as with vendors who will display their products in booths along the

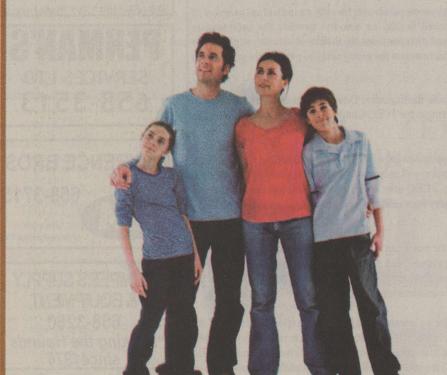
"Many people in the region remember the great experience of shopping in Post. Now we'll have the combination of our unique downtown shops alongside vendors offering a variety of merchandise," said Janice Plummer, Chamber Manager. "The Chamber office receives inquiries every week about Old Mill Trade Days. We are delighted to continue the trade day tradition in Post in this setting.

Vendors will pay a set up fee of \$25 for outdoor space. For more information or to reserve vendor space, contact Darla Frazier, President of the Post City Merchants at 806-495-0609 or the Chamber office, 806-495-3461

"We are keeping our operating expense to a minimum. The vendor fee will be invested in advertising for the next event," Plummer concluded.

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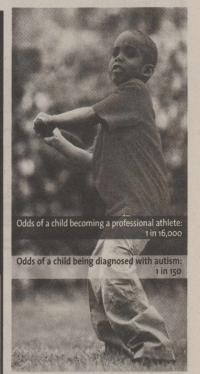




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