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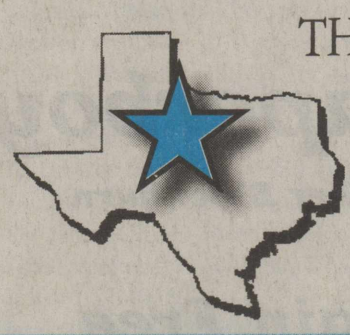
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THE KNOX COUNTY NEWS

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8 PAGES PLUS INSERTS VOLUME XXXVIII KNOX COUNTY, TEXAS THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2009 75 CENTS NUMBER 36



Happy Fourth of July!

LOOKING AHEAD

4th of July parade in munda- Begins at 9 and will run from Munday school toward downtown Munday and back. For more information, call Munday Chamber of Commerce at 422-4540.

All government offices will be closed Friday in observation of Independence Day.

The Wichita Brazos Museum & Cultural Center has Grand Opening

By Tamara Smart

"A museum is the heart of community" according to Dr. Scott White, Special Projects Manager, Oral Historian & Curator of Arts for the National Ranching Heritage Center in Lubbock, 10 year veteran art handler, and recent guest speaker at the Grand Opening of the Wichita Brazos Museum & Cultural Center.

The "heart" of which he was speaking was about the new historical museum in Benjamin which features the cultural lineage of Knox County since the first settlers. After months and months of planning, building, preparation, blood, sweat, tears, sawdust, paint, gathering, meetings, research, forums and elbow grease, Knox County was able to celebrate the amazing achievement of the creation of the Wichita Brazos museum for the first time as it was finally opened to the public after a Grand Opening ceremony on Saturday, June 27th, 2009.

The Ceremony began at 10:00 a.m. as Benjamin resident and Master of Ceremonies, Benny Grill welcomed everyone to the museum grounds. Dennis Duke prayed over the Museum and the people attending the opening, which was followed by

Jess Jones providing the crowd with much-needed chills as she sang the National Anthem. After guest speaker, Dr. White, spoke about the necessity of a museum in a community; a special award was given to Kenneth Roberts for his devotion, drive and determination in the creation of the museum which now is open for touring Monday-Friday, 9 am-5 pm. The plaque which was presented to Mr. Roberts was inscribed with words of appreciation for his "architectural enterprise & many hours of work; from the blue prints to the correct placement of the final nail". Mr. Roberts didn't seem to find the completed task of creating the museum as daunting as it truly must have been; in fact, his sentiments over the process were, "we had fun building the museum, dang it!"

The museum opening had many elements to it, some which were unique to the Grand Opening Day and some which will be available for the duration of the operation of the Cultural Center. Just to commemorate the Grand Opening, Leora Aaron, Benjamin Post Master, had a special "stamp cancellation" booth for stamp collectors to remember the opening for years to come. There were also cookbooks,

potholders, calendars and newspapers for sale at the museum.

Yet, if one missed the Grand Opening, there are still many wonderful things that the Wichita Brazos Museum & Cultural Center offers on a daily basis. There are "community displays" where each of the 8 communities in Knox County has their own area to display relics of their pasts. These displays will be constantly changing (every 6 months or so) so that the Center always has something different to offer.

There are also displays of old saddles (one of which was made in Benjamin and dates back

to the late 1800's), antiquated newspapers, historical collectables, unique aged apparatuses and out-dated technologies.

The office section of the Center has files upon files for one to research genealogies of Knox County families, historical figures, and news happenings throughout record. They also have a file of archives which include books providing information on all the Veterans honored on the Veteran Memorial outside the Museum, obituary books covering information on people buried in any of the Knox County Cemeteries and County History books.

The Grand Opening Ceremony was held on the lawn outside and by 11:00 am, when the ceremony was concluded, the temperature was already hovering near 100 degrees. Yet, that did not deter people from flocking to the Center to explore the artifacts, nor did it hinder their appetites as the headed across Benjamin for a hamburger meal hosted by the Benjamin Senior Class of 2010.

For more information about the Wichita Brazos Museum and Cultural Center, please call (940) 459-2229 or go by and peruse the facility at 200 East Hays St. in Benjamin.



Knox County News Photo

The Wichita Brazos Museum & Cultural Center has Grand Opening

FSA Schedules Seminars

COLLEGE STATION - Juan M. Garcia, Acting Texas State Executive Director for USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) today announced the Agency's 2009 Guaranteed Loan Program - Lender Seminars.

Five regional meetings will be held across the state.

Given today's economic climate and instability in agricultural commodity prices, FSA understands it is increasingly difficult for commercial lenders to extend credit to farmers and ranchers whether established or just starting out in the business. Some established producers are finding they no longer qualify for traditional commercial loans through their local bank due to changes in lending policies; while beginning farmers and ranchers are finding it more difficult to obtain credit due to lack of experience and limited equity. FSA's loan programs help producers with viable farming and ranching operations obtain access to much needed capital.

FSA is forming partnerships with Texas lenders through the Guaranteed Loan Program to ensure agricultural producers have an affordable and reliable source of credit. Through this program, FSA guarantees loans for up to 95 percent of any loss. Participation allows banks to keep their long-term agricultural customers and form relationships with new producers who may not meet their current lending criteria for a commercial loan.

"With the uncertainties being experienced in the economy and the agricultural industry, the Guarantee is an excellent way for banks to continue extending

"Tiny Town, Texas" comes to Knox County

By Tamara Smart

Many think Knox County is created of several "small towns".

On Friday, June 26th and Saturday, June 27th, the townships of Knox County seemed a little bigger as Robert Wanat came to Benjamin to display his version of "Tiny Town, Texas" to the people of Knox County.

Mr. Wanat of Castroville, Texas, displayed his "Tiny Town" along with several other pieces of art depicting historical situations at the Grand Opening of the Wichita Brazos Museum. Robert Wanat has been working on his "Tiny Town, Texas" pieces for 28 years and has successfully created two townships, "Dodge City" and the "Cave Model" which are made out of

nothing more than thousands of matchsticks, toothpicks and a few coffee stirrers. Both of his Tiny Towns feature working apparatuses in the towns (windmills that actually turn with the wind, door latches allowing you to open and close the doors, rotating wheels, etc.). They feature authentic plant and wildlife, as well. In one of his displays, with the help of Mr. Wanat and a very high powered microscope, one can see a replica on a coiled up snake bathing in the sun. This snake has amazing detail, down to the diamond scales on his back and the tongue jutting out of his mouth, yet is smaller than a dime in size.

Over the last 7 years, while Mr. Wanat was not patiently gluing together matchsticks &

toothpicks in the creation of his mini-models; he was researching and involving himself on a new art project.

Robert's other form of historical art comes in the way of hide-branding. After much traveling and pouring over government documents, Mr. Wanat has discovered what he believes are the first recorded brands in each county in Texas.

After all his research and discovery, Robert then made "mini-brands" and found big, beautiful hides on which to brand them. He branded an outline of Texas with each county border marked inside. He then proceeded to brand all 254 counties with their first REGISTERED brand under the state ("Not the first brand because grandma said so, but the

first registered one found on the books," according to Wanat).

Yet, he didn't stop there; this hide features 325 brands altogether- including the first 48 brands under the Republic of Texas, 26 Mexican brands, and 5 Spanish brands. The oldest recorded brand used in Texas

was registered in 1668, and Mr. Wanat has a mini-brand of that one as well. The final brand on all of his artwork is a burned in "RSW" initial which represents his and his wife's labor of love on the artwork.

Robert has made several of

See TOWN Page 8

Brittany Coop Participates in Ogallala Commons Internship



BRITTANY COOP

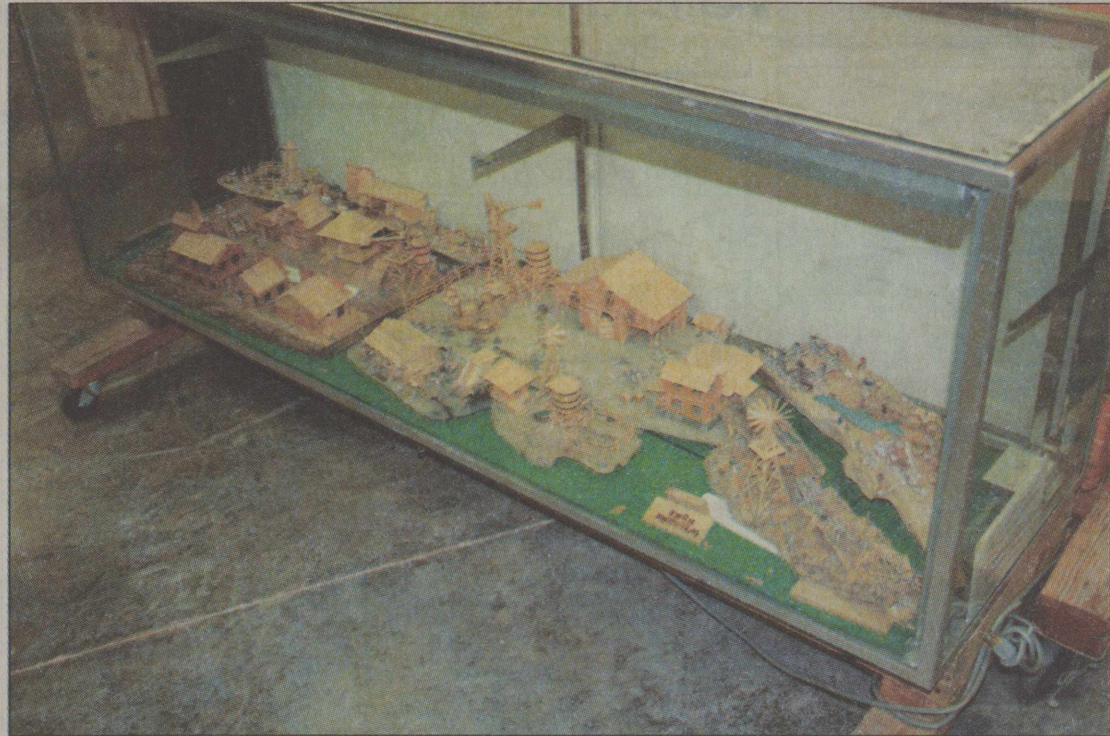
Brittany Coop will be participating in an Ogallala Commons (OC) Internship this summer in Benjamin. OC Community-Based Internships provide four-eight weeks (sometimes six months to 12 months) of paid supervised work for a motivated high school or college-aged youth in community and economic development, right in their hometown. Through partnerships with rural communities, Ogallala Commons creates internships that allow youth to work with and learn about the wealth and potential, as well as the challenges and difficulties of their hometowns. "These internships are an excellent way for motivated youth to add value to

their hometowns, while adding tremendous value to their career paths", notes Simone Cahoj, OC Intern Coordinator and a junior at the University of Kansas.

The main objectives of OC Internships include learning about Ogallala Commons' mission to build vibrant communities, engaging youth through the E-Dreams program, helping to promote and organize key community events, and building up community resources through the potential of heritage tourism, local food systems and local health careers. Interns also learn about tools for conserving natural resources, entrepreneurship, preserving oral history, and fostering a sense of place. In addition, interns get the chance to interact with other OC interns spread across four states through a Facebook group and a Midsummer Interns Tour.

Some of the projects she will be working on include mentoring with local businesses and working with the Knox County Visioning Team. Brittany will be entering Texas A&M University this fall and majoring in business. This internship will provide

See COOP Page 8



Mr. Wanat of Castroville, Texas, displayed his "Tiny Town" along with several other pieces of art depicting historical situations at the Grand Opening of the Wichita Brazos Museum.

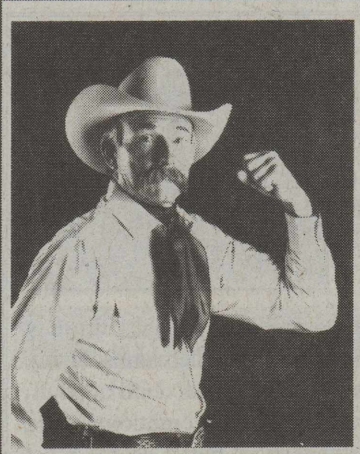


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ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

by Baxter Black, DVM

THE DARK SIDE

Two of the richest animal rights groups in the country have recently made the news; PETA killed 95% of the dogs and cats left in their care in 2008 (VA Department of AG), and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) contributed less than 4% of their \$91.5 million budget to hands-on dog and cat shelters in 2007 (Center for Consumer Freedom).

Both stories were presented to expose the hypocrisy of animal rights groups whose commercial fund raising depicts and depends on the image of the compassionate caring of kittens and puppies. But anybody who has worked for local humane societies, horse refuges, dog pounds or veterinary clinics understands the reason PETA is in the "euthanasia" business in a big way...the country is overrun by unwanted dogs and cats and horses.

It is no easier for the director of a local Humane Society in Montana (not affiliated with the HSUS) to euthanize the majority of the pets she accumulates monthly, than it is for the local veterinarian to agree to euthanize (usually at no charge) a litter of kittens or an unwanted horse. Nor do I think the people working in the back of PETA are callous about it. Just like the abandoned horse issue, somebody has to take responsibility and do the right thing and it ain't always pretty.

Much ado is made about spaying and neutering our pets, about breeding too many horses. The fact remains, despite all our editorials, city laws, clinics and education, PETA put down 21, 339 dogs and cats in the last ten years. All of us veterinarians, livestock people, slaughter horse buyers, city dog catchers, rendering plant truck drivers, and PETA workers choose to bear the responsibility of this dark side of the cute and cuddly companion animals world.

The HSUS has smartly chosen to avoid the dark side. We down here in the trenches could use their help to fund more shelters, horse refuges, dog pounds, and carcass disposal. We'll still do the dirty work but their contribution would be a Godsend.

I can tell you personally, working on a kill floor, eradicating livestock for disease purposes, putting down abandoned horses, or helping euthanize hundreds of companion animals in the back room of a humane shelter takes a toll on a person. You who do it have my compassion, admiration and respect...you are on the front line of humanity.

"I loved ol' Blue as much as a man could love a man's best friend

And when his time came, I helped him along. I owed him that much in the end."



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.

It takes the thought of a bone-chilling norther to make a hot Texas summer feel good. To form such a thought, it helps to sit directly under an air-conditioning vent. I am.

Another effective strategy for dealing with unbearably hot Texas days is even simpler. Go to Colorado.

But if your electricity bill is higher than your home equity, and if you can't afford a vacation in the Rockies, other heat-beating strategies may be more your cup of iced tea.

Consider roof sleeping. If you live in a house with a steep-pitched roof with no sheds attached or other flat or gently sloping surfaces, you're probably in an upper income bracket and won't take this advice anyway - not even if you have a fancy balcony just right for one of those little cots from Wal-Mart.

But if you're seriously looking for a way to make it through the night sans air conditioning, chances are good your house has a back porch roof that just might work for a place to sleep. Grab a ladder, and go for it.

If you don't feel safe sleeping outside, pull up the ladder. Who's going to know you read this column? Probably not armed burglars. I like to think they read the paper only to see if they can figure out who's on vacation in Colorado.

Besides, if you're on the roof, why would you fear burglars? It's when you're sleeping inside that you should be scared.

As long as we're talking about home security, you don't

even need a gun if you're on the roof. Just have some big rocks handy. If you like the idea of zapping an intruder, you can just leave the ladder in place and wait to see if anybody dares climb it. It's a thought. Lots of movies come to mind, all involving assaults on castle ramparts.

Back to roof sleeping. Avoid being directly under trees. Caterpillar droppings happen. Besides, even if you live in town, you'll want a clear view of whatever stars aren't outdone by city lights.

As for the heat, you'll beat it. Along about dawn, you'll be wishing for more than a sheet. Call it God's air conditioning. And it's free.

Speaking of air conditioning, a friend of mine was in line at the dollar store when she heard a woman bragging about how she'd taken her air conditioner on a camping trip. She plugged it in to cool her tent. Really.

*Ironic, isn't it, that we burn fossil fuels to generate electricity to run our air conditioners to keep us cool as the globe heats up because we're burning fossil fuels?

Don't despair. Here's an earth-friendly plan:

We turn our summer clocks forward another hour to capture more morning cool. At noon, we stop all clocks and take two-hour naps under misting devices that double as organic vegetable garden waterers. After dark, when the globe cools down, we get the two hours back.

If you don't think it will work, at least try roof sleeping.

MUSEUM NEWS

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CABBAGE
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CORNBREAD
JELLO/FRUIT

FRIDAY JULY 10TH
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WEDNESDAY JULY 8TH
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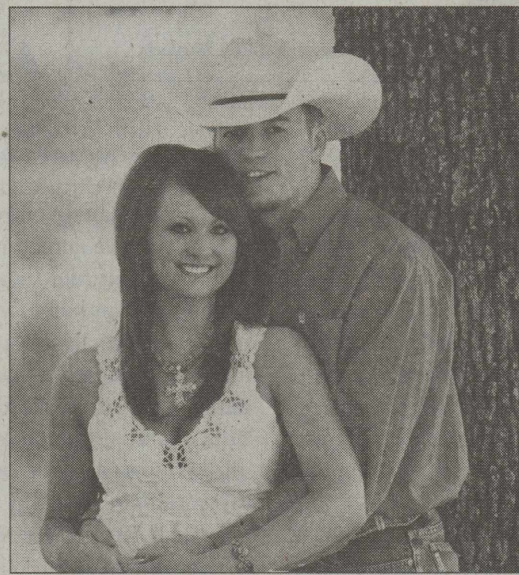
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2006 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 2500HD LT BLACK, DRIVETRAIN: 8 CYLINDER AUTOMATIC MODEL CODE: CC25943 STOKC: 30836, \$17,800	2006 DODGE CHARGER R/T HEMI, LEATHER, 40K, GULL WING DOORS, MUST SEE, \$17,279, STK#30836	2006 JEEP LIBERTY 2WD, BLACK, CLEAN, 51K, STK#30837, \$8,900	2006 MAZDA MIATA MX5 CONVERTIBLE SPORTY, WHITE/BLACK, STK#30874, \$14,990	2008 DODGE RAM 2500 LARAMIE, DRIVETRAIN: 8 CYLINDER MANUAL MODEL CODE: D17H41 STOKC: 30835, \$15,785	2003 FORD SUPERCREW XLT TWO TONE, CLEAN, STK#103390, \$9,400	2008 DODGE RAM 3500 SLT COLOR: BRIGHT WHITE DRIVETRAIN: 6 CYLINDER MANUAL, MODEL CODE: D13H42, STOKC: 30785, \$22,997	2008 FORD F-150 COLOR: BRIGHT RED DRIVETRAIN: 8 CYLINDER AUTOMATIC STOKC: 30729C, \$16,976	2007 DODGE CHARGER SLE1, COLOR: STEEL GRAY METALLIC DRIVETRAIN: 8 CYLINDER AUTOMATIC STOKC: 30810, \$11,900	2006 GMC SIERRA 1500HD SLE1, COLOR: STEEL GRAY METALLIC DRIVETRAIN: 8 CYLINDER AUTOMATIC STOKC: 30749B, \$18,866	2005 CHRYSLER SEBRING SXT ALL POWER, LOW MILES, CLEAN, STK#55644, \$6,990	
2004 AUDI A6 QUATRO 2.7V6, AT, GRAPHITE LEATHER, SUNROOF, 4DR, 57K MILES, MUST SEE, \$15,529, STK#30808B	2006 DODGE RAM 1500 ST WHITE, DRIVETRAIN: 6 CYLINDER MANUAL STOKC: 30849, \$12,362	2006 LAND ROVER LR3 LOADED, MUST SEE, 41K, STK#30884, \$24,800	2006 DODGE RAM 2500 ST COLOR: BRIGHT WHITE DRIVETRAIN: 6 CYLINDER AUTOMATIC STOKC: 30811, \$13,900	2003 DODGE RAM 3500 SLT COLOR: BRIGHT WHITE DRIVETRAIN: 6 CYLINDER AUTOMATIC STOKC: 30789A, \$19,400	2006 DODGE RAM 3500 SLT SILVER, DRIVETRAIN: 8 CYLINDER MANUAL MODEL CODE: D18H42 STOKC: 30842, \$21,500	2006 DODGE RAM 3500 LARAMIE, COLOR: BLACK DRIVETRAIN: 8 CYLINDER MANUAL MODEL CODE: D18H42, STOKC: 30847, \$25,664	2008 FORD F-150 XLT RANCH, COLOR: BLACK DRIVETRAIN: 8 CYLINDER AUTOMATIC MODEL CODE: W12 STOKC: 30827, \$19,546	2009 FORD RANGER XL COLOR: OXFORD WHITE DRIVETRAIN: 4 CYLINDER MANUAL MODEL CODE: R14 STOKC: 30841, \$15,165	2003 CHEVY 271 LT 4X4, LEATHER, LOADED, BRIGHT RED, STK#30860, \$10,300	2007 DODGE RAM QUAD CAB 3500 DIESEL, SLT, LOW MILES, STK#30821, \$29,800	2006 HYUNDAI SONATA GLS LOADED, CLEAN, LOW MILES, STK#10935A, \$9,975
2006 DODGE DAKOTA ST SILVER, DRIVETRAIN: 6 CYLINDER MANUAL MODEL CODE: ND1L33 STOKC: 30843, \$7,775	2005 JAGUAR WJ8 BLACK LEATHER, NICE, LOW MILES, 16K ACTUAL, STK#30885, \$22,789	1998 DODGE RAM 2500 CAMO, DRIVETRAIN: 10 CYLINDER UNSPECIFIED STOKC: 30026, \$12,700	2005 MURANO AWD, CLEAN, LOADED, STK#30822A, \$13,900	2006 FORD CUTAWAY VAN GREAT SHAPE, RUNS EXCELLENT, CLEAN, 89K, STK#30883, \$12,300	2006 DODGE RAM 3500 COLOR: SILVER DRIVETRAIN: 6 CYLINDER MANUAL STOKC: 30853, \$22,363	2007 FORD EXPEDITION XLT LEATHER, LOW MILES, 24K, STK#30850, \$22,500	2008 FORD F-150 KING RANCH, COLOR: BLACK DRIVETRAIN: 8 CYLINDER AUTOMATIC STOKC: 10893A, \$26,700	2003 CHEVY IMPALA SUPER CLEAN, ALL POWER, LOW MILES, 35K, STK#10267A, \$6,200	2008 FORD SUPER DUTY F-350 DRW, COLOR: OXFORD WHITE, DRIVETRAIN: 8 CYLINDER AUTOMATIC, MODEL CODE: F97, STOKC: 30797, \$22,600	2008 DODGE RAM MEGA CAB 3500 DIESEL, SLT, BLACK, LOW MILES, 22K, STK#30865, \$37,990	2004 TOYOTA TACOMA CREW CAB BRIGHT RED, SPOTLESS, ALL POWER, LOW MILES, STK#10868A, \$16,700
2008 FORD F250 CREW CAB 4X4 FX4 AT, 6 DISC, 33K MILES, SILVER, GREY CLOTH, NONE NICE, \$35,339, STK#10524B	2003 JAGUAR X-TYPE SUPER NICE, 73K, PRICED RIGHT, STK#30851, \$7,972	2006 LINCOLN MARK LT CREW CAB SUPER NICE, 78K, STK#30875, \$17,980	2005 VOLKSWAGON BEETLE CONVERTIBLE YELLOW/BLACK, FUN RIDE, 37K, STK#30858A, \$13,600	2006 FORD FREESTYLE BLACK AND BEAUTIFUL, LOW MILES, LOADED, STK#30870, \$11,780	2007 DODGE RAM 3500 WHITE, DRIVETRAIN: 6 CYLINDER MANUAL MODEL CODE: D18H42 STOKC: 30796, \$25,875	2006 FORD F-150 XLT COLOR: GRAY, DRIVETRAIN: 8 CYLINDER AUTOMATIC MODEL CODE: W12 STOKC: 30848, \$16,972	2006 FORD F350 SUPERCREW DIESEL, 4X4, LOADED, LOW MILES, 59K, \$28,900	2005 HYUNDAI SONATA GLS SUNROOF, ALL POWER, STK#10964A, \$6,975	2006 DODGE RAM 2500 QUAD CAB DIESEL, 2WD, AUTO, STK#30810, \$14,900	2006 DODGE RAM MEGA CAB 2500 SLT BLACK, LOW MILES, 22K, STK#30865, \$37,990	2003 GMC K1500 SLE 4X4, SITE CUSTOM WHEELS, NEFF BARS, SILVER BIRCH, STK#30749B, \$19,700
2006 CHEVY IMPALA SILVER, V6, AT, 81K, CLOTH, NICE PRICED TO SELL, \$8,750, STK#30802A	2007 DODGE RAM 1500 ST WHITE, DRIVETRAIN: 8 CYLINDER MANUAL MODEL CODE: DR1H61 STOKC: 30840, \$8,970	2005 DODGE RAM 2500 BLACK, DRIVETRAIN: 8 CYLINDER MANUAL MODEL CODE: D17H42 STOKC: 30814, \$16,874	2008 FORD F150 SUPER CREW SUPER CLEAN, SUPER PRICE, STK#30729C, \$19,300	2006 FORD SUPER CREW XLT EXTRA NICE, LOW MILES, 17K, STK#30848, \$16,900	2007 DODGE RAM 3500 SLT BRILLIANT BLACK CRYSTAL PRL, DRIVETRAIN: 6 CYLINDER MANUAL MODEL CODE: D18H41 STOKC: 30821, \$25,972	2008 FORD F350 FLATBED 4X4, XLT, DIESEL, NEW TIRES, NEW BED, STK#30871, \$28,900	2007 FORD F250 XLT SUPERCREW DIESEL, SUPER CLEA, 77K, STK#100336A, \$25,900	2006 DODGE DAKOTA EXT. CAB STK#30843, \$9,300	2008 DODGE RAM 3500 DIESEL, DUALY, SLT, 63K, MILES, WHITE, CLEAN, STK#30785, \$22,900	2003 DODGE RAM QUAD CAB 2500 SLT 4X4, STK#100341A, \$9,900	VERN SALES: TRADE, WE NEED INVENTORY!

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Chuco & Vallia Magana of Knox City would like to announce the engagement of their daughter,
Shavonne LeAnn Martinez
 to
Jeffrey Hernandez
 son of Alex & Elda Martinez, and
 Serveriano "Cheve" & Paula Hernandez
 all of Knox City.

The couple plans to wed on July 11, 2009 at 2:00pm St Joseph's Catholic Church in Rhineland Texas. The Bride elect is a 1997 Graduate of Knox City High School and is currently employed by Basic Energy Services. The Groom Elect is a 2001 Graduate of Knox City High School and is employed by Mercer Well Service.



Timmons - McCown

The engagement of Tess Elizabeth Timmons, daughter of Mrs. Gus Timmons and the late Mr. Gus Timmons to Jordan Ross McCown, son of Mr. and Mrs. Johnny McCown of Knox City is proudly announced by their parents.

Tess graduated from Paducah High School in 2007. She graduated from Clary Sage College of Cosmetology, Spa and Esthetics in Tulsa. Tess is a licensed cosmetologist and is employed by Clary Sage College as an Assistant Dispensary Manager.

Jordan is a 2006 graduate of Knox City High School. He received an Associate of Occupational Studies in Welding Technology from Tulsa Welding School spring 2009 after completing the Master Welder program. Jordan plans a career as a quality control welding inspector and is employed with Ivey Mechanical in Tulsa.

Tess is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Don Brooks and the late Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Timmons.

Jordan is the grandson of the late Dr. W.F. Thompson and Mrs. Freddie Thompson and the late Mr. and Mrs. John McCown.

The couple will exchange wedding vows in a double ring ceremony on Saturday,

October 17, 2009 in the First Baptist Church of Paducah.



Photo by Tamara Smart
 Re-Inactors Brandon Halfmann and Cody Mobley visit wearing their authentic apperal of "21st Brigade of Texas Troops."

God's Promises

By Jim Reid, Pastor
 O'Brien Baptist Church



For most people emotional hurt comes too often. Hurt may happen in a moment or over a period of years. There are so many ways to bring hurt into someone's life; young, old, child or adult, man or woman. When we experience hurt and emotional pain, many lash out in retribution or vengeance, but it seems most people simply bury this pain deep in their heart.

They wonder why you want to hurt them. They don't understand why you keep doing it, especially when you say, "I love you." I want to let the Word of God encourage you in your heart. Read the following verses of scripture and let God remove the hurt and listen to Him say, "I love you". His love is always healing.

Do not fear for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41: 10 NASB).

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

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

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

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

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

BRIGHT IDEAS



By Alex Mills

By the time you read this, the U.S. House of Representatives probably will be on the July 4 recess and have probably passed a historic bill that is designed to raise the cost of energy to consumers across the nation. It's catchy name is cap and trade, but it is 900-plus pages of new government requirements for energy consumers and producers.

The cap-and-trade legislation - H.R. 2454 - will have a negative impact on each Texas consumer of energy, each producer of agricultural products in Texas, and the producers of energy in Texas. It will add more volatility to energy prices, and it will increase the role of speculators in the energy business.

Overall, the program's impact on the Texas economy would be significant. For example, with regard to employment, the Texas Comptroller's office has estimated that in 2012 (the origination year of the legislation), the State could lose 135,000 to as many as 275,000 jobs. And, by 2030, the Comptroller's office estimates that job losses could easily exceed the 400,000 mark.

As a result of the impacts under that scenario, the State could easily lose some \$20 billion per year in direct economic activity (the contribution to Texas Gross Domestic Product) in the early years of the program, with that loss figure increasing steadily over time. That \$20 billion in lost industry activity would translate to a \$60 billion/year loss in Texas economic activity, which includes just the upstream energy sector. The downstream sector (refining, processing, chemicals, etc.) would take a huge hit, further adding to lost economic activity in Texas.

Not everyone agrees, of course, about the relationship between greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the gradual warming of the globe. The earth has warmed and cooled in long cycles, most of which took place

long before the economically developed world was engaged in the utilization of fossil fuels.

Even if we make the assumption that the relationship does exist, cap-and-trade is simply bad policy that will have negative effects on the U.S. economy without achieving the desired benefits in terms of GHG emissions reductions. The current plan amounts to unilateral energy disarmament.

As Martin Feldstein, Harvard economics professor, and President Emeritus of the National Bureau of Economic Research, points out, the current U.S. share of global CO2 production is less than 25%, and will likely go down in the future, not up, as large population economies like India and China continue the development process. Therefore, he suggests, a 15% decline in US CO2 emissions would yield only a 4% decline in global CO2 output - a virtually unnoticeable decline with little or no environmental benefit.

In the process, considerable economic pain will be inflicted on the U.S. economy. The US will enter into a competitive economic disadvantage with countries that do not impose the same requirements, and emissions will simply be exported rather than significantly diminished. In well-known cost-benefit vernacular, Feldstein refers to the proposed cap-and-trade program as "all cost, no benefit."

In order to get enough votes to get the bill out of committee, Waxman had to exempt utilities that generated electricity with coal from the requirement that they had to purchase emission allowances, initially. This provision undermines the goal of reducing greenhouse gases by encouraging the use of coal and discouraging natural gas use. Contrary to remarks made by Chairman Waxman, the legislation does not balance the interests of different parts of the country and of different stakeholders.

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 EVELYN BALIS
 THE COFFEE WAS EXCELLENT!

"It's that time again, time for the 121st Annual Old Settlers Reunion & Rodeo!"

July 17 & 18

• Entries for the parade need to contact the Childress Chamber of Commerce for more information.

• Craft Show after parade, booths are available for \$20, also contact the Childress Chamber of Commerce @ (940)937-2567.

If I have failed to send anyone a Thank You for food & flowers, I am sorry.

Please take this as a Thank You for prayers, food and concern for my family & myself during Jerry's illness and death

We love each & everyone of you!
 Susie Ray

BENJAMIN NEWS

By Gladene Green

(Happy Birthday, Gladene!!! Love ya, Knox County News)

Last week was hot! But today (Sun) we got a little break. A light shower fell this morning & what a welcome change! With a little wind blowing from the north it made it very pleasant to

be out of the house! On Sat the grand opening of the museum proved to be very successful & was well attended. With chairs set-up outside, the program began at 10:00 am. It was hot but a little breeze stirred the air so it was not too unpleasant. Benny Grill welcomed the crowd, Dennis Duke gave the invocation & Dr. Scott white,

special projects manager, Oral, Historian and Curator of Arts for the National Ranching Heritage Center of Lubbock addressed the group, talking about the history and development of museums & what they mean to the community.

Ben Grill presented Kenneth Roberts with a plaque in appreciation for his dedication and hard work (many, many hours) in helping to see that this project became a reality. An honor well deserved. A hamburger meal followed in the community center. The museum was open til 5 & many on-lookers "oohed & aahed" over the building & it's contents. It was a good day.

Most of our ill friends are slowly regaining their strength & getting back into their normal routines.

Lana Mendoza is out and about (taking it pretty slow) after back surgery 2 weeks ago.

Stacia Propps is doing well but she has to take it very easy for several weeks.

Kenneth Roberts is also doing well. He's had a "spell" since he returned from Munday Nursing Center but is much better.

Mary Bohannon was ad-

mitted to the Munday Nursing Center on Friday for a few weeks rehabilitation therapy. She is in a pretty run-down condition & Drs. feel this will be good for her. Her stay there should not be too long.

Sympathy goes to the family of Jeannette Phillips of Munday today. Jeannette passed away Thursday nite after several days illness. I had known Jeannette & her family all my life & loved her. She was so talented & loved life. She will be missed by so many. Her funeral was Sat.

She was the grandmother of Benjamin resident, Stephen Kueler.

Here 'N There
Misty Jones & family who live on the Triangle Ranch between Crowell & Paducah spent the weekend with her family Misty & Shane Welch, Mitchell & Heath. Her husband, Clint, was at a benefit roping at Breckenridge.

It was good to see Clodell Duke on Sat. She's living at Iowa Park & was here for the museum opening. Her daughter, Jan Pollock & Sue & Denny McCarthy also of Iowa Park also were here. Clodell is doing good & was glad to see her friends & we were glad to see her!

Chance Propps, who graduated from UT in May was here this week to visit his family James, Stacia & Cody Propps. Chance will be going to Los Angeles in August to pursue a

Coody Reunion. Jamie Bohannon honored her daughter Sabra with a cook-out & swimming party at the Benjamin Lake wed. Several friends & family members enjoyed the outing with her.

Had a brief visit with Bill & Karen Crenshaw on Sun. They had been to a Crenshaw reunion in Abilene & were en route to their home in Canyon. They said their Crenshaw siblings & their families were doing well.

Beckie Keys & family of Childress visited her on Mon, Debbie & Mike Moorhouse on Sun & also visited with me before returning home.

Debbie Stephenson of Clyde is here for a few days with her aunt, Betty Bohannon & family.

Lonnie & Misty Bohannon attended the wedding of his sister in Abilene on sat and remained for a weekend visit with other family and friends.

Weekend gursts of Kenneth & Jessie Roberts & Bea Parks were Polly Floyd & Martha & Tim Floyd & granddaughter, Catherine of Houston, Paula Lawson of Garland & Bill & Sue Roberts of driftwood. Polly Is Bea & Jessie's sister, Bill is the son of Kenneth & Tim & Paula are Polly's children.

Dennis & Pam Duke had their children here during the weekend. That's Rebekah Boone & family of Abilene, Dr. Zeke & family of Knox City & Rachel of Wichita Falls.

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Knox City Volleyball Camp

There will be a skill development volleyball camp held at the Knox City high school gym Monday July 20th through Wednesday July 22nd.

The camp is open to anyone that would like to participate. There will be two sessions available based on the 2009-2010 grade level. Session 1 (8:00 AM-11:00 AM) will be for incoming 5th-8th graders and session 2 (12:00-3:00 PM) will be for incoming 9th-12th graders.

The cost of the camp is \$30 and includes a camp t-shirt. Registration forms can be picked up at the Knox City-O'Brien main office at 606 East Main Street or by contacting Coach Steele at 657-3115 or 657-4035.

The deadline for signing up without a \$5 late fee is July 8th. Please return registration forms to Coach Steele or the Knox City-O'Brien main of-

...fce. The camp will be conducted by Marci Faulk of Bryson High School. Coach Faulk has coached club volleyball, Junior High and High School teams. She was part of the Amarillo High School feeder program that has won several state championships over the past ten years. She has numerous ex players that are playing college volleyball across the country.

Coach Steele commented, "Coach Faulk is one of the best volleyball coaches I have been around in my coaching career. She does a great job of setting a good foundation of volleyball skills for the younger girls and gives the older girls that little extra knowledge that puts their game over the top. Everyone that attends will definitely leave a better player."



A Texas Mourning Dove sits perched on a stick. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has approved the 2009-2010 Texas dove season, including a 70-day season and 15-bird daily bag statewide, and a 16-day early teal season.

Dove, Teal Seasons Set

AUSTIN, Texas — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service SRC (Service Regulation Committee) has approved the 2009-2010 Texas dove season, including a 70-day season and 15-bird daily bag statewide, and a 16-day early teal season.

Additionally, the SRC approved moving the Texas South Zone dove season opening the Friday nearest Sept. 20, but no earlier than the 17th. This year the season will open Sept. 18.

Texas dove season in the North and Central Dove Zones will run from Tuesday, Sept. 1 through Sunday, Oct. 25 and re-open Saturday, Dec. 26 through Sunday, Jan. 9, with a 15-bird bag and not more than two white-tipped doves.

The South Zone dove season will run Sept. 18-Nov. 3,

reopening Dec. 26-Jan. 17 with a 15-bird bag and not more than two white-tipped doves.

Possession limit is twice the daily bag for all migratory game birds except light geese, which currently does not have a possession limit.

The Special South Texas White-winged Dove Area will open to white-winged dove afternoon-only (noon to sunset) hunting the first two full weekends in September running from Sept. 5-6 and 12-13 and reopen when the regular South Zone season begins on Friday, Sept. 18 through Tuesday, Nov. 3 and again from Saturday, Dec. 26 through Wednesday, Jan. 13. The Special White-winged Dove Area season takes four of the allowable 70 days, so when the regular season opens, this area

most close four days earlier than the rest of the South Zone. The daily bag limit is 15 birds, not more than four mourning doves during the first two weekend splits and 2 white-tipped doves. Once the general season opens, the aggregate bag limit will be 15.

The Service also approved a proposal to give TPWD the option to adjust a portion of the boundary of the Special White-winged Dove Area. This change would remove portions of Jim Hogg and Starr counties.

Texas' 16-day September teal season will run Sept. 12-27.

The season for rail and gallinule is Sept. 12-27 and Oct. 31-Dec. 23; for snipe, Oct. 31-Feb. 14; and for woodcock, Dec. 18-Jan. 31.

Don't Let A Wildfire Ruin Your Independence Day Celebrations

COLLEGE STATION, Texas -- Fireworks and outdoor activities are commonly linked to Fourth of July celebrations, but Texas Forest Service (TFS) warns that carelessness with fireworks and other outdoor activities can lead to a wildfire.

With summer in full swing, grass, shrubs and trees are starting to dry out. These dry "fuels" and an errant spark from fireworks or a grill is all that is needed to start a devastating wildfire.

"Many Texans use fireworks to celebrate the Fourth of July," TFS Fire Operations Chief Mark Stanford said. "TFS encourages Texans to use fireworks safely. Citizens should be diligent in protecting themselves and their property from accidental wildfires."

Sandra Taylor, TFS fire prevention specialist I, says citizens should keep fireworks away from homes and structures, which can be accidentally ignited. She says there are a few tips you should adhere to when using fireworks.

"Fireworks should only be used under close adult supervision and in safe areas, away from grass and brush," said Taylor. "A water hose, bucket of water and wet towels should be kept nearby in case they are needed to stop small fires. Used fireworks should be disposed of in a bucket of water."

Other outdoor activities also can lead to dangerous wildfires if you are not careful. Here are a few tips to keep you and the outdoors safe when grilling and camping.

- Build campfires in open, level spots away from trees and overhanging branches; preferably in designated fire rings or fire receptacles.
- Never leave a campfire or

cooking fire unattended and extinguish your fire completely before leaving it.

- When dry, windy conditions occur while dead grass, weeds and/or leaves are present, consider using a propane stove or barbecue grill instead of an open fire for cooking. Your fire is not safe to leave until it is cool enough to touch.
- Put barbecue grills over bare dirt or other fire resistant surfaces – well away from dead grass and weeds. Completely extinguish coals and ashes with water. Never transport a barbecue pit or grill with live coals.

As always, you should check with your local government officials or fire departments to make sure fireworks and campfires are allowed in your county. Be sure to comply with all fireworks restrictions – they are in place to help prevent wildfires.

Under Texas law, the authority to restrict fireworks and implement burn bans is left up to county government officials. TFS does not make decisions regarding restrictions on fireworks or outdoor burning bans. The state agency does, however, provide drought condition information to counties.

To learn more about wildfire prevention and how to protect yourself and your home, go to <http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=1542>.

Contacts:
Mahlon Hammett
Fire Prevention Specialist II – Lufkin
936-639-8162
Mary Kay Hicks
Special Projects Coordinator-Fire Prevention – McGregor
254-840-9086
Sandra Taylor
Fire Prevention Specialist I – Fredericksburg
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- I don't enjoy the things that once gave me pleasure.
- My appetite and/or weight has changed.
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- I am tired all the time and have no energy.
- I can't concentrate, remember things, or make decisions.
- My friends have noticed that I am restless or that my activity has decreased.
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State Capital HIGHLIGHTS



By Ed Sterling

Governor calls special session to begin July 1

AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry on June 25 summoned the 81st Texas Legislature back to Austin for a special session to begin July 1.

“After speaking with legislators I am calling a special session to extend the operation of five critical agencies and help reduce gridlock by continuing to provide options for financing our state’s

highways,” Perry said. Perry and Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst share an optimistic goal for the special session to last only a couple of days. The governor’s call includes three goals for lawmakers. He wants them to pass legislation:

1. Extending the life of the five state agencies close to expiration: Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Department of Insurance, Texas Racing Commission, Office of Public Insurance Counsel and Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation.
2. Allowing the Texas Department of Transportation to issue \$5 billion in general obligation bonds to build roads.
3. Extending the authority of the Texas Department of Transportation and a regional mobility authority to use “comprehensive development agreements” to design, finance, build and maintain transportation infrastructure.

Perry lauded work done by lawmakers during the Legislature’s regular session that ended June 1. He expressed satisfaction with the profit-margin tax cut given to 40,000 small businesses and the 40 percent increase in financial aid for college students “all without touching our state’s rainy day fund.” The rainy day fund, about \$7 billion set aside for emergency needs, was left untouched because lawmakers plugged gaps in the 2010-2011 state budget with \$12 billion in federal stimulus funding.

Back to the special session: Sen. John Carona, R-Dallas, chair of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security, filed SB 1 on June 26.

SB 1, if passed, would give the Texas Transportation Commission statutory authorization to issue road-building bonds that voters approved by constitutional amendment in 2007. It also would create a re-

volving transportation fund for local governments to borrow from.

Road project is federally funded

Texas will break ground June 30 on a local highway project on FM 60 in Burleson County, near Bryan. Funding comes from the federal government’s new American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The \$7.5 million, 2.8-mile project, is the first of 29 ARRA-funded mobility projects approved in March by the Texas Transportation Commission, the governmental body that oversees the Texas Department of Transportation.

Tax break for disabled veterans

Military veterans who reside in Texas and who have a 100 percent disability rating or are considered unemployable by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs are temporarily exempt from paying property tax on the

total appraised value of their homestead, thanks to the passage of HB 3613.

The legislation, authored by Rep. John Otto, R-Dayton, and signed by the governor on June 19, makes the exemption effective for the 2009 tax year.

Comptroller Susan Combs on June 26 prompted local tax assessors to update property tax rolls to ensure eligible veterans receive the new tax break.

TEA rejects standardization

The Texas Education Agency has decided not to join 46 other states in adopting the Common Core curriculum, a set of voluntary national standards for math and English textbooks and curriculum. Texas Education Commissioner Robert Scott’s reasons for not joining: loss of local control, increased costs, and Texas has its own standards.

Schieffer announces candidacy

Democrat John Thomas “Tom” Schieffer of Fort Worth, a 61-year-old gas and oil industry lawyer, businessman, former Texas House member, former president of the Texas Rangers Baseball Club and former U.S. ambassador on June 24 announced his candidacy for governor. Party primaries will be held in March 2010.

Former speaker arrested for DWI

Former state Rep. Gib Lewis, D-Fort Worth, who served as speaker of the Texas House from 1983 to 1993, was charged with drunken driving after being arrested June 26 in downtown Austin.

Marriage of Lt. Gov. is reported

Lt. Gov. Dewhurst reportedly married Houston attorney Patricia Bivins, former wife of former state Sen. Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo, in Houston, on June 27.

Local Youth Uses Talent to Praise God

By Tamara Smart

Friday night in Knox City sometimes leaves a lot to be desired. With a “there’s nothing to do” attitude, many youth fall in the boredom trap of the weekend and summer schlump. Yet, as most people know who have had any dealings with Knox County, the youth who are privileged enough to grow up here are extraordinary. Elder Gene Ward of Knox City’s Liberty Church of God and Christ realized this fact and envisioned an Annual Christian Talent Show to provide something for the youth to do during the summer.

Because of Elder Ward’s vision, last Friday night was a little different than most of the “boring” Friday nights around town. Many people gathered at the Liberty Church of God & Christ in Knox City to watch the first annual Christian talent show featuring some of the area’s very talented youth.

Pastor Tex Cox, Elder Gene Ward and Youth Minister Brandy Wise were judges of the

3 hour competition of skills. The winning performers were Haliee Cox and Amy Harrington who performed a skit they created which presented two best friends who had known and loved each other since grade school. In their skit, one of the friends, who has become a boss to the other, has to fire her because of situations out of their hands. Both characters turn to God in their times of despair. The finale of the skit depicted the “boss” friend calling in the “fired” friend and informing her that she was able to come back to work... with a raise. The whole skit ended with the girls thanking God and the newly re-hired friend saying “You did it again, God; you did it again.”

Second place went to the Ward sisters for a praise dance and third place was awarded to the youth from the House of Deliverance in Stanford for an acapella praise song. The Best performers were Haliee Cox, Jamilla Ward and Marcie from the House of Deliverance.

Kensliee Cox and Moriah Schnable worked the crowd with a dance off performance, Shea Wise and Haley Ledesma performed a good vs. evil skit.

After the show, a special poetry performance was given by Brother Dwayne Colquitt who performed 2 poems, one of which was entitled “Sunday Saints” which talked about being a Christian only on Sunday. This was followed by Paul Wright, Youth Minister at the First United Methodist Church, who delivered a very powerful message about being a “Sunday Saint”.

The youth were not the only ones who gave to this event. Many local businesses gave generously to sponsor the show and help provide cash/ gift prized to the winners.

The last hour of the gathering was spent in fellowship over snacks and edible treats. According to Talent Show Judge, Brandy Wise, “I can’t think of a better way to spend a Friday night than to see our very talented youth using their special gifts to praise God.”

TOWN

these hide-banding pieces, his #26 (the twenty-sixth creation like this) was the one displayed at the Wichita Brazos Museum Grand Opening. His earlier pieces hang in museums across Texas and are on display for many to see. Robert keeps an open mind about this endeavor, though. He says if anyone can find an earlier recorded brand than the one featured on his art, all they need to do is show him the record and he will change his art.

Mr. Wanat has many other “burned-hide historical art” pieces as well. He has a hide featuring the Texas Revolutionary battles, one with a branded picture of the Texas capital building (which is bordered by brands of the Texas Seal, Texas Flag, & Statue of Liberty), a hide with the oldest Courthouses in Texas and several others.

As a guest of the Lowance family, Mr. Wanat was invited to the Grand Opening of the Wichita Brazos museum in Benjamin for a short showing on Friday night and Saturday morning only. For more information on Tiny Town, Texas or the Hide-branding artwork, contact the museum for more information.

COOP

Brittany with a unique opportunity to view rural life through new eyes while honing leadership and entrepreneurial abilities.

Since 2007, internships created through Ogallala Commons (OC) and its community and institution partners, have added value to the careers of 2 dozen young people. These internships have also added value to more than 20 communities and institutions in Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma. Based on these successes, we believe there will be even more young adults wanting to create internships and make a lasting contribution to their hometowns. No matter what a young person chooses as a career field, internships are becoming an essential stepping stone between college and a future job. Ogallala Commons offers opportunities for leadership development and building knowledge about opportunities and community issues related to Rural America. A major OC partner is the CHS Foundation, which provides match funding for communities create internships.

For more information on internships, visit <http://www.ogallalacommons.org> or contact Simone Cahoj at 785-626-0666.

Ogallala Commons, a non-profit 501(c)3 resource development network, offers leadership, education, and tools to reinvigorate the commonwealths that are the foundational assets of all Great Plains communities.

FSA

credit to viable agricultural producers while also mitigating risk for the bank,” said Garcia.

FSA is providing regional, instructional seminars for new lenders interested in participating in the Guaranteed Loan Program. These seminars are also open to lenders who have previously participated in FSA’s loan programs

and are interested in learning more about recent program changes. The seminars provide general program information along with updates and changes in the Guaranteed Loan Program regulations. Participants will gain an understanding of the requirements for obtaining and maintaining a loan guarantee, and will learn about documentation needed to file a loss claim. These seminars meet the annual training requirements for lenders holding Certified and Preferred status.

The two-day seminars cover loan-making topics on the first day and loan-servicing on the second day. Lenders can choose to attend either one day or both days. Lenders that are new to the FSA Guaranteed program or

lenders who wish to participate in the program are encouraged to attend both days. There is no fee to attend the seminar.

The seminars will be conducted at the following locations: Corpus Christi – July 28-29, Mesquite – September 23-24, College Station – October 6-7 and December 8-9 and Lubbock – November 17-18.

The seminar instructor team includes Eddie Trevino, Farm Loan Chief, Janice B. Pond, Farm Loan Specialist, John C. Cowan, Farm Loan Specialist and Fred J. Greenway, Farm Loan Specialist.

To register or for additional seminar information, please contact Shay Florence at (979) 680-5227.



Photo by Tamara Smart
Jess Jones sings National Anthem at Grand Opening of Wichita Brazos Museum.



Photo by Tamara Smart
Kenneth Roberts receives an award for his vision and hard work on the creation of the museum.



Photo by Tamara Smart
Dr. Scott White speaks to the crowd at the Grand Opening of the Wichita Brazos Museum.

TASTE the DIFFERENCE

“My friends think I am a barbecue genius... little do they know, it's not the cook, it's the grill!”
-Terry Bradshaw

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