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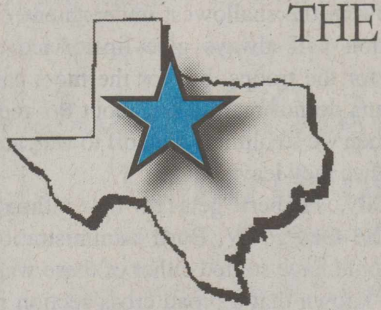
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THE KNOX COUNTY NEWS

PROUDLY SERVING THE KNOX COUNTY AREA

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KNOX COUNTY, TEXAS
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2009

75 CENTS
NUMBER 8

Foursquare Church Celebrates 75 Years of Praise and Worship in Knox City

By TAMARA SMART

Since 1931, when Mrs. Fred Beard and her sister-in-law, Rev. Daisy Beard came to Knox City and met with other believers in Christ in a community schoolhouse named Union Grove, the Foursquare Church has grown exponentially and has always embraced the concept of "Loving God, Loving people".

This weekend, in celebration of 75 years of Foursquare Gospel being preached in Knox City, there was more than a celebration but a family reunion that took place between brethren of faith rather than brothers bound by blood.

On Saturday afternoon, there was a "homecoming" meeting in the church where pastors of the past came and stories were shared about the church throughout the years, the little things that made the congregation a family and the transformation of the land and building from 1932 when Harry Wiltbanks donated the land and Rev. Beard acted as led carpenter to build a tabernacle style building with two Sunday school classes and a baptistery to

the building as it stands in 2009.

Most of those present at the Homecoming story telling Saturday afternoon remembered fondly a couple, Rev. Floyd V and Jewel Bailey, who lead the church from 1940-1943 and again from 1946-1974. During the reminiscing it was said that "no matter how bad your week was, it would all be alright if only you made it to Sunday to have Sister Bailey lay her hands on you." They were remembered for the amazing revivals they held and the extreme amount of people who came to know Christ through their many, many years of devoted service to the Lord.

In 1974 Wink and Karen Shifflet came to Knox City to pastor the congregation. He was remembered for being "committed to God and committed to his wife". Wink, who was present for Sunday morning service, was known for his doctrine in preaching the balance between the power of God and the Scripture. His wife, Karen, was called the "energizer bunny of faith" during the stories from people's memories.



Previous pastors of the Knox City Foursquare Church join current Pastor, Gary Schnable and his wife, Amy and District Supervisor, David Coffey.

The next few years were remembered by Wednesday nights gathered around the piano under Charles and Joyce Moran's leadership, and becoming the "Happy Church with Rev. Stu Miller in the pulpit.

In 1981 through 1985, the congregation was lead by Dave and Nancy Stone. According to those who worshipped at foursquare during that time, "he ministered, she bubbled & loved on the people." They recall that during their adventure in coming to Knox City, God spoke to them, telling them to "love the people and teach the Word" and that is exactly what they did.

In 1986, Rick and Renea Smith ministered to the Foursquare brethren, followed by Brother Lee and

Sister Vonna Walls, who were able to attend the services and pray over the Christian family several times throughout the weekend. In 1993, Farrell Lemings took his place in the pastoral seat of the church. When Rev. Lemings and his wife Sharlot left Knox City in 1995, the missed the community and the sense of brotherhood amongst the congregation and outside the church walls as well that they haven't found anywhere else in their travels.

Dan and Sherrie Limatone followed the Lemings, and in 1997 Paul Chambers (who hosted the Homecoming celebration on Saturday afternoon) became pastor of Foursquare, Knox City. It is said that those who do not love Paul and his wife Sandra have not met them yet.

In 2006, Paul stepped aside as Pastor, and Jody Smith stepped in. In 2007 Dr. Don and Theola Jackson became the pastors of the church. Under Dr. Jackson's leadership, there began a new renovation project on the building of the church which lead to construction on the church allowing it to look as it does today. Dr. Jackson was present at the "Homecoming" on Saturday and spoke of the importance of such festivities because one's "future is anchored in their past."

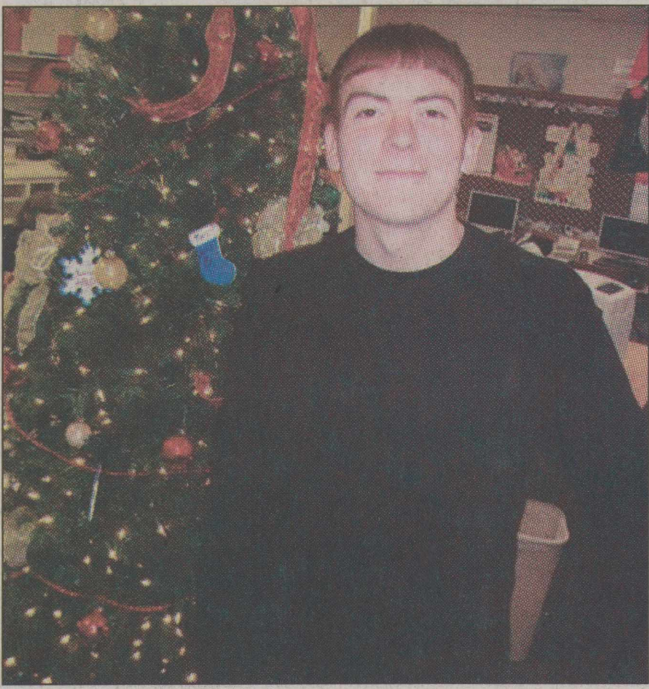
In 2008, Gary and Amy Schnable came to Knox City from Tampa, Florida to pastor the church through the next chapter of it's history. The Schnable's are still presently the pastors at Foursquare and have lead the church through some amazing spiritual

encounters. Gary and Amy are friends to everyone who is blessed enough to know them.

The Church was honored on Sunday morning with a plaque proclaiming the 75 years of Praise and Worship, Foursquare style. The people who attended all went to the Wooden Nickel for a brisket Luncheon and fellowship after the service.

In those 75 years, the Knox City Foursquare Church mission: "... Will meet the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of this diverse community by Loving God and Loving People, being His Hands extended" is a reality known by many and will continue to be a treasure in the Knox County Communities.

Wilburn to Participate in Aerospace Scholar Program



The High School Aerospace Scholar Program is offered to juniors across the state of Texas. Michael Wilburn, a junior at Knox City High School, has been selected to attend this program. Michael was nominated by his high school science teacher, Bob Collins, who stated, "Michael is an outstanding science student and I'm excited that he was chosen to attend this Scholar Program."

Michael, along with other juniors across the state, will complete a variety of assignments dealing with international space station and moon and mars missions. Michael will complete these assignments from December 2009 until May 2010. The assignments will consist of essays, math problems and a quiz over the reading for each lesson. Mrs. Tammie Dillon, Michael's computer teacher, will provide him extra time in her class to work on these studies through a cross curriculum program with Mr. Collins.

NASA selects the students for the summer workshop based on the grades of their assignments. The summer workshop is held at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. While attending this program, Michael will meet and work with NASA employees.

Michael's parents are Michael and Rhonna Wilburn of Knox City.

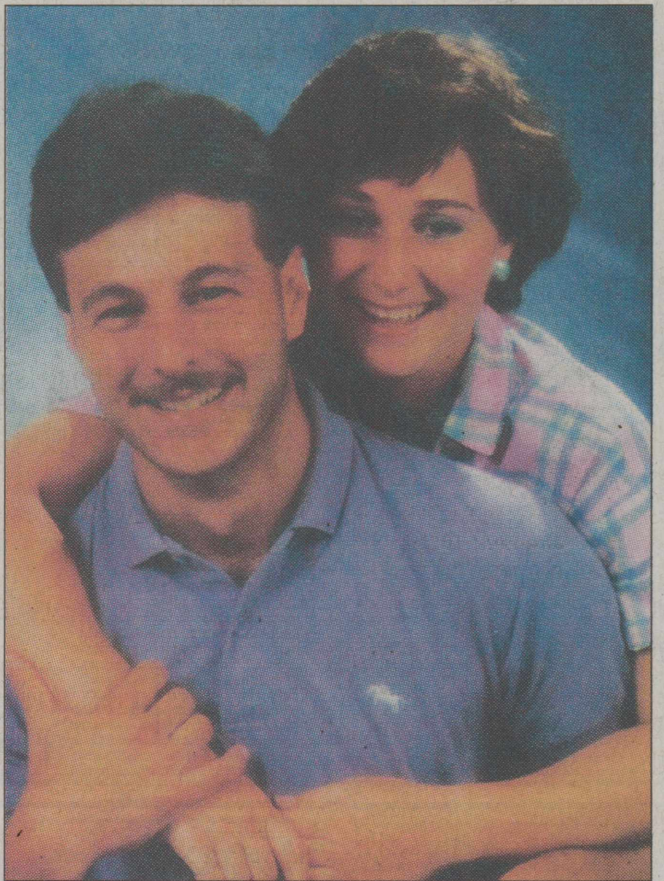
A Love Story in Knox City Celebrates 20 years

By Gary Schnable

The conception of this love story began January 11, 1989 when God introduced us. He gave us the best Christmas gift that same year on December 17 by joining our lives in marriage. This wonderful gift is the gift that only gets better with each year together!

Living a very public life has been wearing at times, still our love and passion for each other has only grown deeper through the years. This passion that flows out of our relationship with Jesus Christ for each other now overflows to our much-loved children. Yes, and this same passion overflows to our very public love story to all people we have shepherded and met ... even when some received it

See LOVE Page 8



LOOKING AHEAD

Department of State Health Services-Vernon will be at the Munday Secondary School from 1:30 to 2:30 and the Munday Elementary from 2:30 to 4:00 on Wednesday, December 16, 2009. They will have the regular flu season immunization as well as the H1N1 immunization available. For more information you may contact DSHS at 940-552-8770 or Rebecca Clark, RN, BSN school nurse by calling any school in our county.

KNOX COUNTY AGING CENTER IS HAVING AN OPEN HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23RD FROM 11 AM TO 1 PM. EVERYONE IS INVITED TO STOP BY AND ENJOY REFRESHMENTS AND VISITING. WE WILL ALSO HAVE THE DRAWING FOR THE QUILT AT THIS TIME.



Knox City Elementary School had it's annual Christmas program on Monday, Dec. 14. The children embraced the spirit of the season and invited us to share a warm holiday. (Photo by Tamara Smart)



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OPINION



Is It Too Easy for America to Go to War?

By Roger Shuler
Cross Posted at Legal Schnauzer

In the aftermath of President Barack Obama's announcement last week that he plans to send 30,000 more U.S. troops to Afghanistan, most Americans probably did not think about an alarming fact: Fewer than 1 percent of us are being called to fight in our current wars, in Afghanistan and Iraq.

New York Times columnist Bob Herbert has thought about it, and he calls it "obscene." Herbert goes on to produce one of the most important and brutally honest op-ed pieces I've read in a long time.

Herbert relates a story that says a lot about how many Americans have come to think about war:

I spoke recently with a student at Columbia who was enthusiastic about the escalation of U.S. forces in Afghanistan. He argued that a full-blown counterinsurgency effort, which would likely take many years and cost many lives, was the only way to truly win the war.

He was a very bright young man: thoughtful and eager and polite. I asked him if he had any plans to join the military and help make this grand mission a success. He said no.

It's easy to be enthusiastic about a war that you know you'll never have to take part in. In fact, most Americans know they won't have to sacrifice at all, and Herbert says that is dangerous for any society:

The air is filled with obsessive self-satisfied rhetoric about supporting the troops, giving them everything they need and not letting them down. But that rhetoric is as hollow as a jazzman's drum because the overwhelming majority of Americans have no desire at all to share in the sacrifices that the service members and their families are making. Most Americans do not want to serve in the wars, do not want to give up their precious time to do volunteer work that would aid the nation's warriors and their families, do not even want to fork over the taxes that are needed to pay

for the wars.

To say that this is a national disgrace is to wallow in the shallowest understatement. The nation will always give lip-service to support for the troops, but for the most part Americans do not really care about the men and women we so blithely ship off to war, and the families they leave behind.

Finally, Herbert gets to the ultimate truth: The George W. Bush administration never would have started either of these wars if it had known that a broad cross-section of Americans would have to sacrifice for it:

The reason it is so easy for the U.S. to declare wars, and to continue fighting year after year after year, is because so few Americans feel the actual pain of those wars. We've been fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan longer than we fought in World Wars I and II combined. If voters had to choose right now between instituting a draft or exiting Afghanistan and Iraq, the troops would be out of those two countries in a heartbeat.

I don't think our current way of waging war, which is pretty easy-breezy for most citizens, is what the architects of America had in mind. Here's George Washington's view, for example: "It must be laid down as a primary position and the basis of our system, that every citizen who enjoys the protection of a free government owes not only a proportion of his property, but even his personal service to the defense of it."

What we are doing is indefensible and will ultimately exact a fearful price, and there will be absolutely no way for the U.S. to avoid paying it.

Shuler lives in Birmingham, Alabama, and works in higher education. I became interested in justice-related issues after experiencing gross judicial corruption in Alabama state courts. This corruption has a strong political component.

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The Paperboy

By Christopher Blackburn

Can we get a refund please?

Did you hear the good news? The recession is over!

The President's top economic advisor, Larry Summers, told ABC's George Stephanopoulos that Sunday on "This Week."

"Everybody agrees that the recession is over," Summers said adding, "by spring employment growth will start turning positive."

I wouldn't go as far as saying "everybody agrees." I'm sure there are plenty of businesses and people without jobs who might disagree with that statement. Anyhow, many economists do indeed say this recession is over, which is great.

The best thing about the recession coming to an end is the fact we have \$200 billion remaining from the original TARP funds approved by Congress in 2008. In addition, there is a whopping \$600 billion remaining in unspent stimulus money. We're talking a total of \$800 billion remaining, and since the recession is over, it doesn't need to be spent, does it?

Ethically, Congress and the White House should have two options since they claim the recession is over:

1. Put the \$800 billion toward paying down the national debt.
2. Give it directly to the taxpayers.

Congress could nearly pay for the giant healthcare reform bill out of it, but that will never happen. In fact, none of the above will ever happen as long as Congress thinks they are playing with their money instead of ours.

Instead of helping the American family by doing something constructive with the \$800 billion, they are going to spend it. They are going to waste it like only they know how.

You can't have it both ways. Either the recession is over and you don't need the remaining money, or the recession is not over and the remaining money should be doing what it was intended for (which changes by the day since their is zero accountability).

On top of finding away to squander nearly a trillion dollars, they are also going to attempt to increase the debt ceiling to \$14 trillion.

Why? Why do they feel the need to do these things?

Overwhelmingly Americans are voicing opposition to this massive spending. A growing number do not want a bill (healthcare) in which you have to pay on for three years before you have access. Would you buy a car you couldn't drive for three years?

Ask yourself this question: Why would a politician guarantee themselves certain defeat by voting in favor of such waste? What is in it for them?

It doesn't make a bit of sense to me. It stinks to high heaven!

Are we really living in a time where our elected officials are so susceptible to payoffs and back room deals that they don't give a damn about the wishes of their constituents?

Need another example of the waste?

Did you know that one year ago there was one person in the U.S. Department of Transportation which made in excess of \$170,000? Today, 1,700 are earning that at least that much.

Want more?

This year in the U.S., the private sector has lost over 7 million jobs. The federal government has added 1.2 million.

The government has expanded dramatically during a recession. That alone should tell us these people are clueless.

Like the economy, politics is local. The American family is rapidly growing tired of being ignored. Just as they did in 2006 when Republicans went off the reservation and in 1994 when Democrats were off base, Americans will toss these people out in droves.

Truthfully, our federal government does not work well when one party is in power of all three branches of government. It never has and it never will.

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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/>.

SUDOKU

7		4	6	5				9
9	5			3	2	6		4
	1							
		1	8			7		3
	7			1	5			
				4	3	1		
			3			8		
	6			2			5	7
4		7			9	3		6

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



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.

Too much sugar for a dime. the temperature drops.

That's another way of saying a \$4.99 "laser" top that promises to deliver infrared light, music and "fast spinning fun for everyone" should probably also say "caveat emptor." I never took Latin, but I know "buyer beware."

These days the morning television shows are telling grandparents which children's toys are the best for Christmas. Parents need not listen; their kids are telling them what's what. But grandparents need help.

Regarding seasonal challenges, it's the time of year when grandparents with farms face other daunting tasks as well, particularly how to keep cows watered. Feeding livestock is winter work too, but it takes more brawn than brain to put out hay or dump sacks of feed. Admittedly, in times past it took both nimble fingers and intellect to pull the proper end of the operable stitched-down string to make those hefty paper feed sacks pop open in one grand unraveling flourish — especially with stampeding cows headed straight for their benefactor, their frosty breaths shooting out both nostrils. But nowadays opening the sacks is easier. What's different is a strip of paper that runs under the stitching. I'll bet somebody almost had to get killed in one of those stampedes to come up with that clever improvement.

If only someone would nearly freeze to death trying to keep stock water from icing. In my mind's eye, I see that unfortunate person hospitalized with frostbite, notebook and pencil in bandaged hands, brow furrowed, devising a cheap smart way to keep the water from freezing solid when

In reality, that scenario has probably happened already. Some anti-icing devices that sort of work have indeed been invented. Otherwise, I wouldn't have been at the farm store last night shopping for a robust extension cord to connect our floating stock tank heater to house current so as to reduce the load on an over-burdened outdoor outlet.

Concurrently, I looked for toys for grandson Cutter, age 3. (As for granddaughter Rylee, 7, alias Hannah Montana for three consecutive Halloweens, the farm store didn't seem like the place to Christmas shop for her.)

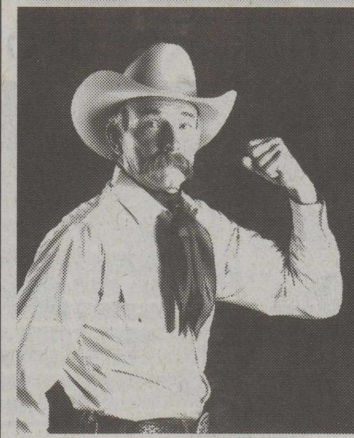
I nearly bought Cutter a \$40 barnyard, but the barn red barn was a Minnesota stereotype, unlike our old corrugated metal barn with rusted roof panels that flap in the wind. Besides, the collection included too many parts to lose or choke on and the cows were tame-looking milkers. Wouldn't Cutter prefer historic stampeding longhorns? Like the ones that still graze our farm?

Then the laser top caught my eye. The package art showed a powerful top cracking planks of wood where it spun, creating swirls of blue, green and red. I should have known anything dubbed "high-tech shooter speedy" was a risky buy.

Sure enough, the flimsy top self-destructed on its third trial spin. Better now than in Cutter's hands Christmas morning.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, a remote-controlled icebreaker top would be nice.

Don't laugh. Necessity could turn out to be the grandmother of invention.



ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

by Baxter Black, DVM

VETERINARY FRUSTRATIONS

In my travels I continue to be amazed by the technologies being used in ranching and feedlot operations. The close monitoring, record keeping and decision-making as a result of implant or ear tag scanning and computer tracking of individual beasts, is fine-tuning and improving our productive efficiency.

But it wasn't always that way. Dr. Darrell is a cow veterinarian and theriogenologist, as am I. We were waxing nostalgic about the good ol' days when, despite our valuable medical opinion and sage advice, we didn't always get the message across!

Darrell told of preg checking a pasture full of dairy heifers in southern Colorado. The farmer, Mario we'll call him, had dumped a few black bulls in with the heifers. About halfway into the bunch Darrell palpated something odd? The heifer he was in had no uterus and no ovaries! To an experienced vet it's as obvious as reaching into your pocket and suddenly finding no car keys!

"This heifer is open," he told Mario, "She's a freemartin." Mario looked puzzled. The good doctor explained at length the congenital conditional, defined hermaphrodite, and the prognosis: She would never be capable of conceiving. He even drew diagrams in the dirt, then suggested that the heifer be put into a feedlot and eaten. Mario nodded seriously, then turned her out of the chute. He instructed his helper, "Put her back in with the bulls, her ovaries haven't come down!"

Darrell continued his tales; he was on an 800-head Nevada cow ranch that had never done preg-checking, his grandpa didn't believe in it. But the young rancher wanted to modernize. Darrell painstakingly explained the importance of culling open cows to prevent Trichomoniasis and improve production. They cut the cattle two ways; Open and Bred. Darrell was not surprised by the 50% conception rate. While he was rinsing out his bucket, he glanced up to see the young rancher mixing the cows back together! The young rancher acknowledged it was good to know how many calves to expect, but Grandpa always said the place would run 800 cows and who could argue with that?

Once, a company I was working for bought a ranch in northern California. I went down to inventory the cows. With the crew I pre checked 2200 head and sorted them into Open, Bred and Old. They had a good set of corrals so I didn't bother to mark them. It took three days. To finalize the deal the boss send down a crusty ol' cattle buyer named Harold. He was experienced, the boss told me. I woke up morning four to find Harold had turned the cows all together and was gate cutting them himself in the long alley! I was stunned, mad and bumfoozled! "I sorted these cows, preg checked and mouthed 'em...it took us three days!" I stammered.

"Sorry, ya wasted yer time, Sonny," he said, "Anybody can tell if they're old. And I can tell if they're bred by the way the hair lays on their back!"

KNOX COUNTY AGING SERVICES MENUS FOR DEC. 21ST TO DEC. 25TH

MONDAY DEC. 21ST
SALSBURY STEAK/GRAVY
MASHED POTATOES
STEAMED BROCCOLI
HOT ROLLS
PUDDING

TUESDAY DEC. 22ND
BEEF/STIR FRY VEGETABLES
RICE
GLAZED CARROTS
GARLIC BREAD
COBBLER

WEDNESDAY DEC. 23RD
STEW
CHEESE SLICES
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THURSDAY DEC. 24TH & 25TH
CLOSED FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
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ORDERS CANT BE TAKEN AFTER 10 A.M. AND NEED TO BE PICKED UP AFTER 11 A.M.

KCHS Home Economics Class Baking for Kaegen

The KCHS Home Economics students recently took orders for a benefit bake sale to help with expenses for Kaegen Lowe, the seven year-old grandson of Bob and Nikki Collins and Mack and Martha Lowe. Kaegen's parents, Amber and Matthew Lowe are both graduates of KCHS. Kaegen suffered a stroke, but is making an amazing recovery.

During the week of December 7 - 11, the Home Ec students baked from scratch and delivered 98 pies and cakes. As a result of this monumental effort, the students have raised \$1000.00 to help with Kaegen's expenses. Mrs. Adkisson and her students would like to take this opportunity to thank the Knox City community and surrounding towns for their overwhelming support in this endeavor. Without your generosity, this would not have been possible.

Thanks for Reading



Prices Good Thru 12/26/09

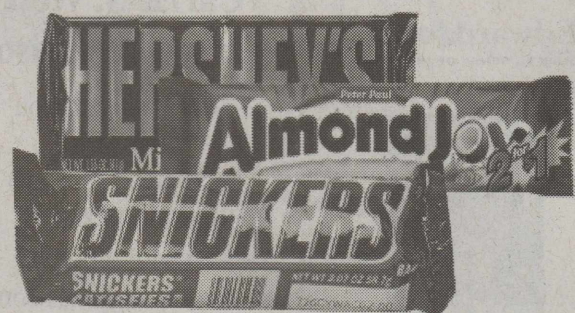


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- SHURFINE LARGE EGGS DOZEN **\$1.29**
- GOLD MEDAL FLOUR 5 LB. PKG. **2 FOR \$5.00**
- FOLGERS COFFEE 33.9 OZ. **\$6.99**
- ALLSUP'S SANDWICH BREAD 24 OZ. / 79¢ OR **2 FOR \$1.29**
- ALLSUP'S WHEAT BREAD 24 OZ. / 99¢ OR **2 FOR \$1.49**
- COLORTEX BATHROOM TISSUE 4 ROLL PKG. **99¢**
- COLORTEX MOPPER TOWELS SINGLE ROLL PKG. **99¢**
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- ALLSUP'S WATER 16.9 OZ. BOTTLES CASE **\$3.99**
- REYNOLDS ALUMINUM FOIL 30 FEET **\$1.79**
- CHINET PAPER PLATTER 12 CT. PKG. **\$2.99**

Combo Meals

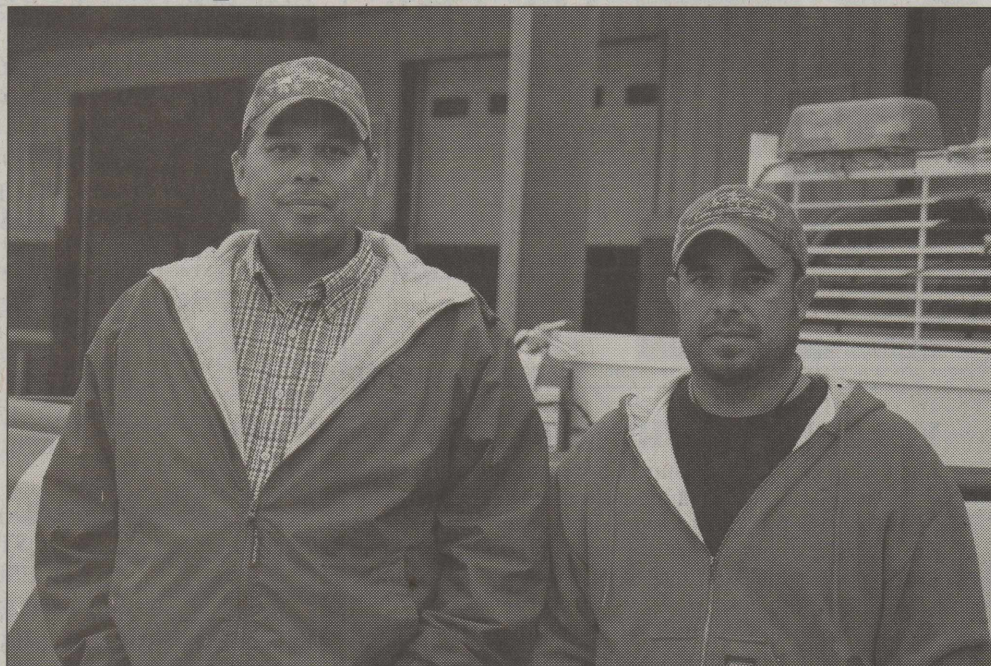
- #1 BACON/EGG BISCUIT & 16 OZ. COFFEE \$2.09**
- #2 SAUSAGE/EGG BISCUIT & 16 OZ. COFFEE \$2.09**
- #3 BBQ SANDWICH & 32 OZ. TALLSUP \$2.09**
- #4 HOMESTYLE POPCORN CHICKEN & 32 OZ. TALLSUP \$2.79**
- #5 SPICY POPCORN CHICKEN & 32 OZ. TALLSUP \$2.79**
- #6 3 TAMALES, HOWLERS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP \$2.69**
- #7 2 HOT LINKS WITH BREAD & 32 OZ. TALLSUP \$2.59**
- #8 2 CORN DOGS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP \$2.69**
- #9 CHIMICHANGA & 32 OZ. TALLSUP \$2.49**
- #10 2 BEEF & BEAN BURRITOS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP \$2.69**

TxDot Drivers Compete in Annual Truck Rodeo

CHILDRESS—The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) recently held their annual Truck Rodeo at the TxDOT District Office facility in Childress. Each of our highly-trained truck operators take part in this yearly show of driving skills as a fun way to measure themselves against their fellow employees, and as a way to sharpen their driving skills. This makes them more safe, and efficient drivers when they are out on state highways serving you, the traveling public.

Drivers competed in several obstacle course-style maneuvers. They were scored on how proficient they are in making it through the course. The drivers with the top scores made it to our district "Rodeo," and the top-two winners there went on to the state-wide competition.

Leno Hernandez and Joe Bejar were the high scoring



Leno Hernandez, left and Joe Bejar of Knox County Maintenance.

individuals for the Knox County Maintenance section and competed in the district rodeo-finals.

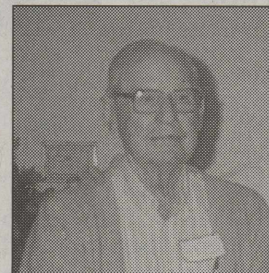
At the district rodeo finals, Monte Elliott, Cottle County Maintenance and Shawn Elliott, Motley

County Maintenance came away with the top two highest scores and competed in the State Rodeo Finals in Austin. Monte placed 6th and Shawn placed 17th overall.

Our truck drivers are the best in the state and they

prove it on a daily basis as they serve motorists within TxDOT's Childress District. TxDOT's mission is to work cooperatively to provide safe, effective and efficient movement of people and goods.

Obituaries



Clyde A. Voss

Clyde A. Voss, 94, of Knox City passed away Saturday evening. Graveside services will be held at 3 pm Tuesday, December 15, 2009, at the Knox City Cemetery under the direction of Mansell Smith Funeral Home.

Mr. Voss was born on December 5, 1915 in Lingerville, TX. He moved to Knox City as a child and was a farmer. He married Velma Henry in 1934 and she preceded him in death in November, 2008. Clyde was a

election Judge for many years and was awarded Citizen of the year award in 2007, by the Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the First Baptist Church.

Survivors include a son, Ronald Voss and wife Karen of San Antonio; a daughter Glenna Hudson of Knox City; two brothers Howard Voss of Munday and John Voss of Jacksonville Florida; a sister Leola Stockton of Knox City; five grandchildren Matt Voss, Paul Voss, David Benson, LeAnn Golden, and Marilyn Maberry and nine great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife and several brothers and sisters.

The family asks that donations be made to Knox County Aging Center, Knox City, TX 79529

Rochester Woman's Club News

The Rochester Woman's club met in the home of Sharon and Dolan Brinson for our Annual Christmas luncheon and program on December 2, 2009. Jan Short gave the treasury report.

The leader for the day was Verlene Stegemoeller. Verlene read "eh Christmas Story" from the bible. Verlene also read "The Littlest Angel." It is a cute story that she has read to her grandchildren every Christmas season. Modelle Barton read a letter written by her niece for a newspaper article in which she won a prize. It was a true story "Love through the eyes of a Child". All stories were beautiful and gave the true meaning of what the season is all about. After singing several songs and the program, everyone agreed it was a great way to start off Christmas season. Mrs. Brinson told us that hosting the Club's Christmas luncheon and party made her get on the call and get her home decorated. We enjoyed having our party at the Brinson home since it is decorated throughout and very beautiful.

Those attending were Modelle Barton, Elaine Glover, Mary Anna Johnston, Gerri Newberry, Jo Evelyn Patterson, Jane Short, Betty Thompson, Verlene Stegemoeller and guests Karen Byrd, Betty Ruth White and hostess Sharon Brinson. Again, we thank the Brinson's for opening up their home to us.

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

ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP -

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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.

WEINERT FOURSQUARE CHURCH

Rob Harrison, Pastor
Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

MUNDAY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Adrian Fletcher, Pastor

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Eat This!

By RYAN MILLS

I have received numerous recipe submissions lately and I'm going to eventually get to them all.

It's hard to beat Mexican food and a little spice when the weather has been frigid like it has been this week.

One of my readers, Sue Parker in Wellington, submitted some recipes a while ago and I put them in my desk. Where I promptly forgot about them. If you've seen my desk then you know that it is not the safest place to put things I need. The top of it is a wreck, but the inside makes the top look like the Sistine Chapel.

Anyway, with apologies to Sue, today is a Texas Tortilla Bake from her kitchen. Thanks and keep your recipes coming.

Texas Tortilla Bake Ingredients

3 lbs. lean ground beef
2 large onions, diced
2 (14.5 oz.) cans Mexican style stewed tomatoes
2 (10 oz.) cans enchilada sauce

1 (16 oz.) loaf of Velveeta, chunked
4 tsp. cumin
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. pepper
4 cups Nacho Cheese Doritos, crushed
2 (3 oz.) packages cream cheese, softened
16 (8 inch) tortillas
2 (4.5 oz.) cans fire-roasted green chiles
2 cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese

Directions

Brown ground beef and onion in a large skillet until meat crumbles and is no longer pink. Drain. Stir in tomatoes, enchilada sauce, Velveeta, cumin, salt and pepper. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until cheese melts. Set aside.

Place crushed Doritos in two greased 13x9x2 baking dishes. Spoon 2/3 beef mixture over Doritos.

Spread cream cheese evenly on one side of the tortillas. Fold tortillas in half

See EAT THIS page 8

Edward Jones

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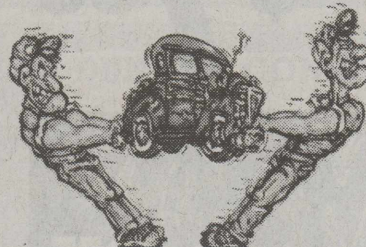
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God's Promises

By Jim Reid, Pastor O'Brien Baptist

I heard an interesting expression the other day, "God put you in my way". The context of the statement is that you become God's will in my life. This is a wonderful revelation of God working in our lives through other people. If we take just a moment to realize how many people, "God puts in our way", we can come to understand the will of God in our lives. Why would God put so many people in our way?

God speaks from His Holy Word saying, "We love, because He first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also. (1 John 4: 19-21 NASB).

We are to love so that we may express the love of God to all; to everyone whom, "God puts in our way". A five year old boy in our church said it so well yesterday, "God loves everyone, even bad people, but He doesn't love what they do."

I pray for all of us this week that we will practice the love of God to everyone we meet. We want to be mindful that, "God put you in my way".

Thanks for Reading

"We Take Wooden Nickels"

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The Classifieds

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Sacrifice - \$269 - Brand Name King Pillow top Mattress Set. New in plastic, warranty 325-428-9172

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Water and dirt for sale- 658-3092, 658-9807 or 256-0182.

For Sale- 2004 Dodge Pickup. \$12,500. Call Tina at 940-256-4741.

Services

Leaf Removal Service- Will rake, haul and take care of your autumn leaf problems/needs! Call Sam at 940-658-4447 or 940-256-5187.

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8	6	3	4	2	1	9	5	7
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House for Sale

For sale: 307 NE 2nd St. Knox City 2BR, 1 Ba, Large Spacious Corner Lot. 940-657-4146

For Sale: Completely Remodeled Farm House; 2 Br, 1 Bath. Central AC/Heat, Hardwood & Tile flooring. 2.1 Acres fenced. 4 miles north of Knox City. CR 1213, 1/4 mile west. Call 940-256-0362.

House for Sale - 210 East Ivy Benjamin, TX - 3 bdr, 2 bath, master bath has garden tub and walk-in shower, living room, kitchen, dining room, utility room, ch/a. Can be moved, for more information call 940-256-0890.

Legal Notice

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

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


Legal Notice

A sealed bid was received for the following property: Parcel number # 6742, account 00600-00020-001400-000000 further described as being, lot 17-18 & N 50' 15-16 in Block 25, Orig, Knox City, Knox County Texas. The Knox County Appraisal District, acting as trustee for the taxing units is offering this property for a sealed bid to all interested parties. Sealed bids may be sent to Knox County Appraisal District, PO Box 47, Benjamin Texas 79505, along with cashiers check or money order for the amount of the sealed bid. Please put the parcel number on the outside of the envelope of the sealed bid. The taxing unit, owners of the property, reserve the right to reject all sealed bids. If your bid is rejected, you cashiers check or money order will be returned. Sealed bids will be opened and considered at least quarterly. For further information please contact the Knox County Appraisal District at the above address or phone: (940) 459-3891.

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United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center
Knox City, TX

2009 Weekly Weather Report

Date	Temperature (F), Low / High	Rainfall inches
12/07	28/36	
12/08	30/62	.02
12/09	18/38	
12/10	18/46	
12/11	33/50	
12/12	44/63	
12/13	44/70	
Total Rainfall for month		.57
2009 Rainfall (ytd)		22.61



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201 Central Ave: 3 BR brick home, CH/AC, wood burning stove, new paint & flooring, big kitchen, living room dining room combination, lots of storage inside and out. Water well, cellar, 3 car carport, metal roof, mature trees and located on 4 lots. Ready for immediate occupancy.

701 NE 3rd Street 2000+/- sq ft frame home. 4 BR, 2Ba, CH/AC, metal roof.

609 S. Ave E: Split Level 4 BR, 3 Ba, Brick home. C H/AC, Fireplace, Master Suite, basement, pool, fenced yard, great location!

1105 SE 5th St: 3BR, 2 Ba, CH/AC, frame house, steel siding, mature trees, large yard, good neighborhood.

1109 SE 4th St.: 2BR frame home. CH/AC, Siding, corner lot.

1202 SE 4th St: 2 BR frame home, new roof, steel siding.

604 SE 4th St: 3 BR, 2B, Brick home, CH/AC, garage, great location. Needs work! Make an offer!

405 SE 3rd St: 1400+/- sq ft frame home. Large front porch, basement, tall ceilings, original moldings.

501 SE 3rd St.: Large brick home located on corner lot, CH/AC, 2 or 3 BR, 2 ba. Detached garage, fenced yard.

200 South 2nd St.: Large 3BR, 3 Ba, Brick home. This home features 2 master Bedrooms! Walk in Closets, CH/AC, 2 Living areas, fireplace, covered patio, plus size 2 car garage, water well, fenced yard, new paint, lots of space, lots of storage! Great neighborhood.

904 Central Ave: 3Br, 1.5Ba brick home. CH/AC, bonus room, large kitchen, storm shelter.

Grand Central Avenue O'Brien: 1800+/- sq ft brick home. CH/AC, 2 living areas, 4 BR, 3 Ba, large carport, fenced yard, cellar, great closets!

1101 E Main St: Large commercial bldg, 4000 +/- sq ft, CH/AC, new roof, lots of parking, kitchen, bathrooms, ADA compliant, and more. Lots of potential for different uses! Ready for occupancy!

Country home: Rustic, Split level, 5 BR, 4.5 Ba, brick home. Very secluded, located on private road 4222. CH/AC, 2 car garage, fireplace, new flooring, new paint, new roof, indoor heated pool, great patio area, large fenced yard, large trees, and more!

Country Home with 6+/- Acres: Located on FM 1292, 2 Story, 4 BR, 3.5 Ba, 2 living areas, CH/AC. Large Master Suite with loads of closet and storage space, sunken Jacuzzi tub, wonderful windows. 6 car carport, huge 2nd floor deck, great patio, outside storage, large tank, great yard! Paved driveway, water well, large trees, and so much more...A great home for family living and entertaining large groups.

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\$106 MONTH BUYS land for RV/motor home/house, pier, boat ramp, pool, clubhouse, gated entry, on Lake Fork. \$690 down (\$6900/10.91%/7yr) Guaranteed financing. 1-214-696-2315

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BENJAMIN NEWS

By Gladene Green

Time is winding down to Christmas. Is everyone ready? I'm afraid I'm not but it will be here whether we are prepared or not. The cold weather the last few days hampered many from shopping & other outside activities. Maybe if warmer days show up we can begin to make progress. Let's hope so!

It's so good to report that we have no serious illness in the community tonight. We are so thankful for that. So have a report on a former resident. Mary Rainwater who was seriously injured in an automobile accident a couple weeks ago. Mary is in rehab now & looks like she's gonna be o.k. Has a halo which she will have for 3 mos. & drs. hope after that time, she will be showing even more signs of improvement. It will be that long before they determine if surgery will be necessary. She (& her family are praying that surgery can be avoided. She's still in Harris in Ft. Worth but hopes to be released by the weekend.

Mary feels very blest as the type injury she had to her neck & spine is usually paralyzing. Please continue to pray for her as she recovers.

Ball News

It was tournament weekend & lots of good basketball was played in Hamlin. The girls won Thurs. And Fri & played Throckmorton for 1st on Sat. They lost that game so were awarded 2nd place. The boys won on Fri then lost their last game to Roscoe. Think the tournaments are over. Patton Springs comes here Tues. nite for a non-district game. And on Fri nite, they play Rule at Rule.

Here N There

Sympathy to the family of Clyde Voss today. Clyde passed away on Saturday night at Knox Co. Hospital after being in failing health for quite sometime. Clyde was my friend & a friend of many others. He will be greatly missed by everyone. Graveside rites will be Tues at 3 p.m. at Knox City Cemetery.

The community Christmas program was held tonight (Sun) at the Methodist Church. Youth from all 3 churches in town took part in the program. Tib Burnett also did a Christmas program & Jess Jones did a beautiful rendition of "O Holy Night". It was a good program & those responsible for getting it together- Pam Duke, Nancy McGreger, Kathy Rainwater, Mitzi Welch & Dawn Vanderpol- did an excellent job co-ordinating it. Refreshments & fellowship followed.

Gloria West & her daughter Betty Parker of Aspermont attended the West reunion in Merkel during the weekend.

Donnie & Barbara Ryder told me a funny story and I thought it was worth passing on. His family honored him with a birthday party recently but forgot to tell him! Think everyone thought the other one was doing the inviting & ended up no one did! So the family "partied" & Donnie got a year older, whether he was there or not- (So you see, not just us "old folks" get mixed up at times. That's some consolation to us!) Donnie got a big laugh out of the whole thing.

Debbie Clower had a little accident, (Well, not a little one- pretty well totaled her car) last week. Couldn't help hitting a dog & the way it hit did all sorts of damage underneath the car. So she's waiting for insurance, etc. Not good news, but thankfully she wasn't injured.

Texas Crop And Weather Report

COLLEGE STATION - - Cold weather, in some instances accompanied by drizzling rain, came to much of Texas, temporarily delaying harvests, according to Texas AgriLife Extension Service personnel.

In most instances, the cold put the handbrake on warm-season grass growth, their reports stated. Where it came, the moisture was for the most part welcome, and added to November rains, greened up winter pastures.

However, as with anything in Texas' diverse agriculture, what's a silver lining for some is just a dark, storm cloud for others. In many areas, planting of winter pastures was delayed by wet field conditions. Now, with overcast skies and cooler temperatures, the growth of already planted pastures has been slowed.

Collin County, like much of North Central Texas, has had a particularly hard time with too much of a good thing, said Rick Maxwell, that county's AgriLife Extension agent for agriculture.

"We estimate that only about 30 percent of our total small-grain acreage was planted for both wheat and oats," Maxwell said. "Only about 30 percent of the acreage planted to winter pasture was planted also because of the wet fall. Acreage that was in corn last year that would have been planted to wheat this fall will probably be planted back to corn or possibly grain sorghum."

Southwest Texas also received wet weather, but vegetable crops are doing fine this year, said Dr. Larry Stein, an AgriLife Extension horticulturist based in Uvalde who works closely with fruit and vegetable growers.

"The wet weather hasn't really hurt the growth; it just hindered the harvest," Stein said. "The quality is excellent. Cabbage quality is excellent. Spinach quality is excellent. The one thing that hurt us a little was the cold snap a few weeks ago that hurt the spinach, but it recovered and we're actively cutting right now."

Stein said producers are switching to growing baby leaf spinach to meet market demands. About 3,000 acres of fresh spinach grown in a year is harvested in the winter in his region. About the same acreage in spinach is grown for processing. Average yields are between 20 to 26 tons per acre.

"I'd encourage people to buy spinach," Stein said. "The quality is outstanding."

Stein noted that there's never been a problem with E. coli on Texas-grown spinach.

"Our spinach has always been perfectly fine," he said. "We've hand-harvested the stuff for years, but recently we've strictly gone to machine harvesting. Now we're doing an even better job of harvesting it and keeping it clean. I don't think we're ever going to see an issue in our part of the world."

The following summaries were compiled by AgriLife Extension district reporters:

CENTRAL: Two hard freezes finished off what was left of warm-season grasses. The cold weather required ranchers to increase supplemental feeding of livestock. Soils were drying out. A few producers still had to harvest a significant portion of their cotton. Pecans were dropping.

COASTAL BEND: Temperatures were below normal with light rainfall. Some fields were drying out, limiting the planting of wheat. Pastures were hit hard by sleet, snow and a hard freeze. Livestock producers continued to provide hay and supplemental protein.

EAST: Scattered showers fell across the region. Temperatures were much cooler and many areas received their first hard frost. Pastures in some areas were hard to get into, preventing producers from planting winter forages in time. Livestock were in fair to good condition with ranchers providing supplemental feed. Feral hog activity slowed but continued to be a problem.

FAR WEST: The pecan harvest was delayed earlier in the month by seven to nine days because of rain and a snow, but was in full swing again. Alfalfa and fall-planted onions went dormant. Cotton fields were being plowed under in preparation for next season. Growers were irrigating winter wheat. Rangeland and pastures are primed for another wildfire season.

NORTH: Soil moisture ranged from adequate to surplus. There was light rain and very cold temperatures, as low as in the teens in some instances, with frost in some areas. AgriLife personnel estimated that only about 30 percent of the total wheat and oats acreage had been planted because of the wet fall. Acreage that was in corn last year and that would have been planted to wheat this fall will probably be planted back to corn or grain sorghum. With all the wet weather, already planted winter pastures and small grains did not look good. Fields were muddy in some counties. Range conditions were also deteriorating due to the wet conditions. Hay supplies were limited, but livestock remained in good condition with supplemental feeding by producers in full swing.

ROLLING PLAINS: Temperatures dropped to the lower teens, with highs ranging from the upper 20s to low 30s. The freezing temperatures were expected to stop the wheat rust problems some producers had. Over the past three months,

most of the district received less than 2 inches of rain, with most of that coming in November. With the lack of moisture and an abundance of dried and dead forage grasses, producers were beginning to worry about wildfires. The sunny, dry days were favorable for the harvesting of cotton, and only about 20 percent of the crop remained unharvested. Yields were above average, which surprised to most producers due to dry weather. Ranchers were providing supplemental feed to livestock on a daily basis, but without moisture, many won't be able to avoid culling herds in the coming winter months. Stocker cattle turned out for grazing in wheat pastures were looking good, but wheat growers also needed moisture. The pecan harvest was ongoing, but quality was fair at best this year due to nuts not filling.

SOUTH: Soil moisture levels were mostly adequate in the northern, eastern and southern parts of the region. In the western parts of the region, soil moisture levels were mostly short. A freeze caused rangeland and pastures to brown out throughout most of the region. Temperatures in the northern part of the region dropped to 25 degrees, affecting perennial grasses and a lot of other vegetation. In the eastern part of the region, a slow, steady 2 inches of rain filled stock tanks and improved subsoil moisture. Hay remained in short supply. Peanut harvesting slowed due to wet conditions and a lack of sunshine to dry peanuts that had already been dug up. Young spinach seemed to have escaped any severe damage from the strong freeze. Harvesting spinach for processing was expected to begin soon. The harvesting of sugarcane, citrus and vegetables continued. Fall pepper plants were a total loss from the hard freeze. However, tomato plants were expected to recover and harvesting should resume in two weeks. Livestock producers increased supplemental feeding. Cattle remained in fair to good condition.

SOUTH PLAINS: A high temperature of 25 degrees early in the week was followed with a low of 13 degrees. Freezing fog and drizzle turned into a mixture of snow and rain. That was followed by winds gusting up to 50 mph and blowing dust. Soil moisture was short to adequate. The cotton harvest was nearly completed with some gins expected to complete operations by Christmas. Winter wheat continued to mature. Pastures and rangelands were in poor to fair condition. The cold weather stressed livestock, and ranchers continued to provide them with supplemental feed.

SOUTHEAST: Top soils were saturated. Rye and oat stands were in favorable condition. Only 20 percent of fall-bedding work on crop fields has been completed. Rain continued to fill ponds. Some pastures remained in poor shape from overgrazing and the lack of fertilization. Ryegrass pastures seemed to be doing well. Cattle were maintaining their condition. There was a shortage of hay in some counties because of the summer drought.

SOUTHWEST: Continued drizzling rain improved soil moisture level but delayed vegetable harvests. Low light levels because of clouds and fog slowed plant growth. Most vegetable crops escaped serious injury from a freeze on Dec. 5. Stemphylium leaf blight was reported in some spinach and lettuce fields, but horticulturists reported it was from switching to new production systems, and the problem was soon under control. The pecan harvest was nearly complete. Growers were preparing land for potato planting.

WEST CENTRAL: A cold front brought below-freezing temperatures for several days. Field activity was slowed or halted due to the weather. Wheat continued to do very well. The cotton harvest was under way and was expected to be completed by mid-January. Livestock producers increased supplemental feeding because of the cold and dry conditions.

Texas Mutual Encourages Public to Follow Holiday Fire Safety Tips

AUSTIN— Between December 24 and December 26, deaths, injuries and dollar losses caused by fires increase an average of 50 percent, 61 percent and 43 percent, respectively, according to the U.S. Fire Administration. Texas Mutual Insurance Company, the state's leading provider of workers' compensation insurance, encourages the public to follow these tips to reduce the chances of fire during the holidays.

Holiday lights: Do not overload electrical circuits. Follow manufacturer guidelines for the number of light strands connected to each other. Do not use multiple-plug adapters to increase the number of items you can connect to a standard electrical outlet.

Inspect all electrical items before you use them. On light strands, look for broken or cracked light sockets, frayed or bare wires and loose connections. Make sure the ground prong on three-prong plugs is in place.

If you use electrical cords or lights outside, make sure they are rated for outdoor use.

Trees: Make sure live trees are fresh, with no brown needles or dry limbs. Give them plenty of water.

Spray live trees with a fire retardant. Tree vendors and local home improvement stores usually carry fire-retardant spray.

Check the box and the safety tag on artificial trees to make sure they are flame-resistant. Do not place light strands on metallic trees.

Do not place trees near fireplaces, furnaces, candles or other sources of heat: Also, avoid placing trees near room exits. If the tree catches on fire, you may not be able to get out.

Open flames: Place candles in holders that will not tip over, and keep them away from drapes, trees and other flammable objects.

Put candles out before you leave home or go to bed. Have a professional chimney sweep inspect your fireplace annually, before you use it.

Light fires with kindling and wooden matches only. Do not use flammable liquids.

Always use a fireplace screen.

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Knox City/O'Brien CISD Livestock Show to be held Sunday Jan 10

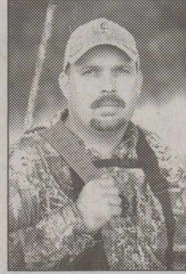
Knox City O'Brien CISD Livestock show will take place on Sunday Jan. 10 at the Knox City Ag Farm. The show is open to Knox City Youth 4-h and FFA members enrolled in Knox City- O'Brien schools. Exhibitors need to be at the Swine Barn at the Knox City Ag Farm by 2:30 p.m. It is important that you know

the weight of your animal before you get to the show in order to turn in your weights for entry. Weight cards will be provided.

There will be classes for pigs, goats and rabbits. If you have questions you may contact Mr. Nelson at 940-657-5171. Show will begin around 3:00 p.m.

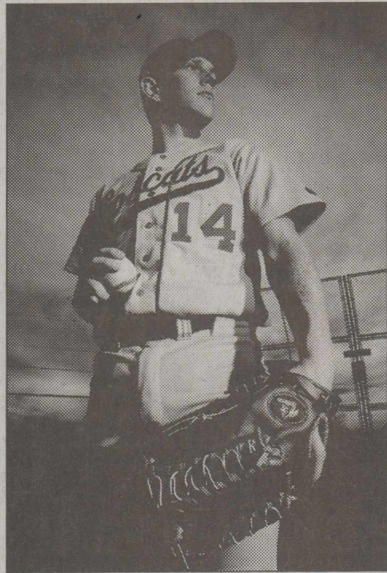
Russell Graves Outdoors Rebirth of a Legend

By Russell A. Graves



When I walked into the Nokona Athletic Goods Company's baseball glove factory in Nocona, Texas, my career as a baseball player had come full circle.

Twenty-four years ago, I was named catcher of the newly formed Dodd City High School baseball team. One of my first orders of business was to prepare my gear. Coach Reed gave me a brand-new Nokona catcher's mitt and told me to have it ready for the season. For weeks, I oiled the glove and would throw a ball into it, trying to break in the leather. Living way out in the country, I didn't always have someone with whom to play catch, so for hours at a time, I'd throw the baseball on the roof of our barn and catch it as it rolled off the eaves—all in preparation for opening day.



All those memories came flooding back as I walked through the front doors of the Nokona factory. Rob Storey, president and chief executive of the company, was my personal tour guide.

It was a tour that almost did not happen. A fire back in July of 2006 destroyed the company's nearly 80-year-old factory building and warehouse. Fortunately, workers were able to save many of the artifacts that trace the history of the company—and of the sport with which it is so closely identified.

Cad McCall, a local banker, started the business in 1926. "At first, the company made purses, but due to the Great Depression, the company had to change its offerings," Storey said. In 1934, Nokona's first glove was released. When the company applied for a patent for its baseball gloves, the United States Patent Office wouldn't allow the town's name to be attached to the patent, so a "K" took the place of the "C" in Nocona.

For more than 70 years, the company quietly produced handmade gloves in its old, brick factory just a couple of blocks west of downtown. Nokona has been a mainstay of the local economy and one of Nocona's major employers.

"One of the company's guiding principles is to provide jobs for American workers," Storey beamed. "The company's commitment to that principle is what's allowed us to stay in Nocona while other American glove companies have moved their production overseas."

The Nokona brand, a staple of youth baseball and softball clubs, has occupied a modest but comfortable niche in the American baseball world. But a recent aggressive growth plan brought new investors into the fold. The injection of cash spurred ambitious plans for the company. A marketing campaign, along with the signing of the Chicago Cubs' Todd Walker (now with the Oakland A's organization) as an endorser, poised the company for growth.

The fire threatened this progress, consuming the building within a few hours. But the dies (tools used to create pieces of the gloves), which had been around since the company was formed, were salvaged, as was some memorabilia and critical computer data.

"In the end, the fire burned down the factory but not the company," Storey said.

Within days after losing its building, the company announced plans to rent 20,000 square feet at the former Nokona Boot Factory on the eastern edge of town. Back orders had grown to 10,000. Just shy of two months after the fire, the first glove was produced and presented to then-New York Yankees Manager Joe Torre. While many CEOs would view a devastating fire as a setback, Storey sees it as a way to become bigger and better.

"We are continuing to market the company heavily and have signed even more major leaguers to represent our gloves. The fire destroyed our plant, but our two most valuable assets—our employees and the Nokona name—survived."

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

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Galileo and Aristotle



Paul Derrick Stargazer

Four hundred years ago, an Italian mathematician named Galileo Galilei unwittingly made a dramatic career change when he turned his new telescope skyward and became the world's first telescopic astronomer.

But Galileo didn't merely marvel at the never-before seen sights in the night sky. He gave serious, and often ingenious thought, to what he saw, and began making discoveries and inferences that profoundly changed our view of the cosmos and our place in it, and in so doing, firmly affixed his lauded place in history.

The 17th century scholarly view of the cosmos was still dominated by the teachings of the Greek philosopher Aristotle (384-322 BCE). And many of his ideas about the nature of things, being more akin to beliefs and conjectures than observation-based science, came to be incorporated into the dogma of Christian

religion. Thus, in both academia and the church, Aristotle's world view carried great weight for the better part of two millennia.

The Aristotelian view saw the Earth and all things earthly as composed of four substances: earth, water, air, and fire. Thus the things of our world -- the realm of imperfect humans -- were imperfect, changing, and subject to death and decay.

All heavenly bodies beyond Earth were composed of a substance not found on Earth called aether (or quintessence) which was perfect, eternal, and unchanging -- indeed, godly. Heavenly things were perfectly round with perfectly smooth surfaces; the eternal heavens were fixed and unchanging; and with Earth at the center of the universe, all heavenly objects orbited Earth in perfectly circular orbits.

It was probably not his original intent, yet Galileo and his telescope began to dismantle this world view piece by piece. Each discovery seemed to refute a key element of the Aristotelian view, and in so doing, challenged the official teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, ultimately getting Galileo in big

trouble.

In December 1609, Galileo began his study of the heavens by focusing first on the Moon. Next time, we'll see what he found and which part of Aristotle's world view took the first hit.

[Much of the above information is from Stephen P. Maran and Laurence A. Marshall's highly recommended book, Galileo's New Universe, which was recently reviewed in this column; my Web site contains an archive of previous columns.]

Sky Calendar.

* Dec. 13 Sun. all night: The Geminid meteor shower peaks with no Moon interference.

* 16 Wed.: The Moon is new.

* 20 Sun. evening: The crescent Moon is below Jupiter tonight and above it tomorrow evening.

* 21 Mon.: Winter solstice, the Northern Hemisphere's first day of winter and shortest day of year after which days begin lengthening for six months.

* 22 Tue. all night: The Ursid meteor shower peaks with the best viewing after the Moon sets around 11 p.m.

* 24 Thu.: The Moon is at 1st quarter.

Thornberry Votes against H.R. 4173

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Congressman Mac Thornberry (TX-13) today issued the following statement after the House voted to pass H.R. 4173, a 1,200-plus page bill that will give the government more control and fundamentally remake the U.S. economy:

"This 1200-plus page bill continues the 'Washington-knows-best approach' to anything and everything. It would be breathtaking if we were not already breathless from the global warming, health care, and massive spending bills. It follows the same path of unprecedented and unimaginable government control over the economy and our lives.

"I believe that we

should update our financial regulatory structure to reflect changes in our economy and to create jobs by ending the bailouts, reforming the Federal Reserve, protecting consumers without limiting access to credit, and strengthening anti-fraud enforcement. Instead, this bill creates a permanent bailout fund, invents a 'Credit Czar,' and expands the powers of the Federal Reserve, which will do nothing to fix the economy or create jobs.

"Government needs to remove itself from bailing out private businesses, running industry, and its heavy-handed reach into

our lives. Only then will the incentive to work, to build, and to innovate return and our economy will rise again," Congressman Thornberry concluded.

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God could not have wrapped up beauty in a more wonderful way, accented with that amazing smile and those beautiful blue eyes that radiate especially when the distractions are removed! You are my dream come true!

I love you Amy!

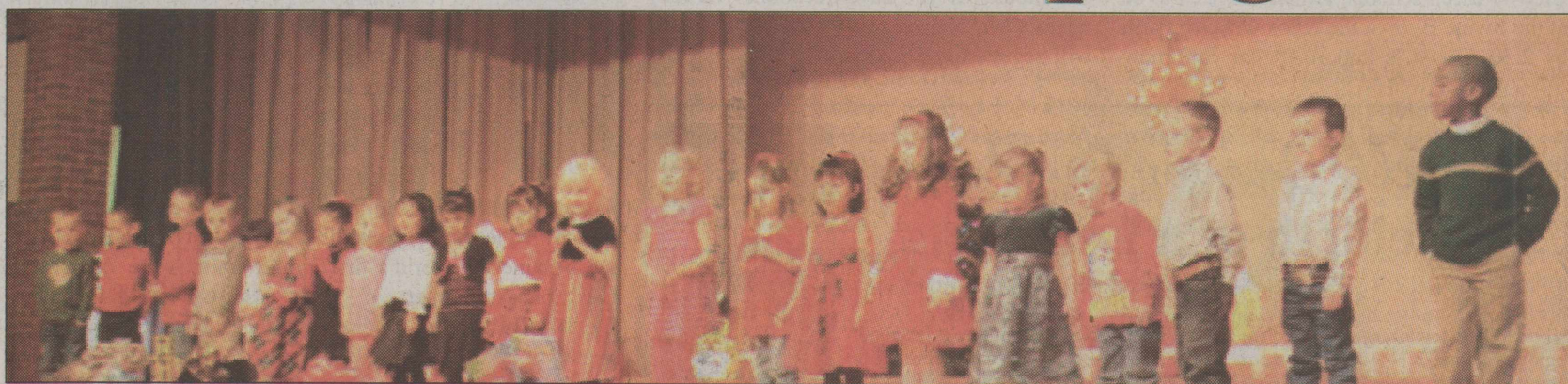
EAT THIS

and arrange on beef mixture. Sprinkle with chiles. Spread remaining beef mixture on top.

Cover and bake at 350 for 20 minutes. Uncover and sprinkle Monterey Jack cheese on top. Bake five more minutes to melt the cheese.

Ryan Mills is a Chief Operating Officer of Blackburn Media Group and the editor of The Childress Index. For comments, suggestions or to submit a recipe contact him at index@chipshot.net.

Knox City Elementary School Annual Christmas program



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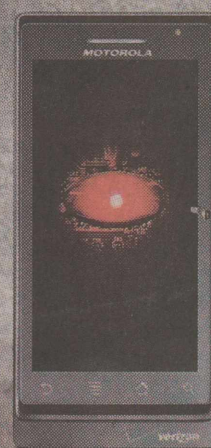
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