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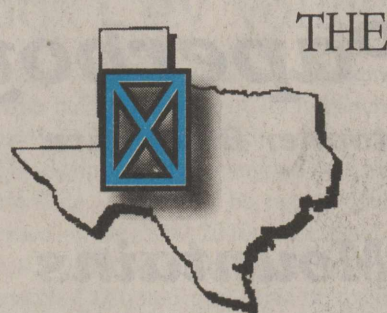
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THE KNOX COUNTY NEWS

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KNOX COUNTY, TEXAS
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 NUMBER 37

Knox County hires Anthony Munoz as New Extension Agent

By Tamara Smart

Like every great human based production, many people reap the benefit of the compounded efforts of a few. For example, programs like the 4H program is an enormous part of Knox County youth, as are nutritional programs,

Texas Agri-life Extension Agency is responsible for these treasured programs and is the life source that keeps them moving year after year. The "extension agency" as it is more commonly known, is an education agent that provides quality outreach and continuing education programs to the people of Texas.

The Agri-life Extension Agency exists all over Texas and is a State agency that is financially supported by local counties. In some counties with larger population or land area, there are many people who work at the

agency, but in Knox County, the two divisions of the agency are represented by one agent only. One of the divisions, the "F.C.F" division is concerned about programs involving family and home issues. This is the function of long-time resident, Lori Coop. The other side of the Agency, the Ag and Natural Resources division, which is involved with programs entailing crops and livestock, was until recently run by Adam Bonner. Mr. Bonner did a wonderful job, while most people have expressed sentiments that they "hate to see him go", he has moved on and taken a job at the Farm Service Agency in Childress.

Fortunately, last week, after several rounds of interviews with many different entities, Knox County extended an invitation to Mr. Anthony Munoz, who accepted the offer to come

and work side-by-side with Lori Coop and complete the Knox County Texas Agri-life Extension Agency team.

Mr. Munoz, a product of Colorado City, Texas, was born and raised with Texas in his bloodstream.

Anthony grew up participating in FFA and 4H and has been involved with those programs ever since.

After receiving an Associates Degree from West Texas College in Snyder, Anthony went on to get his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Animal Science from Angelo State University (a division of Texas Tech University).

For several months, Mr. Munoz has been sending out his application for employment and recently the Texas Agri-Life Extension Agency paired his resume with the needs in Knox County. Now that the grueling

interview process is over for Mr. Munoz, the fun has already begun. For the next month, he will be interning with the Extension Agency in Mitchell County to prepare him for his task in Knox County. His first day as an official Knox County Extension Agent will be August 3rd. This will be a very busy week for Anthony as five days after beginning his new career in Knox County, Mr. Munoz will be getting married on August 8 in Gothewaite.

Anthony is "excited to get started, meet new people and build working relationships" in Knox County. He says that Knox reminds him of his hometown and is a very comfortable environment.

Ms. Lori Coop, is thrilled about this new addition to her team. Anthony "brings a lot of experience dealing with live-

stock & crop programs." She says she "thinks that he'll be able to meet the needs of the citizens."

Both Ag Agents are respon-

sible for the 4H, youth development, community resources and economic resources. Their offices are located in the County Courthouse in Benjamin.



New Knox County Extension Agent, Anthony Munoz, and fiancé, Candace Womack. He will begin his career in Knox County on August 3, after a month internship in Mitchell County. The couple plan to marry August 8.

Hansen Drafted by Seattle Mariners in 6th Round of MLB Draft



SHAVER HANSEN

Shaver Hansen was drafted by the Seattle Mariners during the major league baseball draft on June 10, 2009. The second player drafted on the 6th round, Hansen was the 173rd player selected out of 1,521 players during the 50 rounds of the draft.

He finished his junior year at Baylor University in May.

He is a great great grandson of Rufus K. and Mary (Land) Shaver who settled in Knox County in 1914, west of Knox City.

His parents are Stan and Yumi Hansen of Waco and Grand Junction, Colo.

Below are Shaver's statistics for 2009:

Most Valuable Player at Baylor for both 2008 and 2009

Batting average .330 (second on team)

Big 12 batting average .317 (first on team)

Most runs scored 12

Second in hits 72

Second in doubles 15

First in home runs 17

First in total bases 138

First in slugging % .633

Record for the most home runs for a shortstop at Baylor

All Big 12 first team shortstop 2009

All Big 12 academic first team--2008 and 2009

Shaver's father, Stan Hansen, attended Knox City schools before moving with his parents, John S. and Nella (Shaver) Hansen, and his sister, Jan, to Dallas in 1960.

Stan went on to play football

for West Texas A&M University before becoming a professional wrestler.

Stan, known as "The Lariat," enjoyed a successful career for three decades as a professional wrestler in the United States and in Japan.

Shaver Hansen's younger brother, Samuel, played third base, outfield, and pitcher for Midway High School in Waco.

This spring, Samuel Hansen received a scholarship to play baseball for the University of Texas at Arlington beginning next year.

Shaver Hansen's great grandfather, Edward Braxton

(Ed) Shaver and his great uncle, Edward Braxton (Eddie) Shaver, Jr. played baseball for west Texas semiprofessional teams during the 1920's, 1930's, and early 1940's.

Eddie also quarterbacked for the Knox City High School football team during the mid 1930's.

Shaver Hansen's cousin, Edward Braxton, III (Brack) Shaver, played football for Sul Ross State University and The University of Texas at Arlington during the mid 1960's.

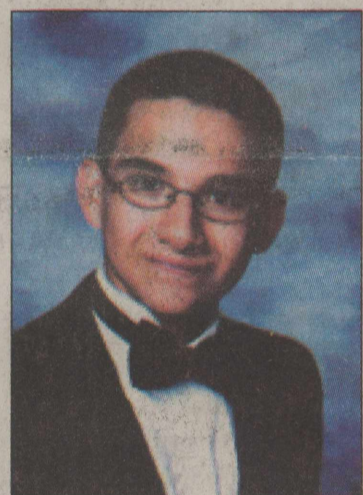
Shaver Hansen's cousin Braxton Thomas Shaver quarterbacked for McMurry

University's football team during the late 1990's and went on to play professional football in Europe for several years.

Another cousin Ed Lair held a baseball scholarship at Oklahoma State University in the mid 1970's; cousin Robbie Robertson held a swimming scholarship at Southern Methodist University in the mid 1960's; and cousin Tom Lair coached high school football for 30 years in west Texas.

Today, the fifth generation of the descendants of Rufus and Mary Shaver enjoy returning to Knox City for visits and consider Knox City their "home place."

2009 K.C. Graduate Honored in National Achievement Publication



CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR

High School science teacher, was the nominating party who recommended Mr. Taylor for this honor.

To be nominated and accepted into the United States Achievement Academy is an honor which befalls less than 10% of all American high school students.

Dr. George Stevens, founder of the U.S. Achievement Academy, says "Recognizing and supporting our youth is more important than ever before in America's history. Certainly, United States Achievement Academy Students should be congratulated and appreciated for their dedication to excellence and achievement."

Christopher Taylor is the son of Chrystal Taylor from Knox City and the grandson of John and Shirley Taylor of O'Brien. He was the salutatorian of KC's 2009 graduating class.

USDA Taps Juan Garcia for Top Post in Texas

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced the appointment for State Executive Director (SED) of the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Texas. The secretary has tapped Juan M. Garcia to serve the Obama Administration in this capacity.

The Farm Service Agency administers federal farm policy as laid out by Congress through a network of federal, state and county offices. FSA programs are designed to improve the economic stability of the agricultural industry and help agricultural producers adjust production to meet demand. Economically, the desired result of these programs is a steady price range for agricultural commodities for both producer and consumer.

As Executive Director for the Texas FSA, Garcia will oversee all aspects of federal farm program delivery for an agency that employs nearly 1700 people

and on average, issues more than \$1 billion annually in commodity, conservation, disaster and credit benefits to farmers and ranchers across the state.

"FSA plays a vital role in the economic viability of rural America. As the Executive Director in Texas, I have a significant responsibility to insure the Agency is making wise use of taxpayer dollars and that our employees are provided the fiscal and human resources necessary to efficiently and effectively deliver our programs to the state's farmers and ranchers," said Garcia.

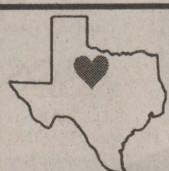
Garcia currently has served as the Agricultural Program Manager for FSA and as acting SED since January. He has 32 years of experience in the delivery of federal farm commodity and farm credit programs, and began his career with Texas FSA at the county level. During his time

See USDA Page 8



Photos by Jason Smart

American pride was in the air all day on Saturday as Knox County celebrated the Fourth of July in style. Roadways were lined with red, white and blue; a night time street dance brought out the movers and shakers county wide, and an morning festive parade down the main drag of Munday was brought to the public by Munday's Chamber of Commerce.



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OPINION

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters should be no more than 200 words and can be mailed to the Knox County News, 110 N Central, Knox City, Texas, 79529. Please include your street mailing address (no P.O. boxes), daytime phone number and full name. Our e-mail address is kcnews@valornet.com.

The Public "Option"

By Robert Romano

Like all big lies, the public "option" deceives individuals not only through distortion, but also omission. And unless the American people are warned and stand up for the true health options they currently possess, Barack Obama and Congress will rapidly enact legislation that is designed to degrade and, eventually, destroy those choices that Americans today take for granted.

Through a sleight of hand, proponents of the public "option" act as if there are not already other public options already available when there are: Medicare, Medicaid, and other state and local services for the elderly, poor, and children.

This is the omission. It is designed to fool the American people that they do not already have enough "choices" in health care. That the government does not do enough already. Or that, somehow, there are not enough options currently available. Which, of course, is a lie.

The U.S. spends more on health care than any other nation. As of 2006, the Census Bureau estimates that some 201.7 million, or 71.5 percent of Americans with health insurance, get their insurance privately. 28.5 percent of those with insurance, or 80.3 million, get it from the government.

Presently, the average premium for single coverage is \$4,700, according to the National Coalition on Health Care. All told, in 2007, the U.S. spent \$2.4 trillion in total health care spending.

Not enough options? \$2.4 trillion is just the beginning. The price tag for health care expenditures, NCHC projects, will rise to \$3.1 trillion by 2012, and \$4.3 trillion by 2016.

Advocates claim this will create competition between the public and private sectors—as if the private sector could compete with a "business"

with an unlimited money supply that has no incentive to even operate in the black. This year alone it finds itself in a \$1.8 trillion hole, before any public "option" has even been enacted.

Once passed, the federal government will cover what it can through revenue, and then just borrow and/or print the rest. What will private health carriers do?

Since they cannot charge lower rates and then borrow to make ends meet, they'll lose customers. And then have to jack up premiums ever further in order to stay solvent.

Employers on the other hand will have lost the incentive to provide coverage to employees. To save costs, they'll pass the buck back to the taxpayers, who will now be guaranteed coverage through the public "option."

The greatest misrepresentation of all is that the public "option" will at all be optional. It will not be. Because it cannot be. It is designed to crowd out private options by guaranteeing coverage on a federal level—indecid, by mandating it.

President Obama seems optimistic: "When I say if you have your plan and you like it... or you have a doctor and you like your doctor, that you don't have to change plans, what I'm saying is the government is not going to make you change plans under health reform."

Of course, even if there is no sweeping mandate to use the public "option," the law of gravity still applies—the larger mass shall attract the smaller masses towards it. This is how monopolies are formed, whether state-run or not.

The big lie is that the American people will have any choice at all but to use the public "option," which will be the only option left.

Robert Romano is the Senior Editor of ALG News Bureau.



The Paperboy

By Christopher Blackburn

Down From the Mountains

When I was young, it sure seemed like vacations were easy. I just hopped in the car and in a few hours, we were there.

They're not easy when you're on the parenting end.

To be gone a week takes planning and timing. Never mind all of the things you have to do at home and work to get ready for a trip ... the actual trip can be pretty rough.

Going to Colorado was a virtual breeze last week.

Coming home Sunday was a nightmare.

This side of Raton, N.M., is a stretch of highway from there to Clayton I like to call hell. It was there five years ago I hit a deer at 2 a.m. on the way to Colorado.

This year at the same place, we got caught in a severe rain storm with 70 mph winds. The tarp over the bed of my truck was nearly blown off forcing me out in the elements (when I finally found a safe place to pull over). In all, I had to stop in the rain three times to secure the thing and I got as wet as a human can get. Not good when you have six hours left and finding dry clothes would take an hour to get to, then repack.

Anyhow, we got to Amarillo at 8 p.m. and were heading to eat when I had a blowout on the trailer I was pulling. It was then I discovered my lug wrench was too large for the trailer tire.

My wife made a phone call to a friend and an hour later, we were at the restaurant.

Between Memphis and Childress, I thought I saw a UFO. It was a glowing stationary light above the horizon to the south and it was off in the distance. Turns out, it was either a star or planet (I'm going to research to be sure) because it rose slowly, I finally started looking at what you'd expect a star or planet to look like. Very bright however, which I think is strange.

All-in-all, the trip was great. It's so fun getting that special family time with no distractions. I firmly believe little boys need rugged outdoor fun and my two sure got it.

I damaged my arm on the first day we were there when I was helping Jackson, my 6-year-old, fish. I lost my footing on a dam and when I caught myself, I guess I did something to a nerve. Feels like I hit my funny bone all of the time as my hand is numb and tingly and my fingers and thumb don't work right.

I also punctured a hole in my left heel. I stepped off a ladder onto a steel object and it went right through the skin. Good thing my own personal Florence Nightingale was on the scene. My wife would have made a good doctor or nurse. She is not afraid to administer pain (no offense to any real nurses or docs out there).

One of the neatest things about the trip was the fact I got to bond with my niece Samantha, 1. By the end of the week she was letting me love on her pretty good and she was giggling the whole time. Like I told my wife, I can always get the cuties ... sometimes it just takes a little time.

In big towns and small, we live pretty busy lives in the U.S. When you take away work, computers and cell phones and have the opportunity to totally focus on your family and yourself, it helps put everything into perspective. That's a great thing.

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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/>.

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TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- "a _____ in the dark"
- TXism: "he'd have to study up _____ a half wit"
- Jack & Jill's container
- TX Tanya's sister: _____ Costa Tucker
- "so near, and _____ so far"
- TXism: "cold enough _____ cows give ice cream"
- horse hair
- TXism: "_____ mummy's tomb"
- TXism: "does _____ stink?" (yes)
- stroke or seizure
- this Herb spilled the beans on rigged TV game show "21"
- _____ hygiene
- TX Roy Orbison tune: "In _____"
- this Ferguson was 1st female governor of TX
- Alfred _____ Belo founded the Dallas Morning News
- TX George Strait's "If I Know _____"
- TX TI makes it
- TXism: "lower _____ a snake's belly"
- TXism: "_____ your bottom dollar" (sure)
- noncash transactions
- TXism: "got _____ tangled" (fell)
- co. that TX Ross Perot started
- bad service? (2 wds.)

DOWN

- oil additive
- TXism: "kin _____ rattler" (mean)
- Taylor Co. seat
- TXism: "he'll _____ funeral" (unreliable)
- two-masted boat
- Biblical king of Assyria (hyphenated)
- TX Janis sang "I Got Dem _____ Kozmic Blues Again, Mama"
- TX Orbison's "She's a Mystery to _____"
- TXism: "she could talk the legs off _____"
- once an Anson FM
- this Harper was in "No Country for Old Men" with TX Tommy Lee
- TX golfer Trevino
- San Antonio AM _____ City, TX
- Gussie _____ founded the Kilgore Rangerettes
- change direction abruptly
- TXism: "crooked _____ barrel of snakes"
- if you can _____ 72-oz. steak, Amarillo's "Big Texan" will give it to you free
- Ella _____ sang "Cow-Cow Boogie"
- fly high
- hot times in TX
- TX mineral rights
- film for TX-born Gary Bussey: "_____ Zone"
- TX-born comedian & actor Martin (init.)
- this Scott was Pea Eye Parker on "Lonesome Dove"
- this Gagne was a Rangers closer in '07
- in Brewster Co.: "_____ Egg Mountain"
- TXism: "enough to make your _____ curl" (exciting)
- Merle Haggard's "_____ Get Lucky With You"
- TXism: "in _____ neck of the woods"
- Gable of TX-based "Boom Town" (init.)
- liberal get-out-the vote org. (abbr.)

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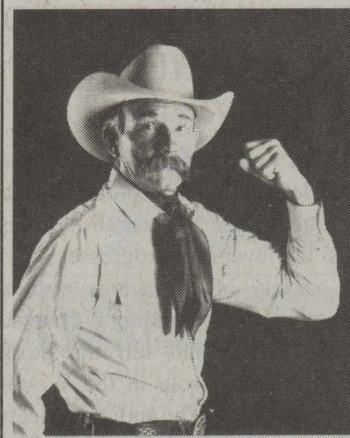
Thanks for Reading!

A SHORT STORY ABOUT GROWING UP WITH AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.

POLIO.

As one of the last American children to contract polio, Jeffrey Galpin grew up in a world of iron lungs and body casts, alone with his imagination. His story would be dramatic enough if it was just about his battle with this dreaded disease. But Jeffrey Galpin did more than survive polio. He went on to a list of achievements in medical research—including being the principal investigator in applying the first gene therapy for HIV/AIDS. Dr. Galpin actually credits his own incurable condition for giving him the focus that made him so passionate in his research. His story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If Dr. Galpin's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.

American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons
aaos.org/50years
AAOS
CELEBRATING HUMAN HEALING
orthoinfo.org



ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

by Baxter Black, DVM

A CINCH IN TIME

Cowboys can be quite creative when hard times cut into the daily operating expenses. Take Roy's cousin BB. One of BB's heifers had come off his badlands and crossed onto Roy's pasture.

On that fateful day BB had driven his pickup and gooseneck trailer to Roy's place to pick him up Roy wasn't quite ready. His cinch had worn down to two flimsy cords. "Did you happen to bring an extra cinch?" he asked.

"No," said BB, "But I can make one out of a gunny sack." He dumped the tire chains out of a greasy tow sack. Roy thought he had been around, but this ingenious thinking was a new wrinkle to him. Roy watched his cousin slip-knot one end through the offside cinch ring, then fold the other end over the tongue and through the ring on the left side ring and stitch it.

"This baling wire makes good thread," he explained.

Half an hour later they were pushing the heifer back toward BB's piece of the Pine Ridge Rez.

"Keep her to the bad land side," instructed Roy. "Don't let her get over on the prairie dog side or we'll lose her!"

Of course, the heifer took off in the direction of the prairie dog town!

"Rope her!" yelled Roy.

BB missed but Roy was right behind and caught her. He was tied hard and fast!

"See if you can catch the heels," said Roy.

BB missed several times, but in his defense the heifer was windmilling like a carnival ride!

"Hold up," yelled Roy. "Swap horses with me and hold the head. I'll take your rope and heel her. We'll tie her down and go get the trailer." A great plan.

BB eased over and they traded horses. Just about the time Roy started building a loop, the heifer, tired of the harassment, started up BB's rope! "Pick up yer slack!" yelled Roy, "Pick up yer slack!"

Too late! The heifer rammed into BB, still on Roy's horse, more importantly still in Roy's saddle, bounced off and headed straight away from the scene of the crime!

The gunny sack cinch had slackened considerably. BB reflected later that they do stretch for a couple days. When the heifer hit the end of the line, the saddle slicked off right over the horse's head with BB still in the stirrups! He hit the ground, made a couple bounces, grabbed the horn, lost his stirrups and started spinning like a broken lure in a bass pond as he sailed along behind the galloping heifer! He made one gallant effort to pull himself back in the saddle but stuck his boot toe in a prairie dog hole and was peeled off like a booster rocket from Apollo 13!

Back at the ranch later that evening BB decided he would discard his patent application for the gunny sack cinch repair kit.

"Probably wise," said Roy, "but it did make a handy sling for your dislocated shoulder."

Local High School Students Attend Health Matters Summer Camp

The Big Country AHEC (Area Health Education Center) conducted their 4th Annual Health Matters Summer Camp during the week of June 8th - 12th at McMurry University. The camp hosted 32 high school students from across the Big Country, including one from as far south as Mason, Texas and four as far east as the Ft. Worth-Dallas Area. The Health Matters Summer Camp provided area high school students with information, activities, and hands-on learning experiences in the world of health careers. Campers participated in tours of local health care facilities and local health professions training programs including the Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing and Cisco Junior College Respiratory Therapy Program at Hendrick Medical Center. Hendrick Medical Center also provided a view of their Radiology Program for the campers.

In addition, the campers had the opportunity to tour health career programs at two of the Abilene universities: the Hardin Simmons Physical Therapy program and the McMurry University Pre-Health Professions Program. Texas Tech School of Pharmacy also gave the campers a tour of the facility and some insight into a career in pharmacy. The campers toured Texas State Technical College, Cisco Junior College Allied Health Programs, and the Presbyterian Medical Care Mission.

Perhaps a highlight of the week's activities was a day trip to the Texas Tech Health Science Center in Lubbock where the campers were able to witness many different programs including a Clinical Simulation

See HEALTH page 8

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.

If the word nostalgia sounds like a disease you get when you're old, it is.

If most of your email messages have "remember when" in the subject line, you're terminal.

Time was when nostalgia didn't involve me personally. Poodle skirts and bobby socks were dormant. When they reemerged as costumes, it hit me I was getting old. It's been hitting me ever since.

Even colors trigger symptoms of nostalgia. Especially colors. Or the lack thereof. Remember when everything was black and white? Cars were black and refrigerators were white. Those were the days.

This week I bought a new cutting board. It's red, and there's nothing nostalgic about it. I'd call it blood red, appropriate for a cutting board. No doubt there's a different official name for the hue, one of the trendiest new colors for all things culinary. I wouldn't be surprised if you can't get a blood red refrigerator nowadays. It's what happens when you've already been through harvest gold, avocado, copper, stainless, black and almond, not exactly in that order and not to mention white.

As for cutting boards, when I was a kid, I'd never even heard of one. I'm that old. We didn't have cutting boards. We had breadboards. The fact that breadboard is just one word is proof that cutting boards are the newcomers.

Our house had two breadboards. One slid out from under the kitchen counter and the other one slid out from under the pantry counter. Handy.

That was back before somebody got worried about germs living in breadboards,

especially if you used them like butcher blocks. We sometimes did. Back then, butchers had the corner on butcher blocks. Not to worry. My mother didn't spare the bleach. Some people wax nostalgic if they smell their mother's favorite perfume fragrance. I'm that way about Clorox. No doubt Mother had a favorite Coty fragrance, but it's the bleach I remember. I'm glad she wasn't into Pine-Sol too.

Back to my new red cutting board. It says a lot about how times have changed. Allow me to dig that label out of the garbage.

GARBAGE PAUSE.

My husband came home during that pause. It's worth an aside.

"What are you doing?" he asked.

"Digging in the garbage to find something for my column," I replied.

You can guess what he said. I didn't hear it.

Meanwhile, I retrieved the packaging. It's proof my cutting board is cutting-edge.

It's an "eco smart" cutting board. Remember when the word "smart" couldn't possibly describe an inanimate object, car or cutting board, and everyday vocabularies didn't include "ecology," much less "eco"?

The cutting board material is 100-percent recycled. Remember when "recycled" wasn't a household word either?

Flax husk, an agricultural byproduct, is one of the materials in the board. Remember when that ingredient wouldn't have been a selling point?

My new cutting board was made in the USA. Remember when that was no big deal?

If you don't remember when, buy yourself a cutting board. Your day will come.

KNOX COUNTY AGING SERVICES MENUS FOR JULY 13TH TO JULY 17TH

MONDAY JULY 13TH
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OKRA & TOMATOES
HOT ROLLS
RICE KRISPIE BARS

FRIED SQUASH
CRACKERS
COOKIES

TUESDAY JULY 14TH
BEEF TACOS/CHEESE
LETTUCE & TOMATO
SALAD
RANCH STYLE BEANS
KOLACHES

FRIDAY JULY 17TH
CREAM OF POTATO
SOUP

PIMENTO CHEESE
SANDWICHES
POTATO CHIPS
CRACKERS
BANANA PUDDING

WEDNESDAY JULY 15TH

FISH/TARTAR SAUCE
COLE SLAW
FRENCH FRIES
HUSH PUPPIES
CAKE

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DESSERTS FOR
DIABETICS

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YOUR ORDERS BY 10
A.M. TO 657-3618
ORDERS CANT BE
TAKEN AFTER 10 A.M.
AND NEED TO BE
PICKED UP AFTER 11
A.M.

THURSDAY JULY 16TH

CHEF SALAD

Quannah Fall Festival Set for Saturday

Booth spaces are already going fast for the 26th Annual Quannah Fall Festival set for Saturday, Sept. 12, around the courthouse square in downtown Quannah.

An even larger crowd than the 3,000 who showed up for last year's rain-marred event is expected this year with the 8th Annual Quannah High School Alumni Reunion and QHS Homecoming being held the same weekend, according to Chamber organizers.

In previous years, exhibitors have offered foods, arts and crafts, games, educational materials, clothing, jewelry, handmade furniture, metal sculptures, ceramics, Southwest pottery and other unique items.

If you would like to add your exhibit to this year's festival, you can register your booth by contacting the Quannah Chamber of Commerce at 940-663-2222 or by email at quannahcoc@cebridge.net.

Applications for space rental may be mailed to the Chamber at P.O. Box 158, Quannah, Texas 79252, or dropped off at the office at 220 S. Main Street in Quannah.

Booth spaces measure 10x10 feet with five feet between booths. The charge is \$25. Food booths, sponsored by local non-profit organizations, rent for \$35.

All other food concessions that are not classified as a non-profit will need special approval of the festival committee. NO FOOD DUPLICATION ALLOWED.

Electricity is limited and there is a \$10 charge where electricity is available. Food booths take priority.

Hours of operation will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with set-up time 7 a.m. No booths are to be taken down prior to 5 p.m.

No alcoholic beverages may be sold on the festival grounds, and items that will not be permitted include snaps, fireworks, water guns, color hairsprays, stinky sprays, canned string spray, invisible ink, imitation cigarettes, flea market or garage sale items, used items, and any type of guns or knives.

Booth sponsors are required to provide an item valued at \$20 or more for the silent auction.

Restroom facilities will be available through the west side basement entrance to the courthouse throughout the festival and during the evening street dance.

Booth space reservations are requested as soon as possible, with the deadline for reservations being Sept. 1.

For information please call the Chamber office at 940-663-2222.

"Yellow Rose of Texas" Theme for Quannah Rodeo

"The Yellow Rose of Texas" will be this year's theme for the Quannah Rodeo Parade at 4:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, in downtown Quannah.

The parade kicks off the annual Quannah Rodeo, with 8 p.m. performances Friday and Saturday evening, Aug. 7-8, in the Quannah Riding Club Arena. The parade and rodeo are sponsored by the Quannah Chamber of Commerce and the Quannah Riding Club.

Parade entry forms are due by Friday, July 31, in the Chamber office at 220 S. Main in Quannah. Categories include riding clubs,

horse-drawn (wagons and surreys), commercial (business) floats, non-commercial floats (schools, clubs, churches, 4-H, scouts, etc.), sport utility vehicles (four-wheelers, golf carts, bicycles, etc.), and classic cars, tractors and trucks.

Cash prizes will go to first and second place winners in floats, riding clubs, and horse-drawn divisions, with first place only in all other categories.

Line-up for the parade will take place on West Seventh Street, beginning at 3:30 p.m. horses and horse-drawn entries may unload in front of the

high school and junior high. A driver or someone from the organization sponsoring the float must be available for placing the entry in the correct parade order. Float participants and riders may arrive later at 4 p.m. to get ready for the 4:30 p.m. parade.

Following the parade, a cowboy barbecue will be served at 5:30 p.m. in Quannah Community Center. Then grand entry for the rodeo performance is at 8 p.m., with the rodeo dance following at 10 p.m.

Ticket information is available at The Tumbleweed Western Wear at 940-663-5916.

For additional information about the parade and rodeo call 940-663-2222.

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THE SUPPLY HOUSE
will be sponsoring the
2009-2010 Benjamin Jr. High Cheerleaders.
Tickets can be purchased at the Supply House until
Friday, July 24th. One lucky winner will have the choice of:

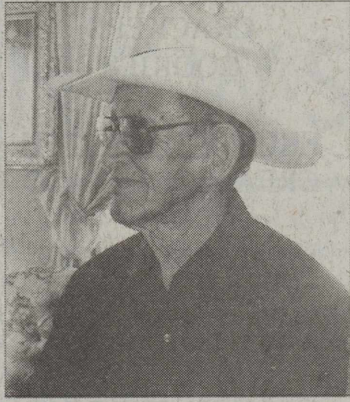
Tickets 148 CRESCENT TOOL SET
1 for \$2 3-ROOM FAMILY TENT
6 for \$10 RUSTIC STAR WINDMILL

The winner will be announced at the
Watermelon Festival on July 25th held in the
city park at 4pm. The winner does not have
to be present to claim prize.

GO MUSTANGS!!!!!!

For more information please contact
Charles or Martha at 940-658-3389.

Obituary



Alfonso Del Hierro

Mr. Alfonso Del Hierro, 89, of Knox City passed away Saturday, June 20, 2009. A graveside service was held on Sunday, June 21, 2009, 4 p.m. at the O'Brien Cemetery under

the direction of Mansell Smith Funeral Home.

Mr. Del Hierro was born on September 16, 1919 in El Pueblito Chihuahua. He worked for the O'Brien Gin Co-op. His wife Lily Del Hierro preceded him in death. He was a member of the O'Brien Mission.

Survivors include three sons, Arnold Del Hierro of Colleyville, David Del Hierro of Abilene and Danny Del Hierro of Euless; four daughters Mary Vallejo of Wichita Falls, Olicia Del Hierro Gloria of Benjamin, Susie Magallanes of Vernon and Alicia Cuellarof San Angelo; 19 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren. He was also preceded in death by a daughter Debbie Richardson.

BRIGHT IDEAS

By Alex Mills

Someone once said that there are two things you never want to see being made: sausage and legislation. The actions of the leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives in obtaining enough votes to pass the cap-and-trade bill on June 26 left a bad taste in virtually everyone's mouth.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Henry Waxman were determined to give President Obama his climate control bill and it didn't matter what was included or who they ran over to get it passed. Waxman even admitted in public that he didn't know everything that was in the 1,200-plus page bill.

Members of the House were given only four weeks to read, study and understand the bill that covers everything from a new cap-and-trade program to light bulbs to hot tubs to building codes and just about anything dealing with energy production and usage.

The main purpose of the bill, as stated by Waxman and other proponents, is to increase the cost of energy, especially fossil fuels that generate 80 percent of the nation's energy currently. Yet, the administration and Congressional leaders were able to "cook the books" and get the Congressional Budget Office to report that their bill would cost the average household only \$175 by 2020. The cost estimate was so ridiculously low that an investigation took place and found that the CBO's study stopped in 2020 before the tougher standards are implemented. In order to get his bill passed, Waxman had to give away credits in the beginning of the program to utilities that burn primarily coal in the Midwest and South to get the votes from Democrats from these areas. In order to appease the liberals, Waxman had to increase the requirements in later years.

The economic fall-out from this legislation will be felt throughout the nation at a time

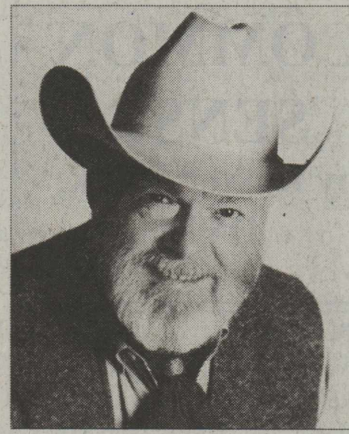
when the nation definitely does not need any more negatives. The higher prices for virtually everything will cause consumers to decrease spending, which will cause less production of services and goods, which results in layoffs and unemployment, which results in even less consumer spending, which results in...

The Obama-Pelosi-Waxman bill keeps their traditional liberal/socialism approach. It is designed to tax away some \$800 billion from fossil fuel producers and users and redistribute the money in programs run by the government with other people's money. For example, the bill recognizes that many people are going to lose their jobs so it provides money to those unemployed. It takes from one sector and gives to another.

This approach to energy legislation is similar to a story about an economics professor who conducted an experiment with a class that believed socialism would solve poverty.

The experiment involved averaging all grades and everyone's grade will be that average. After the first test, the average grade was a C. The students who studied hard were upset, but the students who studied little were happy. As the second test rolled around, the students who studied little studied even less, and the ones who studied hard decided they wanted a free ride too, so they studied little. The second test average was a D. Everyone was unhappy. After the 3rd test the average was an F. The scores never increased, because no one would study for the benefit of anyone else. The professor pointed out to the class that a socialistic government will also ultimately fail, because when the reward is great, the effort to succeed is great, but when government takes all reward away, no one will try to succeed. If government takes away the rewards to produce energy, production will decline creating shortages and resulting in higher prices.

RED STEAGALL, BARRY CORBIN, AND OTHERS BRING "SOUL OF THE WEST" TO THE BIG COUNTRY AREA



Red Steagall

July 25th benefit will also feature Cord, Taylor, Lockhart and more...

Perini Ranch Steakhouse and the West Texas Rehabilitation Center are proudly partnering to bring the great cowboy legends to life in "Soul of the West" an historic, outdoor musical drama written by Red Steagall, Andy Wilkinson and Anne Lockhart. Staged at the Perini Ranch Steakhouse grounds on July 25th and benefiting the Rehab Center, this tale of the great Texas pioneer cattleman Charles Goodnight and settlement of the glorious West stars Steagall, Lockhart, Northern Exposure's Barry Corbin, noted movie and television actor Michael Horse, stage and screen veteran Alex Cord (star of the 80s television series Airwolf), Gunsmoke's Buck Taylor and others. As a unique opportunity for this part of West Texas, the production has been performed exclusively to capacity crowds at the Bass Performance Hall in Ft. Worth and the Palo Duro Canyon State Park Amphitheater. In addition to the performance, evening activities will include an authentic Perini's chuck wagon dinner prior to the production, with a cast party immediately following the play to meet and visit with the actors.

"Soul of the West" captures the cooperative spirit of the West - the notion that this great settlement effort involved the work and commitment of a wide variety of people from all ethnicities and walks of life. The production scene is set in the chuck wagon camp of Charles Goodnight - inventor of the

chuck wagon, key architect of the modern livestock industry and Texas Ranger. Steagall narrates as the evening progresses, and a variety of characters stop in to visit with Goodnight (played by Corbin) and tell the story of their own role in the West's development. The audience meets Quannah Parker (Michael Horse), Chief of the Comanche's; Cola Martinez (Junior Vasquez), the Mexican shepherd who showed Goodnight the ancient Indian trail down into the Palo Duro Canyon; Boze Ikard (Brian Griffin), a freed slave and Goodnight's most trusted friend; the larger than life Teddy Roosevelt (Richard Privitt); Texas cattleman and oilman, Burk Burnett (Alex Cord). The evening also includes appearances by pioneer woman Frenchie McCormick (Lockhart) and Buffalo Bill (Taylor). Songstress Trudy Fair brings to life the soulful character of Cynthia Ann Parker. Danny Steagall will complete the campfire atmosphere with authentic cowboy music whose ballads paint a sweeping landscape of the American West.

Perini Ranch Steakhouse and the West Texas Rehabilitation Center are grateful to those supporters who made this wonderful production possible for everyone's enjoyment. Presenting Sponsors for Soul of the West are Amy & Mark McLaughlin, ATMOS Energy and Bar-G Feedyard, along with Supporting Sponsors, Pine Street Salvage Co. /Dan & Shelia Dankworth and Wells Fargo. Host Hotel for the event is Wingate by Wyndham of Abilene.

Arrival time for the evening activities is 6:30 p.m., with the performance beginning approximately at 8:30 p.m. Tickets for "Soul of the West" on July 25th are \$125 and available at Perini Ranch Steakhouse @ 1-800-367-1721 or West Texas Rehabilitation Center @ 325-793-3527. A Table Package for 10 is available upon request. Due to limited seating availability, early ticket purchases are suggested.

KC AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - Knox City

Rick Neal, Pastor

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Knox City

Timothy Trimble, Pastor

Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.

No Sunday Evening Service

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Knox City

Tex Cox, Pastor

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Sunday Evening Classes 5:00 p.m. • Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Warriors 6:00 p.m.
"Discovering God's Word" radio broadcast Sunday mornings on AM 1400 The River 8:20 - 8:50 a.m.

FOURSQUARE CHURCH - Knox City

Gary A. Schnable, Pastor

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:50 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6:30 p.m.

SANTA ROSA CATHOLIC CHURCH - Knox City

Father Charles Gorantla • Deacon Ben Vasquez

Sunday Mass at 11 a.m.

LIBERTY COMMUNITY C.O.G.I.C. - Knox City

Gene Ward Jr., Pastor

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

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - Rhineland

Father Charles Gorantla • Deacon Jim Novak

Monday through Friday mornings, 8 a.m. Mass

Saturday Mass at 7 p.m. • Sunday Mass at 9 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - Benjamin

Sunday School at 10 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Benjamin

Timothy Trimble, Pastor

Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. • Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.

GILLESPIE BAPTIST CHURCH - Gillespie

Matt Harrington, Pastor

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST - Benjamin

Bible Study at 9 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10 a.m.

THE BELIEVERS' CHAPEL - Highway 222

W.O. Smith, Pastor

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

O'BRIEN BAPTIST CHURCH - O'Brien

Jim Reid, Pastor

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

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Rob Harrison, Pastor

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MUNDAY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Adrian Fletcher, Pastor

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PRICE "FREEZE" HELPS CONSUMERS STAY COOL

WTU is "freezing" prices for most residential customers through August 31

Abilene - Summer in Texas traditionally means heat - and high electricity consumption. So far, this summer has certainly proven itself to be hot; but as Texans head in to the first official summer holiday weekend, WTU Retail Energy is announcing it will be "freezing" prices for residential customers on the Direct Electricity Plan through August 31 as part of the company's commitment to helping customers during the summer months.

Understanding the economic slow-down and the higher cost of energy during the summer months, this summer's price-stability guarantee follows consecutive WTU price-down activities in recent years. Most recently, WTU reduced residential Direct Electricity Plan prices in September 2008, which it celebrated with a sweepstakes contest where a deserving Abilene family won a new hybrid SUV.

"Historically in our industry, prices have increased during the summer months,"

said Paul Keene, Senior Director at WTU Retail Energy. "While considering the economic downturn and the high temperatures sweeping the state, we have decided to take a different approach."

In addition to the price "freeze," which will be emphasized at upcoming community events throughout West Texas during the summer months, WTU reminds customers that bill-payment assistance is available year-round through the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program. Neighbor-to-Neighbor provides WTU customers who demonstrate financial need with up to \$600 in electricity bill-payment assistance in a calendar year, and is managed through local community action agencies. WTU customers can help their neighbors by contributing to Neighbor-to-Neighbor, which has received over \$500,000 in support from WTU this year, with a simple check-mark on their monthly bill. Information on the

See FREEZE page 8

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"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.

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BENJAMIN NEWS

By Gladene Green

Did everyone have a good and safe 4th of July? It was pretty uneventful around here but I did get a few things done that had gone undone for awhile and that was good. And the day ended with more much needed rain for which we were very thankful.

Over here we got about an inch but do know that other parts of the county got quite a lot more. And it sure cooled things off for a while.

I'm sure there was much more going on this past weekend than I am aware of. Don't have much news today. Am glad to report that we don't have any illness to report other than the

common ailments that bother everyone from time to time.

Harley Shea is the new baby daughter of Heather Stovall and Chad Tolson. She was born Thurs. July 2, at 12:02p.m. at the Abilene Regional Hospital. She weighed 8lb 1oz and in 20 3/4 inches long. Her sister and brother, Kylie & Nicholas are excited about her arrival & are helping to take care of her! Grandparents are Buddy & Janice Tolson of Benjamin & Laura Stovall & the late Paul Stovall of Knox City. According to reports, Mom, baby & the rest of the family are going great.

Here 'N There

Dutch and Imagean Young visited friends in Temple, Okla. a couple of days last week.

Weekend guests of Lorene Powers were her grandchildren, Curt & Chastity Roberson and children, McKayla & Jager (pronounced Yeager) of Midland.

Mike and Debbie Moorhouse spent Saturday in Childress with her kids Beckie

Keyes & family. Her son, Cody Taylor & family of Amarillo met them there for the day.

Mark Brown was in Dallas a couple of days last week to see his Drs. He's feeling pretty well but taking it pretty slowly these days.

Mitzi & Shane Welch had a fun 4th of July. They enjoyed an outdoor bar-b-cue with their kids, Misty & Clint Jones & kids who live between Paducah & Crowell & Ray & Mary Ham & kids who live here in Benjamin. On Fri. night, Nicholas Ham was honored with a birthday party at Mitzi's. He turned 4 on Friday.

Jason & Angela Loftiss & family left last week for Cotton Center where he will be teaching when school starts. He had been teaching & coaching here the past 2 years & Angela was employed at the Clerks Office. We wish them well in their new home.

Fourth of July guests of Linda & Charles Griffith were their daughters, Amy Tyson & family of Lubbock & Beckie Jones & family

who live here in town. Also Dillon Loftiss of Cotton Center.

Larry Neal called on Monday & he said Gaye has been dismissed from the hospital & is at a daughter's home there in the Dallas area.

She was awaiting arrangements to begin rehab at that time. Larry said she could speak but it's very hard to determine what she is saying but still can not walk & drs. are not very encouraging that she will again. They ask we continue to remember them in prayer.

I saw Veta Reid on Sun. She & her daughter, Angela & Angela's children were in the area for the weekend. They all live in the Dallas area now. Ms. Reid is former Homemaking teacher & also counselor at Benjamin school. It was good to see her. She's doing well.

And one last thing- Thanks girls at the "News" office for the birthday greeting last week- At 73, I need all the good wishes I can get!!

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Shooters And Shutters Theme For Annual Park Art Show

QUANAH - Park officials announced the 12th Annual Summer Art Exhibition will start Saturday July 11, 2009 and end Sunday, August 9, 2009.

This year's exhibit will be titled "Shutters and Shooters," and will feature photography along with a unique opening reception.

At least ten local and regional artists will be exhibiting their photos in the art show, headed up by featured guest artists Mark Hilliard of Wayland Baptist University.

There will be an informal free reception

from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 11 for the photographers.

Visitors are asked to contribute to the Quahadi Society, Friends of Copper Breaks State Park.

This year's exhibit opening day will feature a unique set of presentations on the impact of firearms on the industrial revolution and ongoing history of this country. These presentations will continue through the day on the 11th, starting at 2:30 p.m. These informative programs will include Reloading, the Peace Officer's perspective

on Concealed Carry laws, Collecting firearms, Gunsmithing and Black powder weapons. In addition to the featured photography exhibition and the presentations, there will be a one day only exhibition of firearms in the Charles Call Education Room.

For more information on the Shooters and Shutters program, or other park programs or facilities contact the park daily during business hours at (940)839-4331.

Copper Breaks State Park is located 13 miles south of Quanah and eight miles north of Crowell on State Highway 6.

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2009 FORD FOCUS SE #A80017 PW, PL, TILT, CR, CD LIST \$17,905 WOLFE DISC. \$1,020 REBATE \$2,500 BUY FOR \$14,385	2009 FORD F150 SUPERCREW #A24312, 4X2, PW/PL, TILT, CR, CD, PWR SEATS, SYNC, TTRW, ADJUSTABLE PEDALS LIST \$33,555 WOLFE DISC. \$3,796 REBATE \$3,000 BUY FOR \$26,760 FMCC REBATE \$1,000 \$25,760	2008 DODGE CALIBER SXT #760381, PW/PL, TILT, CR, CD LIST \$19,975 WOLFE DISC. \$4,900 + REBATES BUY FOR \$15,075	2008 JEEP LIBERTY SPORT 2WD #288542, PW/PL, TILT, CR, CD LIST \$23,910 WOLFE DISC. \$6,835 + REBATES BUY FOR \$17,075

CUMMINS POWERSTROKE DURAMAX WE GIVE THE MOST FOR TRADE-INS

2006 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 2500HD LT BLACK, DRIVETRAIN: 8 CYLINDER AUTOMATIC MODEL CODE: CC25943 STOCK: 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 WHITE, DRIVETRAIN: 8 CYLINDER MANUAL MODEL CODE: DH7H41 STOCK: 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: D19H42, STOCK: 30785, \$22,997	2008 FORD F-150 COLOR: BRIGHT RED DRIVETRAIN: 8 CYLINDER AUTOMATIC STOCK: 307290, \$18,976	2002 CHEVY K1500 Z71 EXT. CAB, SILVERADO, STK#10990A, \$8,990	2007 DODGE CHARGER ALL POWER, CLEAN, STK#30810, \$11,900	2006 GMC SIERRA 1500HD SLE1 COLOR: STEEL GRAY METALLIC DRIVETRAIN: 8 CYLINDER AUTOMATIC STOCK: 307498, \$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 \$15,528, STK#30808B	2006 DODGE RAM 1500 ST WHITE, DRIVETRAIN: 6 CYLINDER MANUAL STOCK: 30649, \$12,382	2006 LAND ROVER LR3 LOADED, MUST SEE, 41K, STK#30884, \$24,600	2006 DODGE RAM 2500 ST COLOR: BRIGHT WHITE DRIVETRAIN: 6 CYLINDER AUTOMATIC STOCK: 30811, \$13,900	2003 DODGE RAM 3500 SLT COLOR: BRIGHT WHITE DRIVETRAIN: 6 CYLINDER AUTOMATIC STOCK: 30780A, \$19,400	2006 DODGE RAM 3500 SLT SILVER, DRIVETRAIN: 8 CYLINDER MANUAL MODEL CODE: D18H42 STOCK: 30842, \$21,500	2008 DODGE RAM 3500 LARAMIE COLOR: BLACK DRIVETRAIN: 8 CYLINDER MANUAL, MODEL CODE: D18H42, STOCK: 30847, \$25,684	2008 FORD F-150 XLT RANCH, COLOR: BLACK DRIVETRAIN: 8 CYLINDER AUTOMATIC MODEL CODE: W12 STOCK: 30827, \$19,546	2009 FORD RANGER XL COLOR: OXFORD WHITE DRIVETRAIN: 4 CYLINDER MANUAL, MODEL CODE: R14 STOCK: 30841, \$15,165	2003 CHEVY Z71 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#109035A, \$9,975
2006 DODGE DAKOTA ST SILVER, DRIVETRAIN: 6 CYLINDER MANUAL MODEL CODE: ND1L33 STOCK: 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 STOCK: 30026, \$12,700	2005 MURANO AWD, CLEAN, LOADED, STK#30822A, \$19,900	2006 FORD CUTAWAY VAN GREAT SHAPE, RUNS EXCELLENT, CLEAN, 89K, STK#30883, \$12,300	2006 DODGE RAM 3500 COLOR: SILVER DRIVETRAIN: 6 CYLINDER MANUAL STOCK: 30833, \$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 STOCK: 10933A, \$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: F37, STOCK: 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#10986A, \$16,700
2008 FORD F250 CREW CAB 4X4 F4 AT, 6 DISC, 33K MILES, SILVER, GREY CLOTH, NONE NICER, \$35,339, STK#10924B	2003 JAGUAR X-TYPE SUPER NICE, 73K, PRICED RIGHT, STK#30851, \$7,972	2006 LINCOLN MARK LT CREW CAB SUPER NICE, 78K, STK#30875, \$17,990	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 STOCK: 30796, \$25,875	2006 FORD F-150 XLT COLOR: GRAY, DRIVETRAIN: 8 CYLINDER AUTOMATIC MODEL CODE: W12 STOCK: 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, NEAR BARS, SILVER BIRCH, STK#30749B, \$19,700
2006 CHEVY IMPALA SILVER, V6, AT, 61K, CLOTH, NICE PRICED TO SELL, \$8,750, STK#30802A	2007 DODGE RAM 1500 ST WHITE, DRIVETRAIN: 8 CYLINDER MANUAL MODEL CODE: DR1H61 STOCK: 30840, \$8,970	2005 DODGE RAM 2500 BLACK, DRIVETRAIN: 8 CYLINDER MANUAL MODEL CODE: DH7H42 STOCK: 30814, \$16,874	2008 FORD F150 SUPER CREW SUPER CLEAN, SUPER PRICE, STK#307290, \$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 STOCK: 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#10036A, \$25,900	2006 DODGE DAKOTA EXT. CAB STK#30843, \$9,300	2008 DODGE RAM 3500 DIESEL, DUALY, SLT, 63K MILES, WHITE, CLEA, STK#30785, \$22,900	2003 DODGE RAM QUAD CAB 2500 SLT 4X4, STK#100341A, \$9,900	VERN SAYS: TRADE, WE NEED INVENTORY!

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Texas Parks & Wildlife Fishing Report for Rolling Plains

ARROWHEAD are good on crankbaits, chatter-baits or jigs off rocky points and rip-rap. Crappie are good on jigs

suspended 7-12 feet. White bass are good trolling and casting towards rocky points in Sailboat

Cove area. Blue Catfish are good drift fishing with cut shad or cheese bait on flats at 12-15 feet depth and on juglines with shad.

HUBBARD CREEK
Water lightly stained; 78 degrees; 5.72' low. Black bass are good on white spinnerbaits, and watermelon red soft plastic lures worked along trees and stickups. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass and hybrid stripers are good on live bait. Catfish are good on live bait.

good on live shad and cut liver in the north area.

SPENCE
Water lightly stained; 77 degrees; 57.10' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. White bass are slow. Striped bass and hybrid striper are slow. Catfish are slow.

STAMFORD
Water lightly stained; 76 degrees; 4.12' low. Black bass are good on white spinnerbaits and live bait along grass lines. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White and striped bass are good on live bait. Catfish are good on cut bait.

SWEETWATER
Water lightly stained; 77 degrees; 5.21' low. Black bass are fair on live bait and shad-colored crankbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live bait. Catfish are good on live bait.

WHITE RIVER
Water lightly stained; 78 degrees; 21.59' low. Black bass are good on live bait, junebug soft plastic baits worked along tree lines and suspended in brush. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. Walleye are good on live bait. Channel catfish are good on live bait.

Knox City Volleyball Camp begins July 20

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

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 (8-11 a.m.) will be for incoming 5th -8th graders and session 2 (Noon-3 p.m.) 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 8. Please return registration forms to Coach Steele or the Knox City-O'Brien main of-

ice. 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 10 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."

BROWNWOOD
Water stained; 83 degrees; 6.46' low. Black bass are excellent on Ribbits, Horny Toads, Bass Hogg buzzbaits and spinnerbaits over grass flats and among stickups, and on redbug and watermelon red Grande Bass 4" finesse worms with chartreuse tails around docks and near the rocks. Hybrid striper are good on shad in Hybrid Alley. White bass are excellent on Li'l Fishies and Persuader crankbaits off lighted docks at night. Crappie are good on minnows and Li'l Fishies in 8 - 14 feet. Channel catfish are good on trotlines baited with live bait in 8 - 12 feet. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with live bait.

COLEMAN
Water clear; 84 degrees; 7.96' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon red and watermelon green spinnerbaits and soft plastics. Hybrid striper are fair on live shad. Crappie are fair on minnows over brush piles in 20 - 30 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with live perch. Yellow catfish are slow.

FT. PHANTOM HILL
Water clear; 78 degrees; 3.72' low. Black bass are fair on live bait. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on minnows and shad-colored crankbaits. Catfish are fair on live bait.

GREENBELT
Water stained; 77 degrees; 28.91' low. Black bass are good on shad-colored crankbaits, white spinnerbaits, watermelon red soft plastic plastics, and live bait worked along grass lines and on topwater lures throughout the day. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass are good on live bait and chrome crankbaits. Smallmouth bass are good on live bait and white spinnerbaits. Walleye are good on live bait and chrome/blue jerkbaits. Catfish are good on live bait and cut bait.

Russell Graves Outdoors Balmorhea State Park

By Russell A. Graves

Of all the cool places I've been, Toyahvale, Texas has to be among the coolest. Before you drag out the atlas or access Google Maps, I'll just tell you that Toyahvale is a wide spot on state highway 17 in southern Reeves County way out in far West Texas. Nestled at the foot of the Davis Mountains in the harsh environs of the creosote bush scrub desert, Toyahvale boasts a post office, one or two homes, a state park, and a scuba diving shop. Yep, you read right - a scuba diving shop. Across the highway from the Funky Little Dive Shop is one of the best kept secrets in Texas - Balmorhea State Park.

The state park is small - only 45.9 acres. What makes the park so unique is what's below water.

Bubbling up on the park's west end is San Solomon Springs. Each day, the springs flows over 22-million gallons of water and fills a huge swimming pool that's almost two acres in size. On the east side of the pool, water flows out through a canal and waters a cienega (desert wetland) before it flows through a series of viaducts used to provide irrigation to the Madera Valley.

Built between 1936 and 1941, the state park's buildings and structures were erected by the Civilian Conservation Corp and today greet thousands of visitors to this oasis in the desert. Inside the park is the vintage San Solomon Springs Motor Court which I always choose for lodging when I visit.

For the past seven years, I've made a pilgrimages to the park to swim in the clear, chemical-free water. On one arm of the boomerang shaped pool, the bottom is concrete just like a traditional swimming pool. That, however, is where the resemblance to a traditional swimming pool stops. The rest of the pool has a natural bottom complete with rocks, springs, turtles, and fish including the endangered Comanche Springs pupfish and the Pecos gambusia.

Because the water emerges from the ground and is a fairly constant temperature (in the 1970's), I've swam in the park in January. Also (I know this sounds crazy), I scuba dive in Balmorhea State Park every year and received my open water scuba diving certification at the park. In the deep end of the pool, the bottom is around 25 feet deep. At that depth, the water is so clear, sunlight has no problem penetrating and the colors are vivid. For some reason at that depth the Mexican tetra fish swarm around you in hopes you'll feed them.

On my yearly dive this past June, I make the normal rounds and follow a soft-shell turtle across the bottom and pause for a moment and watch a Comanche Springs pupfish defend the top of his rock with a territorial fervor. Elsewhere on the bottom, I watch springs bubbling through the sand and swim to where the big spring emerges from beneath some rocks. While you can't see the water rushing into the pool, when you swim next to the rocks, the water rushes in so hard it feels like the wind blowing across you. Every time I dive to the big spring, a bevy of catfish swim headfirst into the current without ever moving forward - kind of like their swimming to nowhere.

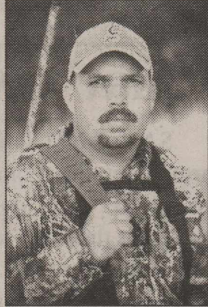
I soon surface and swim to the shallow area where my two kids are splashing with their mother. Before this trip, I bought them a snorkel kit and amazingly, even my four year old boy manages to figure it out in no time and is watching fish swim around him.

Outside the water, the desert is a dry, 98-degrees. In the water, we're a cool 75-degrees. No wonder I keep coming back.

If you want to see a video of Balmorhea State Park, check out www.russellgraves.com/videos.html

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

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State Capital HIGHLIGHTS



By Ed Sterling

AUSTIN — Special sessions of the Texas Legislature usually are 30 days long, but the first called session of the 81st Texas Legislature lasted only two days, beginning July 1 and ending July 2.

The House and Senate passed just two bills, House Bill 1 and Senate Bill 2, and adjourned. HB 1 authorizes the Texas Transportation Commission — a body that oversees the Texas Department of Transportation

— to issue up to \$2 billion in general obligation bonds to fund state highway improvement projects.

The voters of Texas approved the issuance of those bonds via constitutional amendment in the fall of 2007. Passage of HB 1 completes the statutory process, allowing the sale of bonds to move forward. The state comptroller is required to pay the principal and interest and any costs related to the bonds.

SB 2, the Sunset "safety net" bill, extends by two years the life of five state agencies: the Texas Department of Transportation, the Texas Department of Insurance, the Texas Racing Commission, the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation and the Office of Public Insurance Council.

Gov. Rick Perry expressed pleasure over the fact that lawmakers did what he asked in breathing new life into those

state agencies and passing the bill funding state highway construction.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, who like Perry predicted a very short special session, praised lawmakers for getting the work done fast.

Lawmakers, however, did not pass a third item on the governor's call. HB 3 would have extended the authority of the TxDOT and a regional mobility authority to use "Comprehensive Development Agreements" to design, finance, build and maintain toll roads.

Perry's statement upon adjournment of the special session: "With more than 1,000 people moving to Texas each day and a growing economy, improving transportation in our state continues to be a top priority of mine.

"I had hoped to reduce uncertainty regarding several major transportation projects across the state by extending the

Comprehensive Development Agreement authority for local and state transportation agencies.

"Although the CDA bill did not pass, we will continue to work with legislators and local officials to find transportation solutions for our state," Perry said.

No-vote urged on energy act

U.S. House Resolution 2454, titled the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, is captioned as follows: "to create clean energy jobs, achieve energy independence, reduce global warming pollution and transition to a clean energy economy."

But, in a letter dated June 30, Texas Railroad commissioners Elizabeth Ames Jones, Victor G. Carrillo and Michael L. Williams urge Texas' U.S. Sens. Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn to vote against passage of a bill authored by U.S. Reps.

Henry Waxman, D-Calif., and Edward Markey, D-Mass.

Their letter says the bill would "disproportionately and drastically negatively impact Texas jobs, economy, and above all, every Texas energy consumer."

Their letter also states, "In layman's terms, 'increased federal revenues' means 'new taxes' on the American public — almost \$850 billion of new taxes. The bottom line: Cap and Trade will cost Texans jobs and money."

Waxman said, "Our goal is to strengthen our economy by making America the world leader in new clean energy and energy efficiency technologies."

Grants will help feed Texans

Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples announced that \$2 million in grants is available for nonprofit organizations to buy excess vegetables and fruit

produced in Texas.

The funds come through the state agriculture department's Texans Feeding Texans program.

Grant funds must be used to purchase and donate agricultural products to food banks or any charitable organization that feeds hungry Texans, Staples said.

Remember to hold your nose.

The Texas Department of State Health Services on July 1 publicized these precautions to Texans: Never swim in stagnant water, and hold your nose or use nose clips when skiing, jet skiing or jumping into any water.

The reason is PAM, or Primary Amebic Meningoencephalitis, a potentially fatal disease caused by *Naegleria fowleri*, an amoeba the health agency says is assumed to be present in all rivers, lakes, ponds, tanks and streams.

HEALTH

Lab and Telemedicine.

High school students from across the Big Country and Texas were selected to attend the Health Matters Summer Camp based on their application and recommendation from a teacher. Each student accepted to the camp displayed a vested interest in entering a health related career program upon high school graduation. The following students were chosen to attend the 4th Annual Health Matters Summer Camp: Cassandra Pineda (Abilene), Heaven Slaughter (Ballinger), Caitlyn Cloy (Brownwood), Courtney Munson (Brownwood), Kimberly Burks (Comanche), Cody Sliger (return camper from Cross Plains), Brandon Fabela (Ft. Worth), Natalie Fabela (Ft. Worth), Colton Melton (Goldthwaite), Kinsey Perry (Goldthwaite), Vivian Van Zandt (Hamlin), Kymbre Kupatt (Haskell), Haley Hill (Highland), Elmina Banks (return camper from Knox City), Eric Casillas (return camper from Knox City), Landon Lynn (Knox City), Brooke Davis (Lueders), Shalee Stevens (Lueders), JoAnna McKinzie (Mansfield Legacy), Andrew Willis (Mason), Shi Elkins (May), Brittany Waggoner (Paint Creek), Stephanie Balderas (Paint Rock), Katharine Jackson (Merkel), Molly Southern (Sylvester), Allison Petty (return camper from Rule), Stephanie Threet (Rule), Tayler Barrington (Seymour), Jordan Jones (Ft. Worth), Bryan

Voss (Throckmorton), Jessica DeLaCruz (Trent), and Casandra DeLaCruz (Trent).

The Health Matters Summer Camp is made possible through the support of the Hodges Foundation and the Junior League of Abilene. Opportunities like the Health Matters Summer Camp are the result of partnerships with communities, community health professionals, health professions training schools and the Big Country Area Health Education Center (AHEC). The Big Country AHEC is a service of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health and the West Central Texas Council of Governments. For further information about the Big Country AHEC please contact Kelly Cheek at [HYPERLINK "mailto:kcheek@wctcog.org"](mailto:kcheek@wctcog.org) or 325-793-8484.

FREEZE

program and local agencies can be found in the "Community" section on the WTU web site.

"We are committed to keeping prices as stable and as competitive as possible and are always looking for ways to help our customers reduce their energy usage," said Keene. "This freeze, coupled with our strong community and customer programs such as Neighbor-to-Neighbor, are part of our commitment to easing the effects the heat and economy can have on consumers this summer. WTU is committed to being a long-

term, customer-focused, energy partner to West Texans."

The price "freeze" applies to WTU customers who are currently on the Direct Electricity Plan; those customers who have signed on to a term product with WTU will continue to enjoy their price stability through their fixed-price plan. WTU will continue to offer its Direct Electricity Plan customers competitive rates and an opportunity to retain ultimate flexibility following the conclusion of the price "freeze."

About WTU Retail Energy: WTU Retail Energy is part of the Centrica group of companies, one of the largest multi-state providers of retail energy services in North America. The North American operations have grown to more than 5 million residential and commercial customer relationships. Through its Direct Energy, CPL and WTU brands, the company is the third largest retail energy provider in Texas, and owns a series of energy-related services companies. The company also offers comprehensive energy solutions to more than 60,000 businesses across North America. Globally, the Centrica group of companies is a leading provider of energy and other essential services with approximately 32 million customer relationships. For more information, visit www.wturetailenergy.com.

Thanks For Reading!

What's Killing The Great Lawns Of Texas?

SAN ANTONIO — Lawns throughout the Lone Star State are dead and dying. While drought is the main suspect, other forces may be at work, according to Texas AgriLife experts.

"Chinch bugs thrive in hot, dry weather and feed primarily on St. Augustine grass, but can also damage Bermuda and zoysia grass, although this is rare," said Molly Keck, integrated pest management specialist with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Bexar County. "They prefer areas of the lawn that absorb the most heat, like where the grass meets the walkway, driveway or foundation of the house."

Chinch bugs are thought to insert a toxin that kills the grass while they suck out its juices. They feed on stems and nodes near the base of the plant, leaving brown patches that will continue to grow larger if left untreated.

Damage to lawns has been extensive throughout Texas due to the extended drought which has created ideal conditions for the pest to feed and proliferate.

Grown chinch bugs are typically about 0.2 inch long. Adults are black with white wings showing a triangular black mark; immature bugs are wingless and bright to burnt orange with a light-colored horizontal band across their back.

Keck said chinch bug damage often looks like fungal damage — dead grass with a "halo" of yellow grass surrounding the dead spot — so it's important to try and find out if they're present.

One way to check for the pests, she said, is to take an empty can with both ends open, a piece of PVC pipe or other cyl-

USDA

at the USDA Soil Conservation Service, Garcia provided technical guidance to farmers, ranchers and organizations in the planning and implementation of conservation programs. He served as an FSA County Executive Director in Hidalgo, Nolan and Cameron County, Texas, and also as a District Director for both the southern and eastern districts of the state. He holds a bachelor's degree in animal science from Texas A&I University. Garcia was raised on a cotton, grain sorghum and cattle operation in Willacy County.

"My immediate expectation for Texas FSA is delivery of the disaster programs outlined in the 2008 Farm Bill just as soon as these program regulations are confirmed by our national office in Washington, DC. Similarly, I anxiously await release of additional funding for our farm loan programs," said Garcia. "In the very near future, our agency will be poised to offer long-awaited relief to producers suffering from disaster losses and relief to producers who require our lending assistance to remain operational."

For more information about FSA and programs administered by the Agency, visit the national website at [HYPERLINK "http://www.fsa.usda.gov"](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) www.fsa.usda.gov.

inder and work it into the soil so it will hold water in an area of the lawn where the grass is yellowing. "Fill the can with water and after about 10 minutes you should see chinch bugs floating to the top," Keck said.

Lawns infested with chinch bugs can be treated using an insecticide that's labeled for use on the pests, she said.

Some ways of managing lawns to reduce the possibility of chinch bugs include aerating the turf and applying a layer of top dressing, as well as not over-watering, according to other AgriLife Extension experts.

Grub worms also are active during the summer months and into early fall, and their damage is often confused with that caused by chinch bugs, said Dr. James Reinert, an entomologist with Texas AgriLife Research in Dallas.

Reinert said grubs are white, C-shaped, wormlike creatures with three sets of legs and are the larvae of beetles that take flight in May or June, usually following a storm.

"Grubs are one of the biggest problems in lawns throughout Texas," he said. "While chinch bugs feed on the surface of grasses, grubs feed on the root system. If grubs are present, the grass will pull up easily because the anchorage of the plant to the soil has been cut off at the roots."

Without roots to take up moisture and plant nutrients, the grass will brown and die and appear to be under drought stress, Reinert said. Grass damaged by white grubs can be pulled up easily or even rolled up like a carpet, while grass under drought stress remains anchored to the soil and cannot be easily pulled up, even though it is turning yellow or brown.

Dead or dying grass roots will be black or brown, while healthy roots are white, he added.

Reinert said seeing a significant number of May or June beetles flying near a home is a good indication of grubs in that or a neighbor's lawn.

"If you dig into the soil two or so inches deep about three weeks after a major beetle flight, this is the time to look for grubs," he said. "They will be small this time of the year, but if you begin to find four or more per one square foot, they may cause damage to the lawn later in the summer or fall. Damage will depend on the condition of the turf and how well you manage your lawn."

Reinert added that other smaller, straighter and legless wormlike larvae may also be found in Texas lawns.

"These smaller ones are the

larvae of the hunting billbug, which have become more damaging in recent years," he said. "When populations of these insects are high, they can be just as harmful as May or June bug larvae."

Reinert said white grubs too can be treated with an insecticide specifically labeled for use on them.

"If you discover white grubs and are using granular treatment, you need to water it well to push the insecticide down to the target site to kill the grubs where they are feeding on the roots," he said.

While turf grass disease isn't typically a problem in hot, dry weather, it can occur when a lawn is under drought stress, said Daphne Richards, AgriLife Extension horticulturist in Travis County.

"Stress from drought, as well as too little or too much watering, can lead to turf grass disease," Richards said. "A common turf grass disease in the summertime is take-all root rot, a fungal disease that affects mainly St. Augustine lawns, but also Bermuda, zoysia and other turf grasses."

Serious take-all infestations produce large discolored patches, dead roots and significant loss of grass stolons or runners.

"In the summer take-all is common in lawns throughout the state and is often mistaken for a chinch bug infestation or another turf grass disease known as brown patch," Richards said.

But brown patch kills only the leaves, while take-all kills the plant's roots and stolons as well.

"If your lawn gets large yellow or brown spots in the spring, odds are it's take-all; but in the summer it could be something else," she added. "Identifying the real cause can save you time and money."

AgriLife Extension offices in counties throughout Texas have information on sending turf grass samples to the Texas Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in College Station. This is a service lab of Texas A&M University's department of plant pathology and microbiology in conjunction with AgriLife Extension. The fee for routine testing is typically about \$30.

Additionally, researchers continually try to develop new resistant turf grass cultivars, Reinert added, but resistance may wear down over time since the pests are constantly evolving and adapting.

"We are always working on new cultivars of grass that will resist these pests and the other abiotic challenges, including drought and heat stress," he said.

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