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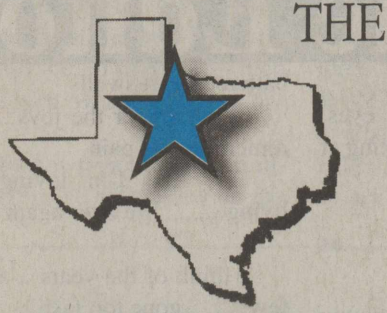
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THE KNOX COUNTY NEWS

PROUDLY SERVING THE KNOX COUNTY AREA

8 PAGES PLUS INSERTS
VOLUME XXXVIII

KNOX COUNTY, TEXAS
THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2009

75 CENTS
NUMBER 31

Fire Department Falls Under City Umbrella

By Tamara Smart

It has been brought to the attention of Knox County News that a false statement was unintentionally made in last week's (May 21, 2009) issue concerning the financial status of the Knox City Volunteer Fire Department.

In that story, the claim was made that the "Fire Hall is it's own non-profit entity, entirely responsible for all the financial burden that comes with firefighting equipment, training and otherwise. Most of their operation money is provided through donations..." This statement is not true. Many of Knox City officials (city council

and employees) were quick to find the fault in this statement.

As a correction: The actual building that is the Fire Hall belongs to the City of Knox City, as are part of the Fire Trucks. Knox City also pays for fuel to power those trucks and the utilities to keep the building operational (which, since the doors are always open to the Fire Hall, becomes very expensive).

The city also takes the financial burden for the insurance needed to run the Fire Department; personal insurance, property insurance and liability.

The City works with the Fire department in many occasions ap-

plying for grants to be able to afford things like new bunker gear and equipment; in fact Fred Ledesma (Fire Chief) and Barbara Rector (City Administrator) just finished a grant proposal to the Texas Forrester Service to get new bunker gear.

In actuality, the City of Knox City budgets at least \$30,000 a year for Fire Department Expenses. It is because of this allotment of money that Barbara Rector states:

"Really the Fire Department is a part of [the City]. They are a branch of The City. It is volunteer MEN who fill those positions."

Knox County News apologizes for the mistakes.

Proud Parents of Area's Top Graduates Speak

By Tamara Smart

This is the time of year where schedules get cram-packed with graduation parties, baccalaureate services and dinners that honor the achievements of our youth... especially those who have finally made it through the very daunting task of graduating from high school after 13 long years. It is at this time that we, as a community, seem to celebrate our part in the graduates' achievements because after all "it takes a village."

Yet, I would like to take this opportunity to write one of my more "editorial" type stories, not honoring "village" aspect so much, but really trying to research and learn from the successes of the parent aspect of our local 2009 graduates.

This year, the communities of Knox and King Counties are especially honoring a select few kids who have excelled in school beyond all their classmates and graduate with the illustrious title "valedictorian" as they have earned the highest GPA in this graduating class.

These four kids, though, are unique in more than just that high GPA aspect. When looking at their Senior Bios and their plans for future endeavors, all 4 of these valedictorians have pages of things in which they participated during the last four years, honors they've received and post-graduation plans that would make any parent proud.

Now as I write this, I must digress a moment and tell you Brandy Wise, Knox County News Editor, and I are both relatively new mothers. I say that because in August, Brandy's son will begin Pre-K and my son-to-be is due to be born in the begin-

ning part of September. While writing the Senior Bios and putting together this 2009 graduation issue, we must have wished the success of these kids onto our own kids (or kids-to-be) a million and a half times. What was it that their parents did to help these youth become so successful? How do we learn from these parent's successes and implement those ideals in our own children?

So, I took this opportunity to talk to all four sets of parents in the greater Knox area and inquire about their advice for a "just starting out" parent like myself. What do I do to help make every opportunity available to my son?

Lorrie Coop, mother of Benjamin valedictorian Brittany Coop (who is the 5th generation of Coop's to graduate from Benjamin), laughed when I inquired as to what she did to be

so successful in her raising of Brittany. "Be involved!" was her immediate credo.

"Know who their friends are, know what their doing at school and after school."

This is the same thought that Tracy Carter, father of Knox City Valedictorian Jordan Carter, had when I called him. Tracy said, "Whatever Jordan was involved in, we (referring to himself and his wife, Paula) were involved in."

Rosa Contreras, mother of Guthrie's valedictorian Kimberly Joan Contreras, was the third parent I spoke with who started her advice with "...always be involved," after which she added, "Be interested. See if they have homework & try to help them. Remember that they are kids and they sometimes forget about those things." Rosa and her husband have a younger son who is also graduating from Guthrie Jr.

High as valedictorian this year.

Rob Dillard, Munday valedictorian has parents who can't help but be involved in his schooling and activities as his mom was his High School counselor and his dad is the Munday CISD Superintendent. The first time I had the pleasure of having an audience with Mr. Dillard for a story I was attempting to write for this newspaper, he gushed on and on about his children and his pride in them was undeniable. Later, in another meeting, he told me about this Munday senior who was a State decorated athlete and scholar who would make a good story to boost the pride of Munday... it wasn't until later that I found out that decorated senior who he spoke of with dubious pride was his eldest son, Rob. Their three other kids are also on the same track as Rob and will all probably move mountains in this world.

In thinking about this "Being involved" theory, I began to think about my own parents. I am the youngest of three girls, all of which graduated top of our classes in high school then went on to some of the country's best universities on scholarship; specifically Tulane, Pepperdine and UOP. My sisters have continued with their educations and are both currently in the processes of becoming PhDs in their chosen career fields. And while, yes, we worked hard as children to get a jump start on life, our parents were very much involved in everything we did. My parents spent our childhood with us on their knee, reading countless books to us, explaining away everything we ever inquired about, and following us to every academic event, sporting activity, musical concert and theater curtain call we ever attended... even if we were only part of the background scenes. For heavens sakes, I was a cheerleader who cheered football, volleyball, basketball, AND wrestling in a 5A school - my mother never missed a game (that's a lot of games)... In fact, there was point when my mother was drafted at one of my musical theater auditions and ended up on stage with me singing and dancing her way through

the productions of "Annie" and "Once Upon a Mattress". (Which turned out to be some of my favorite high school memories.)

The other resounding thought that came from these parents was their belief that they "have been blessed," a quote straight from Tracy Carter and Paula Carter (in two different conversations, mind you). Tracy urged new parents to give their children a strong foundation in Jesus Christ. "Through that," he said, "everything builds: integrity, hard work, responsibility." Janet Dillard wrote an email and in it she said, "We prayed (a lot), tried to be consistent in our discipline, encouraging, supportive, and loving -- which is about the same as any other parent." Also, she reintegrated at the end of said email the same thought that the other parents had: "We really are not special nor have we done anything special--we have been BLESSED--truly BLESSED!!!"

Whether this article helps other new parents or not, it has helped me see that good, successful parenting begins NOW. Involvement and prayer are essential. I will embrace the suggestions of these parents, minding that Paula Carter warned that

See PARENTS Page 8

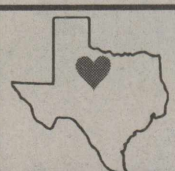


On Tuesday, May 5, the 2009 Area V Soil and Water Conservation Awards Banquet was held at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas. Landon Lynn, a sophomore at Knox City High School, was the first place winner of the Area V Soil and Water Conservation Essay Contest. Schools from 51 counties in Area V competed in the essay contest. Landon represented the Wichita-Brazos Soil and Water Conservation District #544.



Paula Cawsert is retiring from the Munday CISD and received a plaque in honor of the years of dedication and excellence to the students of Munday Elementary.

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OPINION



The Paperboy

By Christopher Blackburn

The Slippery Left Slope

President Barack Obama is a likable man. In fact, with his charisma and charm in one-on-one interviews, if he were more centrist, there is no telling how popular he would be.

His approval ratings, according to realclearpolitics.com, are 60 percent while over 32 percent of Americans disapprove of the job he's doing.

Congress' numbers remain in the toilet. The Congressional job approval rating is 35 percent while 54 percent of Americans disapprove of their job.

It's no wonder. Led by Nancy Pelosi, who, in a perfect world, would be ousted by her peers as Speaker, the House is suffering an identity crisis.

It seems to me, although tired of Pelosi's inability to tell the truth, House Democrats fear rocking their own boat. I actually think someone is missing out by not coming out against Pelosi, but I digress.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has become very proficient at revising history and can be seen pandering to the left at every turn. I would be shocked if the two-headed monster that is Pelosi-Reid ever got Congress' numbers in positive territory concerning the approval rating.

Which brings me back to Obama. With the majority of Americans convinced the country is heading in the wrong direction - 54 percent - it's curious how Obama's numbers have remained so strong. Especially since he, Pelosi and Reid are together on many contentious issues while the majority of Americans have a difference of opinion.

It's too bad Obama continues to cater to the left. While his heart doesn't seem to bleed at the same pace as his liberal contemporaries, it does indeed bleed.

As was predicted, the U.S. Government has been busy moving us further away from our Capitalistic roots and closer to that of Europe's current state. It's not good either.

We've got serious problems and the only solutions I've seen yet are either to throw cash on it or grow government to take care of it.

Gone are the days of responsibility. In their place are the days of dependency.

Those of us in the center and right are left to scratch our heads wondering when our guns will be collected or how much we'll be punished for driving a truck.

Republicans had better find their voice before 2010, or we'll be so much like Europe it will be hard to tell the difference.

And I don't know about you, but I don't want to be like Europe.

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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/>.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor,

I received this poem via e-mail and thought it was too good to keep to myself. I hope that your readers will enjoy as much as I did.

Thanks Fred Ledesma

CRABBY OLD MAN

When an old man died in the geriatric ward of a nursing home in North Platte, Nebraska, it was believed that he had nothing left of any value.

Later, when the nurses were going through his meager possessions, they found this poem. Its quality and content so impressed the staff that copies were made and distributed to every nurse in the hospital.

One nurse took her copy to Missouri. The old man's sole bequest to posterity has since appeared in the Christmas edition of the News Magazine of the St. Louis Association for Mental Health. A slide presentation has also been made based on his simple, but eloquent, poem.

And this little old man, with nothing left to give to the world, is now the author of this 'anonymous' poem winging across the Internet.

Crabby Old Man

What do you see nurses?.....What do you see?

What are you thinking.....when you're looking at me?

A crabby old man.....not very wise.

Uncertain of habit.....with faraway eyes?

Who dribbles his food.....and makes no reply.

When you say in a loud voice.....'I do wish you'd try!'

Who seems not to notice.....the things that you do

And forever is losing.....A sock or shoe?

Who, resisting or not.....lets you do as you will,

With bathing and feeding.....The long day to fill?

Is that what you're thinking?.....Is that what you

see?

Then open your eyes, nurse.....you're not looking at me.

I'll tell you who I am.....as I sit here so still,

As I do at your bidding.....as I eat at your will.

I'm a small child of Ten.....with a father and mother,

Brothers and sisters.....who love one another

A young boy of Sixteen.....with wings on his feet

Dreaming that soon now.....a lover he'll meet.

A groom soon at Twenty.....my heart gives a leap

Remembering, the vows.....that I promised to keep.

At Twenty-Five, now.....I have young of my own

Who need me to guide.....And a secure happy home.

A man of Thirty.....My young now grown fast,

Bound to each other.....With ties that should last.

At Forty, my young sons.....have grown and are gone,

But my woman's beside me.....to see I don't mourn.

At Fifty, once more.....Babies play 'round my knee,

Again, we know children.....My loved one and me.

Dark days are upon me.....My wife is now dead.

I look at the future.....I shudder with dread.

For my young are all rearing.....young of their own

And I think of the years.....and the love that I've known.

I'm now an old man.....and nature is cruel

Tis jest to make old age.....look like a fool.

The body, it crumbles.....grace and vigor, depart

There is now a stone.....where I once had a heart

But inside this old carcass.....a young guy still dwells,

And now and again.....my

battered heart swells

I remember the joys.....I remember the pain.

And I'm loving and living.....life over again

I think of the years .. all too few.....gone too fast.

And accept the stark fact.....that nothing can last

So open your eyes, people.....open and see

Not a crabby old man . Look closer.....see.....ME!!

Remember this poem when you next meet an older person who you might brush aside without looking at the young soul within.....we will all, one day, be there, too.

The best and most beautiful things of this world can't be seen or touched . They must be felt by the heart .

To the Editor,

The Texas Plains Trail Board of Directors would like to congratulate the Knox County Historical Commission for being selected by the Texas Historical Commission for a 2008 Distinguished Service Award for Historic Preservation. We are delighted that your Commission's dedication and hard work has been recognized with this wonderful honor.

Your Historical Commission is most fortunate to have members who appreciate, preserve, and promote the role Knox County played in Texas history, and the Plains Trail Board salutes the "gifts" your community brings to our Region's story as well. We would like to direct particular attention to your Commission's Volunteer programs and working with local youth organizations. We especially enjoyed the visit our Board made to your Community in March.

Our Board will eagerly watch for every opportunity to participate with you in promoting the wonderful people, places and tales from our past. Again, congratulations and thank you for preserving your county's heritage as a true treasure to be explored.

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

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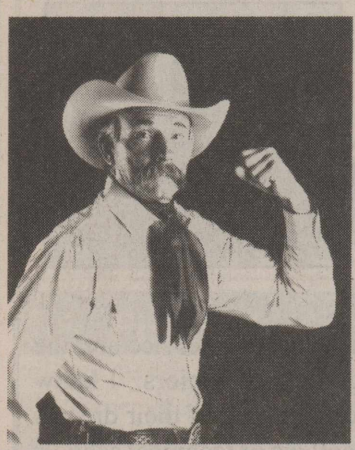
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ACROSS

1 former TX basic skills test (abbr.)
 5 TXism: "mosey ___ to the trough"
 6 TXism: "running ___ (spouse)"
 7 TXism: "___ out (gusher)"
 8 Rangers league
 9 pie ___ mode
 12 Glen Campbell tune: "___ Little Kindness"
 16 Sam Houston's last wife Margaret
 18 "supper" is one
 20 TX Prentiss film: "___ She"
 22 TX actress of TV "Mission Impossible"
 25 El Paso Indians
 30 chill ___ carne
 31 TXism: "fits like sardines ___ can"
 32 TXism: "play ___ close to the vest"
 33 Sierra ___ TX
 35 TX Henley wrote "Take ___ The Limit"
 37 TXism: "fought ___ tooth and ___"
 39 TX ZZ Top album: "___ Grange"
 40 TXism for "bargaining" (4 wds.)
 44 rustled cattle
 45 TXism: "good ol' ___"
 46 yer "thinker"
 47 "___ it"
 49 TXism: "neon light ___ (inspiration)"

DOWN

1 in Harris Co. off 249
 2 TXism: "he's got the morals of ___ cat"
 3 vehicle
 4 TXism for "vomit"
 9 TXism: "he's ___ walk the river with"
 10 Houston ___ the army at San Jacinto
 11 Andrews h.s. class
 12 TXism: "took everything but ___ in my lungs" (robbed)
 13 antique auto
 14 a boat that handles well
 15 Lufkin is seat of this county
 17 TXism: "old as dirt"
 19 TX Don Henley tune (2 wds.)
 21 "due on ___"
 23 "Man ___ not live by bread alone"
 24 TXism: "he could shoot the eye out of a ___"
 25 lung disease (abbr.)
 26 TX "Turtle Lady" Loetscher
 27 TXism for "women" groups at Fort Hood
 29 dramatic start (2 wds.)
 34 map book
 36 Wink, TX event in honor of
 56-across: "Roy ___"
 38 mourns
 41 jumped
 42 TXism: "dull as week old ___ pop"
 43 TXism: "___ doodle" (fancy football play)
 48 paddles
 50 Foley's "Red Apple" event (2 wds.)
 54 TXism: "___ daddle out of here" (scram)
 55 TXism: "call ___ day"
 59 sight at Monahans Sandhills State Park
 62 TXism: "fraidy ___"



ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

by Baxter Black, DVM

THE WORLD GOING TO POT

Here's a tough question: If you are hitting yourself on the head with a spatula and are complaining because it hurts, what should you do? Answer: Stop it!

If the citizenry wants to save General Motors, what should we do? Answer: Buy a Chevy!

And the million dollar question today: If over 6,300 people were killed last year on the Mexican border trying to smuggle drugs into the United States, how can we stop it? Answer: duh... Nobody seems to know.

80% of the drugs brought into the U.S. through Mexico are marijuana. I am watching the President, the Congress, the columnists and the TV pundits babble...maybe we should legalize it? Maybe we should send the Army to the border? Maybe we should build a higher wall?

Am I wrong or is it illegal to grow and sell and smoke marijuana in the United States? Where is the outrage among the politicians, the movie industry, the rock stars and the general public that they readily lash out at cigarette smokers, polluters, and developers? Where is the public shame, the protest marches? The dots are easy to connect.

The naked answer to stopping the rampant killing along the border is...quit smoking marijuana.

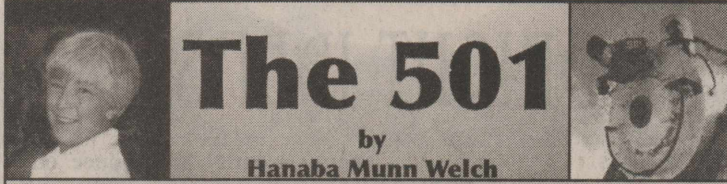
In an effort to defend its use in spite of the death and destruction it wreaks trying to supply us, supporters fill the air with an obfuscating shrapnel of responses including, "It's less harmful than alcohol, it's not addictive, it's good for you, it doesn't lead to meth, cocaine or heroine use, I don't inhale," etc., ad infinitum.

Let us say that all these reasons given by those who would call themselves potheads are valid, one big truth remains; if you want to stop the killing and bloodshed, stop buying marijuana. And if the humanitarian answer is not enough, remember it is illegal.

The laws against drunk driving, robbing convenience stores, smoking cigarettes in public, and cheating on your income tax are enforced. It is possible some of these crimes are never committed by the majority of people BECAUSE it is against the law?

The decision is in the hands of the user. It is obvious that our leaders don't want to offend users, pushers, dealers and/or growers, so it is up to you, up to us. If you want to make it legal, work on that but resist breaking the law until then. Read the news stories about the continuing border slaughter, the deaths, the ruined lives created just so you can have a toke and get mellow.

If it is not addictive...just say No! Cheech and Chong don't look as cool as they used to, do they?



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.

Anything with bird feet should also have wings. I'm thinking of bathtubs.

If you've ever tried to move an old claw-foot model, you know what I mean. They're not as bad as upright pianos, but they're definitely earthbound.

Some moving comments are in order.

If you are a 62-year-old woman with an old cast-iron tub to load, make sure you load the right tub. Also, there's nothing like a friend with hints of osteoporosis to help.

Take my friend Beverly, who promised her mother before she left her home in Arkansas that she would not load any tubs. Knowing about my bathtub collection, Beverly asked to meet me at the farm to acquire a proper tub for the dream house she's building next to her dad's little cow pasture. (The cows are fat, but the pasture is little.)

I'd already given a bathtub to charity. Why not Beverly? Her house is going to be Victorian, like her, so only a claw-foot tub will do for the upstairs guest room, not that I like to use the word "tub" in the same sentence with "upstairs." Her downstairs tub will also be claw-footed, but it's going to be fake vintage. I know that because she told me it will have a Jacuzzi. That's the kind of tub you need after a day of tub moving.

Meanwhile, back on the farm, my three tubs stood as vestiges of my long-abandoned scheme to turn the farm into a dude ranchette. I never built the bunkhouse except in my mind, but I sure enough collected the tubs.

Beverly chose one of the five-footers. Instead of resting on classic claw-and-ball feet, her tub of choice sat on a pedestal, if anything that short can be called a pedestal. I guess it can.

Long story short, we loaded the tub. That's one of those sounds-easy-if-you-say-it-fast statements. I assured her the claw feet from the other five-footer would fit the same four brackets that held the pedestal in place.

As we caught our breaths after rolling the tub across the lawn and womanhandling it into an almost vertical position to slide it on a rug over the tailgate and into her dad's pickup (you didn't really think I'd spare you the details, did you?), we gazed at the bottom of the upside-down tub, hearts racing and proud of ourselves.

It was then I noticed that the brackets were too small to accommodate the claw feet. Oops.

Long story short, we unloaded that tub and replaced it with the one with the proper foot brackets. By then, we were wondering if the Olympics had a category for tub rolling.

All the while, Beverly thought most about what she could tell her mother.

"Mama, I didn't load a single tub today," she said, practicing.

About an hour later, as we sipped cups of tea in the spirit of things Victorian, Beverly's cell phone rang.

Soon I heard her say, "The Lord was with us."

Clever. And she didn't tell a lie.

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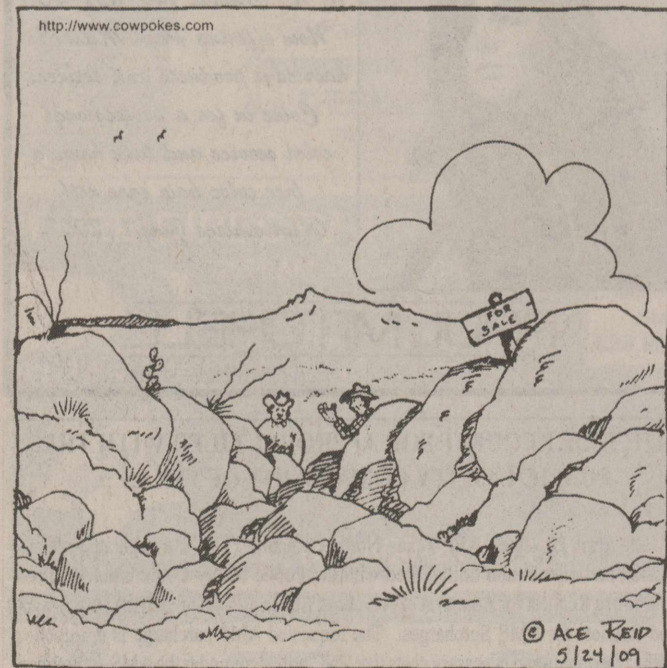
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Notice of Application Requesting an Adjustment to Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Factor and Related Relief

On May 1, 2009, AEP Texas North Company (TNC) filed an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) to approve an Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Factor (EECRF) that will be in effect during 2010. Section 39.905 of the Public Utility Regulatory Act and Section 25.181 of the Commission's Substantive Rules provide for the Commission to authorize a utility to implement an EECRF and annually adjust it to ensure the timely and reasonable recovery of the utility's costs incurred in connection with satisfying energy efficiency goals established by the Texas Legislature.

TNC's filing asks the Commission to approve an EECRF to recover approximately \$865,869 in energy efficiency costs in 2010, consisting of: (1) \$705,570 in projected energy efficiency costs for TNC to meet its energy efficiency objectives for 2010; (2) a deficiency amount of \$79,298 in energy efficiency costs which TNC incurred during 2008; (3) a performance bonus of \$120,090 for TNC's having exceeded its demand reduction goals for 2008; and (4) a credit of \$39,089.

The EECRF applies to all retail electric providers (REPs) who serve end-use customers in TNC's service area. All end-use customers who take service below 69,000 volts are potentially affected by the requested EECRF, depending upon the actions of their REPs. The proposed EECRF will include the following charges on bills rendered to REPs for retail transmission and distribution service:

Customer Class	EECRF
Residential Service	\$0.000236 per kWh
Secondary Service (Less than or equal to 10 kW)	\$0.000171 per kWh
Secondary Service (Greater than 10 kW)	\$0.000182 per kWh
Primary Service	\$0.000122 per kWh

The monthly amount billed to the REP during 2010 on account of service to a residential end-use customer using 1000 kilowatt hours (kWh) per month will increase by 24 cents under the EECF. The effect of the EECRF on the amounts billed to a REP on account of service to other end-use customers will vary depending on the rate schedules under which the REP takes transmission and distribution service and on the end-use customers' usage of electricity.

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings, Docket No. 36959, Application of AEP Texas North Company for Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Factor and Related Relief, should notify the Commission as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission of Texas at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136.



Crop Production Services is in the process of planting a Dyna-Gro test plot in cooperation with Don Brothers. The test plot contains a new Dyna-Gro variety to be released in 2010, it is located just south of HWY 222 between Munday and Knox City of CR 4451. For more information contact CPS at 940-658-3637.



Knox County News Photo
Receiving pins for years of service in the Munday CISD--
pictured left to right: Back row: Janie Fernandez (10 years),
Jessie Andrade (10 years), Karen Longan (35 years), Monica
Shelton (5 years), Laci Bowman (5 years), Mary Jane Escamilla
(10 years) Front row: Mary Ann yruagus (20 years), Christine
Shahan (15 years), Lianne Tidwell (5 years), Kim Kuehler (10
years), Tena Myers (15 years)

BRIGHT IDEAS

By Alex Mills

Bill Pike, editor in chief of *E&P* magazine, recently wrote an interesting column about energy independence, and how every president since Nixon to Obama has pledged that his policies will make the United States "energy independent." Here a just a few of the statements made since 1973.

"Let us set our national goal ... that by the end of this decade we will have developed the potential to meet our own energy needs without depending on any foreign energy sources. Let us pledge that by 1980, under Project Independence, we shall be able to meet America's energy needs from America's own energy resources" — **Richard M. Nixon**, responding to *Arab Oil embargo*, Nov. 7, 1973.

"I am recommending a plan to make us invulnerable to cutoffs of foreign oil. It will require sacrifice, but it — and this is most important — it will work." — **Gerald Ford**, *State of the Union address*, Jan. 15, 1975.

"This intolerable dependence on foreign oil threatens our economic independence and the very security of our nation. ... Beginning this moment, this nation will never use more foreign oil than we did in 1977 — never." — **Jimmy Carter** in a television address on July 15, 1979, in which he announced temporary oil import quotas.

"We must take steps to better protect ourselves from potential oil supply interruptions and increase our energy and national security." — **Ronald Reagan**, in an energy security message to Congress on May 6, 1987, in which he raised concerns about "our increasing dependence on imported oil."

"Over the next two decades, this strategy will make us more energy-efficient without new energy taxes. It will mean savings for consumers in energy costs, and it will improve our

energy security and reduce our vulnerability in the years ahead." — **George H.W. Bush** remarks at a briefing on Energy Policy, Feb. 20, 1991.

"... Our Nation's growing reliance on imports of crude oil and refined petroleum products threatens the Nation's security because they increase US vulnerability to oil supply interruptions." — **Bill Clinton**, *statement on Petroleum Imports and Energy Security*, Feb. 16, 1995.

"America is addicted to oil, which is often imported from unstable parts of the world... By applying the talent and technology of America, this country can dramatically improve our environment, move beyond a petroleum-based economy, and make our dependence on Middle Eastern oil a thing of the past." — **George W. Bush**, *State of the Union Address*, Jan 31, 2006.

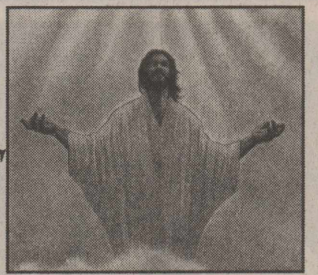
"I think that in 10 years, we can reduce our dependence so that we no longer have to import oil from the Middle East or Venezuela. I think that's about a realistic timeframe." — **Barack Obama** at the third presidential debate in Hempstead, N.Y., Oct. 15, 2008.

Words are cheap from politicians in Washington. The nation's oil and gas industry has survived volatile prices, supply shortages caused by embargoes, price controls, gasoline allocation, increased taxation, and even mandated use of other energy sources. They still provide 70% of the nation's energy, and they will be the primary energy source in the world for decades to come.

Alex Mills is President of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers, which represents more than 3,200 members. The opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the opinions and/or policies of the Texas Alliance.

God's Promises

By Jim Reid, Pastor
O'Brien Baptist Church



I was reflecting upon the Baccalaureate service and the enthusiasm in the faces of the graduating seniors. I know they are full of dreams and the expectation of their dreams being fulfilled. They will begin college or technical schools or enter the military or perhaps go directly into the job market, but each one will be planning and thinking upon his or her career. They will have no doubt toward their success, and that is great! But what is it that can guarantee the success of our dreams or the accomplishment of our desires? I say "our", because you and I have those same ambitions as well, regardless of our age.

In God's Word the book of Proverbs chapter 16 verses 1-4 reads, "The plans of the heart belong to the man, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord. All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, but the Lord weighs the motives. Commit your works to the Lord and your plans will be established. The Lord has made everything for its own purpose."

The key verse is verse 3: "Commit your works to the Lord and your plans will be established. How can this promise of God be more simply stated or easily understood?"

Regardless of this moment in your life, you can change your motivation in the direction in which you are going. Do it "God's way" and the results will be guaranteed. Don't hesitate, change your motivation today!

Trust His love and prove Him to be God. He will provide all your needs and remove all your fears.

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Gene Ward Jr., Pastor
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Monday Evening Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
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Father Charles Gorantla • Deacon Jim Novak
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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
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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
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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.
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- MUNDAY CHURCH OF CHRIST**
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NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR APPROVAL FILED WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

On April 20, 2009, AEP Texas North Company (TNC), a regulated electric transmission and distribution utility, filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) a Request for Approval of Advanced Metering System (AMS) Deployment Plan and Request for AMS Surcharges. The requested AMS surcharge is designed to recover the reasonable and necessary costs that TNC will incur under the AMS deployment plan. TNC also requests five waivers from the provisions of P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.130 in connection with the proposed AMS Deployment Plan.

If approved, the requested AMS surcharge will go into effect with the October 2009 billing month (which commences on September 28, 2009). The AMS surcharge will apply to electric service to residential and non-residential customers in TNC's service area, other than those who have interval demand recording (IDR) meters or take unmetered service. The AMS surcharge will be billed to the retail electric providers (REPs) who provide retail electric service to these customers. The amount of AMS surcharge borne by an individual end-use retail customer will depend on whether its REP passes the approved AMS surcharge along to the end-use customer. The costs recovered through the AMS surcharge will be reviewed by the Commission in a reconciliation proceeding to be held in the future on a schedule to be determined by the Commission.

As an element of the requested AMS surcharge, TNC requests the Commission to approve the use of the System Integration Agreement (SIA) refunds for TNC that are the subject of Docket No. 36924, to moderate the AMS surcharge and ameliorate the negative cash flow associated with AMS deployment, as opposed to being directly refunded. Depending on the Commission's treatment of the SIA refunds, the amount of the AMS surcharge finally approved by the Commission for any particular AMS class could vary from the amount requested in TNC's petition and application.

A copy of TNC's filing is available for inspection at TNC's offices at 901 Energy Drive, Abilene, Texas 79602.

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon the filing should notify the Public Utility Commission of Texas as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline of June 4, 2009, has been imposed. A request to intervene or further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, Post Office Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, and reference Docket No. 36928. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission of Texas at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477 (toll free). Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136.

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

Legal Notice

Bid Notice

City of Knox City will be taking sealed bids to purchase the property located in the Warren Addition, block 8, lots 7, 8 & 9, this being the corner of NE Ave F and NE Third St. Bids will be taken until 5:00 PM on Friday, June 5, 2009. The Council reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. Bids will be opened on June 11, 2009, at &:00 PM at the regular Council meeting.

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2Br, 1 Ba New Roof!
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- 609 S. Ave E. COME SEE THIS ONE! Reduced
4BR, 3 Ba. Master Suite, Pool
- 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
- 902 South Central: \$50,000
3 BR, 1 Ba. Brick Home. CHA/C Fenced yard, covered patio, attached garage, carport. Open floor plan, good paint, ceramic tile floor, good carpeting.
- Great Business Opportunity! \$29,000
323 North Central Avenue. Knox County Cleaners property. Includes machines and equipment!
- 907 South Second Street: \$15,000
3 BR, 2 Ba. Home. Single car garage, large workshop, large yard, large kitchen.
- Grand Central Avenue: \$55,000
1800+-sq.ft. Brick home located in O'Brien. 4BR, 3Ba, 2 living areas, carport, cellar, large corner lot.
- 600+ Acres of Prime Hunting Land: \$1495/acre
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- 904 Central Ave: **Reduced**
Brick home featuring large kitchen 3BR, 1.5 Bath Bonus Room, good outdoor storage & storm shelter. Ready for a Family!
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United States Department of Agriculture
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Knox City, TX

2009 Weekly Weather Report

Date	Temperature (F) Low / High	Rainfall inches
05/12	62/97	
05/13	74/98	
05/14	70/87	
05/15	69/93	.05
05/16	55/77	
05/17	48/76	
05/18	48/82	
Total Rainfall		.05
2009 Rainfall (ytd)		3.38

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S-908

BENJAMIN NEWS

By Gladene Green

Many have called & asked what happened to the "rest of my news" last week- my answer- I don't know- It got to Knox City and on to Childress but from there we can't tell you. All any of us know is that it was not continued on page 8 as stated- We are sorry!

About our Ill

Misty Bohannon came home Sat. after several days in the HMS in Abilene suffering from a brown recluse spider bite. She's doing pretty well but has to stay off her feet about a week. She's very glad to be home & we are thankful for her progress. Hazel Stockton was in Wichita Falls Thurs. for some lung tests. No results yet, but hopefully they can get some treatment started soon that will help her.

Former resident, Gaye Neal is in a Dallas hospital after suffering from a massive stroke over a week ago. Her husband, Larry, said on Sat. that she seemed a little better but still paralyzed & un-responsive so no idea what is ahead for them. Two of their daughters, Audra & Laura live in the Dallas area which makes it better for him.

Former resident, L.V. (Skipper) Hamilton is also in a Dallas hospital (Kendred) suffering several burns over a large part of his body. This happened about a month ago, but he's not showing much improvement. Has had some skin grafts, but so

far, to no avail. The Hamilton family and these other friends all need our prayers. Sometimes we take things for granted & forget how fast mis-fortunes can occur.

DeAnn Lamb was in Wichita Falls Wed. to see her dr. She is to have gall bladder surgery on Wed, June 3rd. The Dr. is not sure if she will have to stay over night in the hospital but she's ready to get it over with.

Weldon Gideon is to see a urologist in Wichita Falls wed. He's not feeling well at all.

Baccalaureate Service

The Baccalaureate Services for the 2009 graduating seniors were held Sunday night at the Methodist Church. Beginning at 8:00 p.m., the program was as follows:

Processional- Linda Griffith
Invocation- Daniels Rivera
Introduction of Speaker- Dillon Loftis

Address- Tim Trimble, pastor of Knox City & Benjamin Methodist Churches

Benediction- Tabby Golden
Recessional- Linda Griffith
A reception honoring the graduate followed.

Commencement is Friday night at the Ex-Students Building. The valedictorian is Brittney Coop, daughter of Curt and Lorrie Coop. Salutatorian is Devon Jones, daughter of Kemp and Beckie Jones.

Jr. High graduation is Thurs. night- also at the Ex-Students Building. (Both begin at 8pm). Valedictory honors go to Matthew Acree son of Ruthie & Bob Acree & Salutatorian is Jonathon Rainwater, son of Kathy & Chad Rainwater. Around Town

There are a few changes taking place around Benjamin. Kathy and Chad Rainwater have built a carport on the west of their house & Jane Gideon has also added a carport to her house- with hail threatening with every cloud that comes our way, I think they have been very wise.

There have been lamp posts put up at the museum, front porch quilts & Church of Christ which not only provide very helpful lighting but add to the looks of those places. There's talk that there may be some put at the school. An alarm system has also been put at the museum.

And in other museum news, the grand opening has been scheduled for June 27. The program will begin at 10:00 a.m. and each community is busy getting their displays ready. The 2010 Srs. will have a hamburger meal at noon on the 27th at the

Ex-Students Building, so plan to make plans for that day to attend this "happening". Lots of work has gone into (& will continue to) making it a memorable event.

Visiting Gloria West last weekend were her daughter & granddaughter, Betty and Chelsea Parker of Aspermont.

Linda & Charles Griffith were in Austin Sat. for the graduation of their grandson, Matt Tyson who received a Bachelor of Arts degree in government from U.T. Matt will enter Tulane School of Law in New Orleans, LA in August to continue his education in preparation of becoming a lawyer.

James and Stacia Propps & Cody were also in Austin for a long weekend & to attend the commencement at U.T. where their son & brother, Chance, received his degree in Radio, TV, & Film Communication. Chance will leave in August for Los Angeles to further his acting career. Shannon, Trey & Shaylee Propps also spent the weekend in Austin & they were met there by Jimmie Kay & Don Liles & Jimmie's sister, Lynn of Longview 7 Herb & Dickie Propps of Seymour. Stacia said Chance worked hard to plan a fun weekend which she said they all thoroughly enjoyed.

This story is almost unbelievable but very factual. Karen Green (she's married but I don't know her last name now) was released a couple of weeks ago after spending several days in an Abilene hospital. She had been bitten on the finger by a rattlesnake- This made the third time she had been bitten by one, also has had two brown recluse bites, a black widow spider bite & grass snake bite- And the day that she came home from the hospital a swarm of bees flew by and two of them stung her! See why I said it seems more like fiction than truth? Karen and her husband live between Rotan and Hamlin. She is the daughter of Jimmy and Helen Green, former Benjamin residents, now residing in Guthrie.

Aiden Crinion, 14 month old son of Shannon and Danny Crinion & grandson of Jerry and Linda Parker has been very ill in a San Diego, Calif. Hospital. He is still hospitalized but is showing an improvement. Drs. have run all kinds of tests but no definite diagnosis as yet. Jerry and Linda will leave tomorrow (Tues) for San Diego for a few days to help out & see first hand how everything is going. I (& they) ask you to remember this family in prayer.

THANKS FOR READING THE KNOX COUNTY NEWS

Hug A Kid!

Legal Notice

REVISED PUBLICATION DATE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES
TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCKGRANT PROGRAM PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Benjamin is soliciting proposals from qualified individuals or firms for management, administrative, and planning services in conjunction with the Community Development Block Grant Fund, Community Development Supplemental Fund and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Fund from the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) for program years of 2009/2010. Accordingly, the City is seeking to contract with a qualified management firm to administer the contract. Please submit your proposal of services and a statement of qualifications for these proposed services to the address below:

Mayor Sylinda Meinzer
City of Benjamin
P.O. Box 286
Benjamin, Texas 79505

Proposals must be received by the City no later than **Monday, June 8, 2009 at 11:00 A.M.** to be considered. The City reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards.

The City of Benjamin is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

The advertisement is for May 28, 2009

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Knox City

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Legal Notice

REVISED PUBLICATION DATE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ENGINEERING SERVICES TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Benjamin is requesting proposals for engineering services in conjunction with Community Development Block Grant Fund, Community Development Supplemental Fund and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Fund from the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) for program 2009/2010. Accordingly, the City is seeking to contract with a qualified engineering firm registered to practice in the State of Texas to prepare all preliminary and final design plans and specifications, and to conduct all necessary interim and final inspections for the application's project that is awarded a contract by the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA).

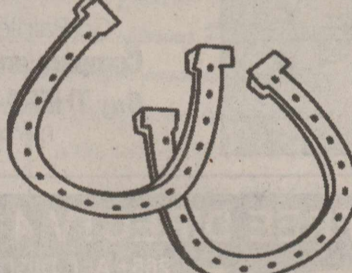
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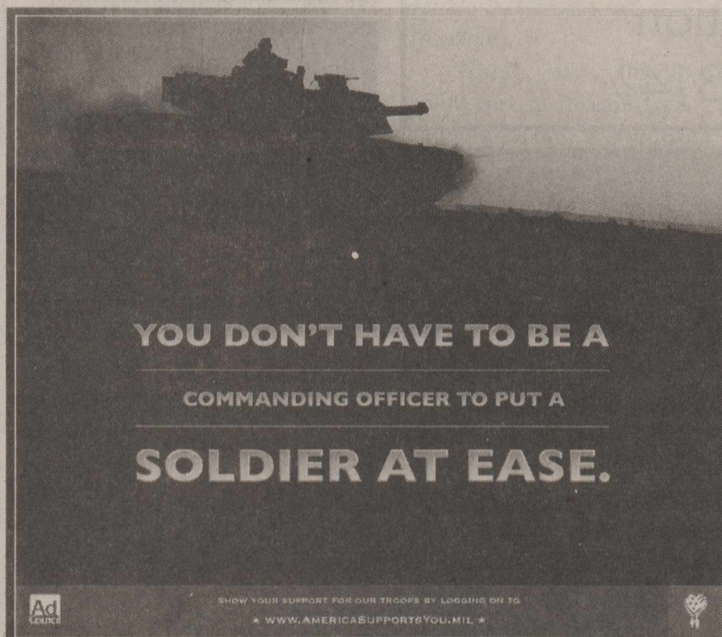
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Property Tax Protest and Appeal Procedures

The law gives property owners the right to protest actions concerning their property tax appraisals. You may follow these appeal procedures if you have a concern about:

- the market or appraised value of your property
- the unequal appraisal of your property
- the inclusion of your property on the appraisal roll
- any exemptions that may apply to you
- the qualification for an agricultural or timber appraisal
- the taxable status of your property
- the local governments which should be taxing your property
- the ownership of property
- the change of use of land receiving special appraisal
- any action taken by the chief appraiser, appraisal district or appraisal review board that applies to and adversely affects you.

Informal Review
(Insert description of appraisal district's informal review procedure. If any, then give name and telephone number of person taxpayer should contact.)

CHIEF APPRAISER MITZI WELCH
BENJAMIN, TEXAS 940-459-3891

Review by the Appraisal Review Board
If you can't resolve your problem informally with the county appraisal district (CAD) staff, you may have your case heard by the appraisal review board (ARB).

The ARB is an independent board of citizens that reviews problems with appraisals or other concerns listed above. It has the power to order the CAD to make the necessary changes to solve problems. If you file a written request for an ARB hearing (called a notice of protest) before the deadline, the ARB will set your case for a hearing. You'll receive written notice of the time, date and place of the hearing. If necessary, you may request a hearing in the evening, Saturday or Sunday. Prior to your hearing, you may ask to review the evidence the CAD will use to uphold their determination. The CAD may ask you for a copy of the evidence you plan to present. The hearing will be informal. You or a designated agent may appear in person to present evidence or you may send notarized evidence for the ARB to review at your hearing. The CAD representative will present evidence about your case. You may cross-examine the CAD representative. The ARB will make its decision based on the evidence presented. The CAD has the burden of establishing the property's value by a preponderance

of the evidence presented. In certain protests where the owner has submitted an independent appraisal to the ARB before the hearing, the chief appraiser has the burden of proving the property's value by clear and convincing evidence. You can get a copy of a protest form from the appraisal district office at:

(Insert address.)
KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 47
BENJAMIN, TEXAS 79505
940-459-3891

Note: You shouldn't try to contact ARB members outside of the hearing. The law requires ARB members to sign an affidavit saying that they haven't talked about your case before the ARB hears it.

Review by the District Court or an Arbitrator
After it decides your case, the ARB must send you a copy of its order by certified mail. If you're not satisfied with the decision, you have the right to appeal. If you choose to go to court, you must start the process by filing a petition within 45 days of the date you receive the ARB's order. As an alternative and within the same time period, you may file a request for binding arbitration with the county appraisal district in certain cases.

Tax Payment
You must pay either the amount of taxes due on the portion of the taxable value not in dispute or the amount of taxes due on the property under the order from which the appeal is taken.

More Information
You can get more information by contacting your appraisal district at (insert appraisal district name, address, telephone number).

KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 47
BENJAMIN, TEXAS 79505
(940) 459-3891

You can also get a pamphlet describing how to prepare a protest from the appraisal district or from the State Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division at P.O. Box 13528, Austin, Texas 78711-3528.

Deadline for Filing Protests with the ARB*

For ARB changes (the ARB has informed you of a change that increases your tax liability and the change didn't result from a protest you filed), the deadline is before the 30th day after the notice of the determination was mailed to you.
(You may insert deadline for protests concerning omitted property if doing so would avoid taxpayer confusion.)

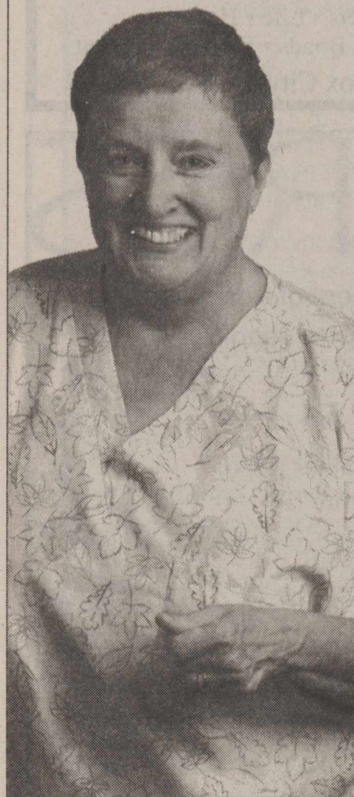
If you believe the appraisal district or ARB should have sent you a notice and did not, you may file a protest until the day before taxes become delinquent (usually February 1) or no later than the 125th day after the date you claim you received a tax bill from one or more of the taxing units that tax your property. The ARB decides whether it will hear your case based on evidence about whether a required notice was mailed to you.

* The deadline is postponed to the next business day if it falls on a weekend or holiday.

A SHORT STORY ABOUT A HARD CURVE AND A HOME RUN.

Carol Truncala's story isn't just about how she prevailed through a severe childhood case of scoliosis, or curvature of the spine. It's about what she did when she grew up. She became a nurse—a decision inspired by the support and dedication she received from her own medical team during her long years of treatment and successful recovery. Carol Truncala's story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know: don't give up, and remember to give back. If Carol's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.

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Boaters Reminded About Registration, New Web Renewal Service Available

AUSTIN — Boaters gearing up for summer fun on the water in Texas are reminded about the need for boat registration and boat and outboard motor titling. Also, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has a new Web service that started in March which allows boat owners to renew online.

Boat owners can now eliminate the drive and renew an existing boat registration listed in their name using a credit card online. They can also update their address and order additional ID cards when renewing online. This service is available to boats titled and registered through Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, but is not available to boats documented (titled) through the United States Coast Guard, as they must provide proof of current documentation for registration.

Boat owners can also register by providing all forms and supporting documents, any required application fees, and any boat/outboard motor taxes at TPWD headquarters in Austin or any of the 27 TPWD law enforcement (game warden) field offices throughout the state or at participating county Tax Assessor-Collector Offices. To find participating offices, check the TPWD Web site.

Most boats are required by law to have current registration when on Texas public water, including vessels that are docked or moored. Texas registration is required for motorized boats of any length (including those with trolling motors), sailboats 14 feet in length or longer or sailboats with auxiliary engines, plus U.S. Coast Guard documented vessels.

Exempted boats that are not required to register include all non-motorized canoes, kayaks, rubber rafts (regardless of length) and similar craft if they are paddled, poled, or oared; as well as sailboats under 14 feet in length when windblown; USCG documented commercial vessels

used in coastal shipping; and USCG documented vessels exceeding 115 feet in length.

Most boats are also required to be titled in Texas, including all motorized boats of any length and all sailboats 14 feet in length or longer or any sailboat with auxiliary engines. All internal combustion (gasoline/diesel powered) outboard boat motors must also be titled.

Current boat registration fees range from \$30-to-\$90 per vessel, with higher fees for longer vessels. Registration and titling fees are proposed to increase, but the change wouldn't take effect until Sep. 1.

Here are few helpful reminders that may prevent problems for boat owners:

- Purchasing a boat from an individual? Check the ownership information first, it's easy to do and free. You can see whether the boat has a title and determine if that matches to the person (or their legal representative) that you are buying the boat from. Avoid buying a boat with existing problems by determining if a lien exists and whether it has been released by the bank. Avoid situations noted on the record where an issue exists that will prevent a smooth transfer of ownership. Remember, when a title has been issued, you'll need the seller to provide the title with the purchaser's name and address listed on the back of the title and a bill

of sale to complete the transfer into your name.

- Didn't get your registration renewal notice? Check the ownership information to see if you need to update your address. Providing an updated address is free and easy by using TPWD form PWD 143-M (boats) or PWD 144-M (outboard motors). All forms may be downloaded online or picked up at a registration office.
- Texas experiences all kind of weather events — did a boat wash up on your property during the most recent hurricane or flood? Use the ownership information to connect with the owners.
- Check the documents before making the trip — Just moved to Texas? Inherited a boat? Selling as a result of divorce? Won a boat in a raffle? Titling a homemade boat? And the list goes on. Before making a drive to one of the offices, you can check to see what documents are needed by viewing the "Requirements for Specific Transactions for Vessels and Outboard Motors". Summarized graphs with detailed explanations are available on the TPWD Boat Ownership Web page.

Assessor-Collector Offices. To find participating offices, check the TPWD Web site.

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Russell Graves Outdoors The Weather

By Russell A. Graves

A few weeks ago I was lamenting to a friend in the donut shop about the weather's fickleness here around the 100th meridian. At the time, we were in a prolonged drought. Since around October, rain fell in scant amounts, the wind whipped almost everyday, dust blew, and we even had snow in late March.

Over the past few weeks, though, the rain came, talk of drought has waned for now and the pastures around here look as green ever. It seems the fickle nature of our weather has turned for the better but it won't be long before an oppressive summer is upon us.



Turns out, weather is a long-standing topic (at least in Childress) and a president visited here over 70 years ago to discuss, surprisingly, weather and water.

In July of 1938, president Franklin Roosevelt stopped in Childress during a train tour and delivered this address to the citizens:

"I am glad to come out to West Texas. I am glad to come out to Marvin Jones' district. Tom Connally and I have been "kidding" him on this train, wondering whether when we came into the home district of the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, whether we should find agriculture was a whole lot better here than in any other place in the country.

Marvin says that you are doing pretty well.

I have been very much interested in coming through this end of Texas. I have never been through here before. But I have been fairly familiar with it in a good many ways because, in the last six years, I have had to get a good deal of first-hand knowledge about the problems of every part of the country.

I am very glad to know that you are all water conscious.

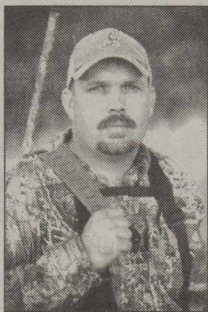
I hope the day will come—it will take a long time to do it—when every drop of water that falls out of the heavens will serve the highest use, the best use possible for mankind before it gets down into the Gulf of Mexico.

We are learning a lot; we know more about all these problems today than we did ten years or twenty years ago. Back in the East there are a good many people who laugh about the Dust Bowl, they laugh about the efforts on the part of man to change nature. I wish they could come out and see the people who live in this country and who are making good in this country.

That is why we in Washington, thinking in national terms, are doing everything that we possibly can to make every area of the United States a better place to live in, to give a greater security not only to this generation but to the children who are going to follow us in the days to come."

Any questions or comments? Contact Russell at russell@russellgraves.com or visit his website at www.russellgraves.com

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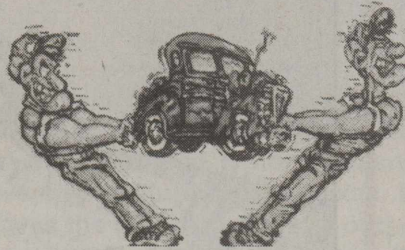
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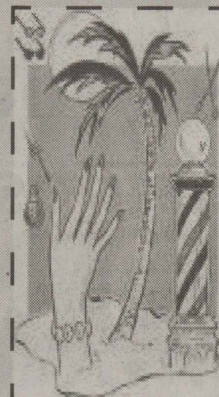
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The Lewis family proudly supported Eric Lewis the day he graduated from Midwestern State University Magna cum Laude Saturday, May 16, 2009, with a Bachelor of Business Administration.

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital HIGHLIGHTS



By Ed Sterling

Legislature declares May 21 Texas Water Conservation Day as state's drought worsens

WHAT: More than a dozen Texas water providers are hosting a water conservation show-and-tell at the Capitol while urging Texas lawmakers to fund a statewide water public education campaign. An interactive walk-through exhibition will showcase successful conservation programs that have been implemented across the state and are critical to extending Texas' water supply. By 2060, water conservation must account for 23 percent of Texas' water supply.

WHO: John Howard, Chair of Texas Water Foundation;

Sen. Kip Averitt, State Senate District 22; Former Rep. Robert Puente; Rep. Allan Ritter, State House District 21; among others. The Texas Water Foundation hosts Texas Water Conservation Day May 21 also with City of Austin, City of Cedar Park, City of Dallas, City of Frisco, High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1, Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District, Lower Colorado River Authority, North Harris County Regional Water Authority, North Texas Municipal Water District, Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District, San Antonio Water System and Tarrant Regional Water District.

Interactive water conservation displays offer engaging photo opportunities for the media.

WHEN: Thursday, May 21, 2009 (Texas Water Conservation Day) Water exhibition open entire event 10 a.m. Event begins. Texas House of Representatives resolution 11 a.m. Texas Senate resolution 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch with lawmakers, water districts 3 p.m. Event ends

WHERE: State Capitol, 11th

and Congress; Austin, Texas. Extension Building, Level E2, Main Conference Room.

VISUALS/PHOTO OPPS: One-on-one sound bites with lawmakers and water providers. Select water providers will showcase at the interactive exhibition, which will include:

- Water IQ educational computer kiosk
- Water IQ house (educates with indoor and outdoor water-saving tips)

- A variety of award-winning TV, radio, print and outdoor (billboard) water conservation public service announcements

- Potato-flushing toilet that demonstrates high efficiency, low-flow toilets can effectively dispose of waste

WHY: Water conservation is a critically important component for the future of the Texas water supply. With no state funding, local utilities and cities have stepped up to pay for water conservation education that has helped to extend Texas' water supply, but they can't pay for the whole state. Public funding, supporting a comprehensive water conservation message, is needed to fully meet Texas' water demands.

FOOD PROTECTION MANAGEMENT COURSE SET FOR JUNE 5

Texas AgriLife Extension Staff in Kent and Haskell counties are offering a food manager certification training course for area food service managers. The program will be offered on Tuesday, June 23, in the central location of Aspermont. Anyone planning to participate must pre-register by Friday, June 5.

The program is designed to not only prepare food service managers to pass the certification examination, but will provide valuable education

regarding the safe handling of food.

For a registration form and more information about the Food Manager

Certification Training course of Texas AgriLife Extension, called "Food Safety: It's Our Business," contact Jane Rowan, Haskell County Extension Agent at 940/864-2546, l-rowan@tamu.edu. -or- Shirley Long, Kent County Extension Agent at 806/237-3345

PARENTS

"it goes pretty fast" and remembering Janet Dillard's advice without giving advice when she said: "As far as Rob, we wish we had some great advice, but we don't. We are just parents who tried to do what our parents had done raising us. We wanted the best for our child, and encouraged him to always do his best. We are extremely proud of Rob, as our other kids. We know there is a way greater hand than us in this because we didn't do anything special.... We wish we had some great parental advice (we can still use some ourselves), but we don't. I guess child rearing is like anything else. It is a day to day thing, what works for one may not work for another, takes total commitment, time, and it never stops."



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U.S. SENATOR
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON



The fabric of Texas' rich history is woven with legendary stories of sacrifice and remarkable acts of valor. From the battle of the Alamo, when Colonel William Barret Travis and his men stood their ground, declaring "no retreat, no surrender" and sacrificed all for the freedom of their nation - to the young men and women who are laying down their lives on foreign battlefields today - generation after generation, our state's men and women have exhibited the indomitable Texas spirit of service and patriotism.

Stretching back to the American Indian Wars, 70 Texans have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for their heroic service. And many of them died earning that distinction.

During World War II, a young B-24 pilot from Fort Worth named Horace Carswell was flying a single-craft mission to take out a convoy of Japanese ships in the South China Sea. After scoring direct hits on the target, Major Carswell's aircraft was badly damaged. Through skillful flying, he kept the staggering bomber in the air long enough to make it to land so his crew could safely parachute onto the Chinese shore. Major Carswell and his copilot were killed in the crash landing, but through his courageous actions, the rest of his crew survived. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, and Carswell Air Force Base outside of Fort Worth was named in his honor.

Another Texan who made an indelible mark on our nation's history is Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez, a daring and fearless soldier in Vietnam from Cuero.

Sergeant Benavidez and his soldiers were ambushed on a secret mission in Cambodia, and despite suffering a broken jaw, sustaining 37 bullet wounds, and being stabbed with a bayonet, he exposed himself repeatedly to enemy fire and carried gravely wounded soldiers in his arms to safety. He was so badly maimed that his commander nominated him for a Distinguished Service Cross award because the Army was afraid he wouldn't survive long enough for the extensive Medal of Honor process to be completed. But he did survive, and was subsequently awarded the Medal of Honor. MSG Benavidez made service to his country his life's work. A bust of MSG Benavidez is on display at the United States Military Academy at West Point, where it serves as a tribute to his life and an inspiration to future leaders.

Preserving these legacies is critical, because, as President Ronald Reagan once said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

Today, a new generation of patriots is serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. Like many before them, some are paying for our freedom with their lives. In the early days of the war in Iraq, a 23-year-old Texan named James Kiehl was killed when his convoy was ambushed near

al Nasiriya. His remains were brought home to Comfort, Texas, and on the day of his funeral something remarkable happened. Hundreds of men, women, and children from across the community lined the streets to honor their hometown hero and show support for his family as the funeral procession wound its way through the small town. He was one of the first Texans to lay down his life in combat. To date, more than 400 Texans have died in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Many of today's military heroes have not yet made it into the pages of history. But they are already solidifying a legacy of valorous service. Unlike many of the wars that were fought in previous generations, none of the men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan were drafted into service. Every single one of today's soldiers stood and volunteered to go. If you ask one of our troops or the family of one of our fallen heroes why they volunteered, their responses are almost always rooted in patriotism and the desire to be a part of something greater than themselves.

Every day, I think of those Texans who have made the ultimate sacrifice. I think about the loved ones who miss them. It is fitting for our nation to pause and remember them on Memorial Day. But to truly honor their service, we must always cherish liberty, work to keep America free and strong, espouse the values for which our troops have fought and died, and pass down their memory to future generations.

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

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