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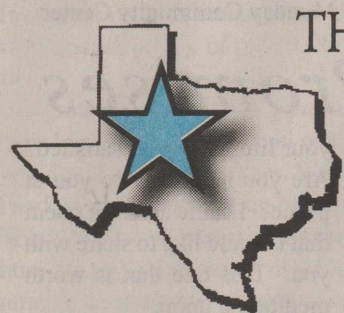
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THE

KNOX COUNTY NEWS

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8 PAGES PLUS INSERTS

KNOX COUNTY, TEXAS

75 CENTS

First Baptist Church welcomes new preacher

By Tamara Smart

"God always opens doors, the secret is just waiting" are the words that Brother Vincent declares as he sits in his new study at the First Baptist Church of Knox City on Monday morning when meeting with Knox County News. The newest door God has opened for Brother Jerry Vincent and his wife, Monette, the pastoral position that had been vacant for a few months at the Church.

Hailing from Onalaska, Texas (outside Livingston, in Eastern Texas), Brother Vincent and his wife came to Knox City and accepted the position at the First Baptist Church on February 21st. Since they have arrived in Knox City, Brother Vincent and his bride of almost 47 years, the couple has found Knox to be a beautiful place, full of loving people who love God (which is one of Bro. Vincent's favorite subjects on which to preach as well). "The Church family has done everything to make us feel welcome. The parsonage was clean and ready for us and everyone has been warm and welcome," says Monette.

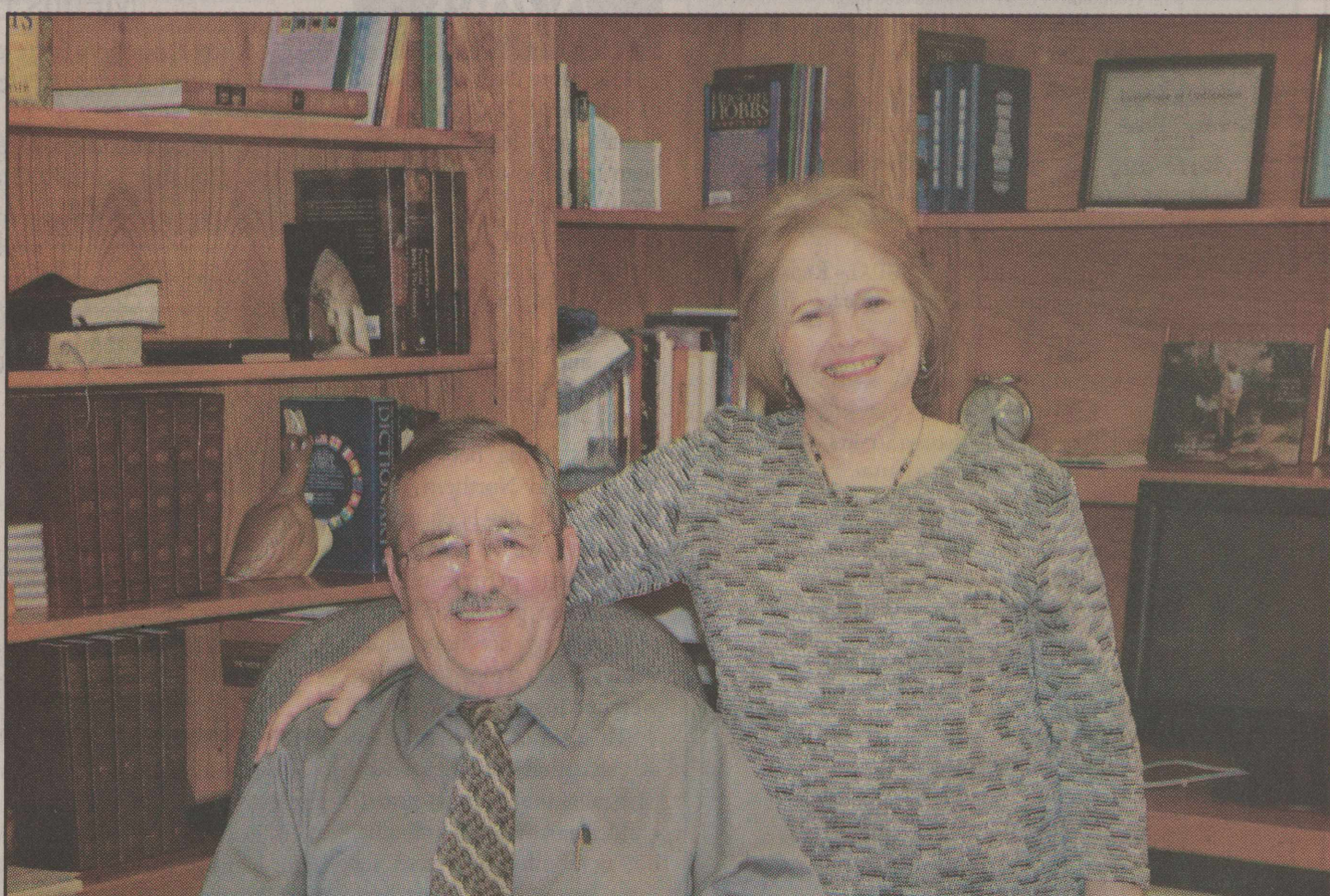
The Vincent's feel that

they are a good fit to help lead the Knox City Baptist family for three reasons: First and foremost, because the Lord lead them to Knox; there is an age compatibility between themselves and the majority of the members of the Church; and finally, they say they "feel at home here... they felt that since the first time they meet with the committee and bonded that first night".

Bro. Vincent has 40+ years of experience being a Man serving God. He worked with Gideon International for 15 years (this is the group who puts Bibles in hotel rooms and schools), and has served as a full time minister for a few years now.

The couple has successfully raised 3 children of their own: Jerry Jr., a pastor in Roby; Jeffrey, a federal agent in Corpus Christi; and Jody, who works for the Texas Department of Corrections in Huntsville. They have 8 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

Brother Vincent's goal as a preacher is to "lead the people to rightly serve the Word, and be able to serve others. The key to this is understanding the Word." He takes this



Knox City is welcoming it's newest residents brother Jerry Vincent and his wife Monette as the preacher of the Knox City First Baptist Church. (Photo by Tamara Smart).

message directly from 2nd Timothy 2:15: "So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter." (NIV)

Yet, although that was Brother Vincent's favorite passage at the moment, he finds the Word to speak to him deeply depending on what his mood is at the time. Today, his favorite verse may

be 2nd Tim 2:15, tomorrow he may have Romans 8:28 on his heart ("And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to His purpose."(NIV))

Monette says her favorite Hymn is "Make Me A Blessing", because she hopes to be a Blessing to those who encounter her.

The couple is excited to

get more acclimated to Knox City. Brother Vincent plans on working with the ministry alliance. They have met some wonderful personalities in their month here, and will no doubt, know a lot more people in just a short time.

Monette claims if they "plant the seeds, God'll give the increase".

The Baptist Church is scheduled to host the

Community Easter program on March 28 at 6:30 p.m. also, on Easter Sunday, the Baptist Church Choir will provide a music program at the 11:00 morning service.

To meet the new preacher, call the Knox City Baptist Church at (940) 657-3141, or feel free to attend their services in praising and worshipping the Lord on Sunday morning.

Sharing 100 years of love, laughter and God's Grace

How does one begin to describe a celebration that spans 100 years? The guest list might be a good place to start. Anyone with even the smallest tie to Gilliland Baptist Church was invited to come. The 100th celebration of Gilliland Baptist Church was a wonderful success with over one hundred and twenty people attending; some travelling from as far away as Arkansas. The scene resembled more a family reunion than a church meeting. People who had not seen one another in several years shared memories as they viewed church scrapbooks and other memorabilia. The festivities and reunion began

as people gathered to worship Sunday, March 14 at eleven. Mrs. Jo Graves played beloved hymns as everyone entered the freshly remodeled church. After the Doxology, Rev. Marq Brockett welcomed guests and prayed.

The congregation raised their voices in praise singing "Blessed Assurance" and "I'll Fly Away". "In the Garden" was performed by a trio of Rev. Marq Brockett, Jerry Bob Daniel, and Lyndle Reeves.

Rev. Marq Brockett shared a message called "Grace, What is it?". Bro Joe Walton, the Director of Missions for the Double Mountain area, challenged the church to follow.

Continued on Page 8



Julia Hardin presents the check of earnings donated during February's "Cutest Baby contest" at Duckwall's to the Knox City Child Welfare Board's Treasurer, Sherry Hacker. Justus Smart, 6 month old winner of the contest, helped collect the \$253.96 for the cause, and is presented with a \$25 gift card to Duckwalls, is seen here as he is held by his proud dad, Jason Smart. (Photo by Tamara Smart)

LOOKING AHEAD

The monthly meeting of the Knox County Retired School Personnel will be on Tuesday, March 30th, at 2:30 in Fellowship Hall of Munday's First United Methodist Church. Jim Daniels, local Game Warden, will present a program about the various aspects of his job. Members and guests are encouraged to attend.

Circle Bar Ranch is hosting a Ranch Cutting this Sat. March 27, 2010. Everyone is welcome to visit and watch at NO CHARGE! The concession stand will be open, proceed go to the Truscott Community Building.

The Community Easter Service will be held on March 28th at the First Baptist Church in Knox City. Pastor Gary Schnable from Knox City Foursquare church will give the message.

Saturday At 6:00 pm the Go Kart Races will begin in Knox City. Come and support the local racers. "Dog-Pound Pit Pass" half price (for the little ones)! Concession will be available.

Haskell County Library, 300 North Ave. E., will hold a book sale Thursday, March 25th through Saturday, March 27th. Hours will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday. Persons are asked to enter at the north back door for the book sale.

Noah Project North annual dinner and silent auction to benefit the Noah Project will be held Saturday, April 17th, in the Haskell Civic Center with doors opening at 6 p.m. and dinner being served at 6:30 p.m. Entertainment will be provided with a play presented by local actors. Tickets are \$10.

Items are needed for the auction and persons


wishing to donate items may call the Noah Project office at 940-864-2551. Noah Project North served the city of Stamford and the counties of Knox, Stonewall, Haskell and Throckmorton.

Texas Department of Health in Stamford will hold an immunization clinic on Thursday, March 25th, in the Haskell Hospital Education Building at 1 North Ave. N. in Haskell. Clinic times are from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. Persons needing more information are asked to call 325-773-5681.


Haskell First United Methodist Church, 201 N. Ave. F. will hold their annual Cowboy Breakfast on Sunday, March 28th, with breakfast being served at 7 p.m. and Donnell Brown of Throckmorton will bring a devotional at 8 a.m. with music being provided by the Wittenborns of Haskell.

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KC AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - Knox City

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 -

Knox City

Tex Cox, Pastor

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.
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.
Mens Prayer Breakfast 6:00 am. Wednesday Morning

SANTA ROSA CATHOLIC CHURCH BILINGUAL - Knox City

Father Charles Gorantla • Deacon Ben Vasquez

Sunday Mass at Noon

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 5 p.m. • Sunday Mass at 10:30 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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Runoff to have four polling locations

Knox County voters in the Republican Primary Runoff April 13 will have four voting sites, one for each commissioner's precinct.

There will be only one contest on the ballot -- deciding the Republican nominee for Supreme Court Justice Place 3. Rick Green and Debra Lehmann received the most votes out of six candidates.

Early voting is April 5-9 at the Knox County Courthouse.

Only those who voted in the Republican Primary or who did not vote in the Primary Election will be eligible to vote in the Runoff.

Commissioner	Voter	Precinct	Place
1	8, 7S		Knox City Aging Center
2	1, 2, 7N		Benjamin Memorial Building
3	6N, 3, 4		Munday Community Center
4	5, 6S		Munday Community Center

Cinco de Mayo celebration in Stamford

The Stamford Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the annual Cinco de Mayo on the Square on Saturday, May 1, 2010. All food and trade show

vendors are invited to attend. For more information please contact, the Stamford Chamber Of Commerce at 325-773-2411.

God's Promises

By Jim Reid, Pastor O'Brien Baptist Church

How full is your life? When I ask "How full"? I don't mean, how fast, or how busy, but how fulfilled is

your life? Are you satisfied? Are you happy? Are you at peace? I came across a poem that I would like to share with you. It is one that is worth meditating upon.

See PROMISES page 6

Truscott News

One more dash of snow hit us last week. It wasn't really wanted, or at least no one has been heard to say, "I wanted snow." There was plenty of acceptances of the sunshine that sent it away.

Is winter gone? You know what they say about only fools and newcomers seriously predicting the Texas weather! We know there are no fools living between the Wichita's in Northern Knox County, and it's been a long time since we've had a newcomer settle permanently, so I guess the prediction is we may or may not have more winter, with "more" getting weighed higher.

This writer needs to make a correction of fact: Alex Mescall, our oldest grandchild, spent the last 11 months, not 6 months, in places far from Texas. It's strange how our family members laugh at grandma's column, but are quicker that most to correct errors in it.

Which make an opportunity to remind readers that you don't have to live at Gilliland or Truscott to make news in this column. You just need to be kin to someone who lives here or even someone who lived here 50 years ago. Grandchildren are especially welcome topics. Truscott and Gilliland may not be an extended family, but we come close in the interest we have in each other.

And that gives me a chance to say that grandson, Alex, spent Sunday to Sunday on China creek and was led out on muddy roads safely by Grandpa Jack in his four-wheel drive pickup while the roads were still frozen Sunday morning, so Alex's low slug car made it safely.

Knox County Aging Services Menus For March. 1st To March. 5th

Knox County Aging Service Menus from March 29th to April 2nd

Monday, March 29th
Salisbury Steak/ Gravy
Rice
Steamed Broccoli
Sliced Bread
Cookies

Tuesday, March 30th
Chef Salad
Baked Potato
Crackers
Cobbler

Wednesday, March 31st
Sliced Ham
Sweet potatoes
Green beans
Hot Rolls

Jello/fruit

Thursday, April 1st
Chili Dogs/ Cheese
Fritos
Pork & Beans
Dessert

Friday, April 2nd
Closed (Good Friday)
Happy Easter!!!

We could now use volunteers!!!!
New serving time is 12 noon (in Knox City only!)
Alternate dessert for diabetics

Please call in your orders by 10 a.m. to 657-3618

Orders can't be taken after 10 a.m. and need to be picked up after 11:00 a.m.

Congress caused a lot of interest over the weekend over health care. All this write can say about the free spending ways of the national government that is putting us in debt to China is "Do we need to learn Chinese yet, or can we wait until they completely own us?"

Imminent domain is coming to the attention of area land owners as information about electric transmission lines is spread at meeting like the one at Crowell last week. The San Angelo Livestock Weekly had a September 10, 2009 article, where the subject suggested "a transmission line easement has some land value diminishment in an area 2000 feet wide adjoining the ... easement".

Landowners are reminded in this article that a "wide range of issues can come into play in these imminent domain matters and many can

become very complicated".

It said that in dealing with such matters a landowner "will be meeting with a sophisticated group of people who deal with this subject everyday... You are at a disadvantage ... overcome it by educating yourself."

It all goes back to the old thought "they aren't making any more land" and that intertwines with the thought "but they are finding more ways to use the land to which you hold the deed".

Seeing so much about Washington D.C. recently was a reminder that Gilliland and Truscott have one of their own living there. Scotty Abbott is still in Washington according to his dad, Sammy Abbott. He is head of the livestock assistance program, which has to do with natural disasters and other simpler problems. Forgot to ask, but assume this is part of the

USDA. Scotty has worked his way up to a top job.

Geraldine Tomanek and Irma Bell attended a Wichita-Brazos Museum board meeting at Benjamin last week. The present community exhibits will be taken down and replaced with a "school" theme. If you have loaned any items to the present exhibits, please contact Geraldine, Irma, Clara Brown, or Ruth Lowrance about getting your item or items.

The school exhibits will stay up several months, as Benjamin and some other communities will be having reunions in 2010.

The museum will have "breakfast on the Porch" at the museum on the Second Saturday in June and an ice cream booth at the Knox City Watermelon Festival later in the summer.

For the school exhibits annuals, class pictures, teacher photos and stories, any school related item would be welcome. News about some of the short-lived older smaller schools will especially be helpful.

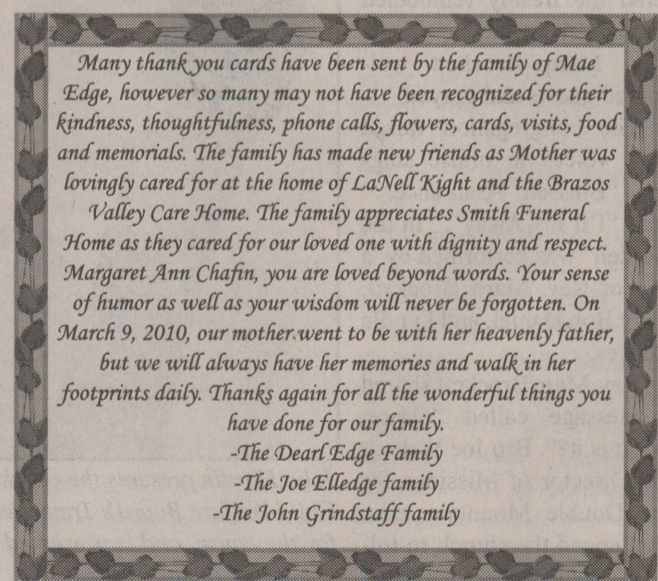
The group photos taken by Sheri Baty at the Gilliland Baptist Church Anniversary celebration are available by contacting Sheri at Knox City, or any member of the Gilliland Baptist church.

Hospital auxiliary meets March 17

The Hospital Auxiliary met Wednesday 3/17/10 with nine present. Stephen Kuehler brought a list of needed for the auxiliary to consider purchasing. Needs included a lab chair for taking blood samples at the Munday clinic at the cost of \$790, two thermometers for 192 each, and other equipment for the emergency room at the hospital for a total of \$4,286. The members chose to buy them all.

Thanks to the donations brought in to Pink Ladies, we could cover all Stephen asked for. We appreciate our donors and customers.

-Billie Walker, Reporter



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

SUBMISSION POLICY
The Knox County News reserves the right to reject unsolicited submissions for any reason. Articles and news items submitted are subject to be edited by KCN staff. Article and photo reprints submitted from other publications require the KCN to get permissions from copyright holders and owners. Such articles will be printed in the KCN dependent on time and space requirements.

PHOTO SUBMISSION POLICY
The KCN reserves the right to reject unsolicited photographs for any reason. Photographs submitted to the KCN will kept in the KCN office for no longer than one year past the date submitted. Photographs can only be returned to submitter if a self-addressed stamped envelope is provided.

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

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Monday - Wednesday • 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. • Closed Thursday • Friday • 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



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.

One thing led to another. That phrase sums up lots of scenarios. It sums up lives. Some days, it's truer than others.

My paid friend Terri, who's been helping me organize my life and laundry-tool room, met me at the farm.

First we buried a dead possum. Maybe you think he wasn't dead but was just playing possum.

The possum burial was the last thing we did that didn't lead to something else. Burials are like that. Final.

We tackled the organizing project next. Just about everything we did got us in deeper. Farms are like that.

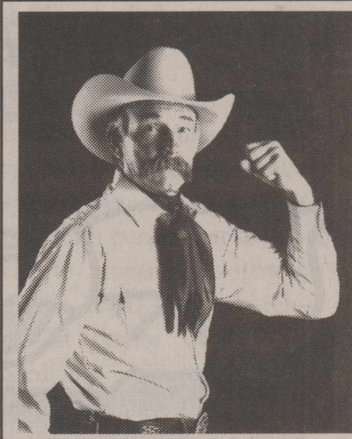
When we relocated two water heaters to the tractor shed, we noticed a flat front tire on the tractor.

Terri, who'd signed on for housework, was soon lending me a helpful foot on the lug wrench as I used a pipe on the opposing handle to get extra leverage on the stubborn lug bolts.

Once we got them all loose, the plan was to use the front-end loader on the tractor to raise it off the ground to remove the tire.

Incidentally, the battery charged fine, but the flat tire is still on the tractor. My improvised axle support looks like a famous tower in Italy.

My superior husband also changes flats. He's getting this one. He can thank me for loosening the lug bolts.



ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE by Baxter Black, DVM

ONE MORE FOR THE TOURISTS

Moira and Clive, British tourists, had taken in the Arkansas attractions of Eureka Springs, the Chuck Wagon races in Clinton, the sale barn in Green Forest, and now found themselves in Ft. Smith for the Arkansas Cattlemen's Association Trail Drive.

They stationed themselves along Rogers Ave. and watched as a group of jolly cowboys came pushing twenty head of rented longhorn cattle along the parade route.

He was photographing it with his digital Minolta Maxxum 7 when it became obvious some of the beasts were exhibiting unruly behavior.

Two cowboys thundered after the renegades, shakin' out their loops in hot pursuit! A large crowd of onlookers raced after the ruckus, snapping photos and filming the action for America's Funniest Videos.

Our two cowboys trapped them in the corner of a chain-linked parking lot. Within ten minutes their faithful teamster had backed a trailer in the corner and loaded up the cattle...

The chase began again, now joined by the Park Ranger on his 4-wheeler. "He's down in the draw along the river," he shouted as he raced by, "I'll run him out for ya'll!"

"It's the wild west!" exclaimed Clive, "Back 'ome they'll never believe this!"

For a long five minutes our cowboys lost track of the bull until a straggler said, "Come look!" The whole mass of humanity crowded along the ridge overlooking the Poteau River.

Cowboy Earl took off his hat and shook his head. Then he heard one of the tourists with what he thought was a British accent say, "I say, ol' chap, that was a smashing good show! When is the next performance?"

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry at the First Baptist Church in Knoxville has changed the requirement for distributing food. At this time food will be given out on an emergency basis only.

Sheriff's Report February 22- March 20, 2010

Table with columns for Name, Date, Offense, and Location. Includes entries for Leal, Adam; Pond, Shanna; Eisch, Brian; Castorena, Guadelope; Steen Amanda; Simmons, Katherine; Wilson, Dawn; Sample, Charles III; Peirce, John Anthony; Jordan, Billy Don; Bechtel, Michael; Lee, Dewan; Agg. Sexual Assault of a Child; Higgins, Tracy; Ramirez, Traycee; Moorhouse, George; Campos, Neal; Lee, Eric Glenn; Martinez, Roberto; Tyree, Jana; Renfro, Kevin L.; Nichelson, Clemmie Jr.

Knox County Market Place

Help Wanted: Burrito Express is looking for a manager. Must be available M-F, 5:00 am - 12:00 noon.

House For Rent: Remodelled, 2 bedroom /1 bath rent house available now. 308 S. 3rd Street in Knoxville.

House For Sale: 4 bedroom, 2 bath in Rochester on Corner lot. Living room, dining room, pool room.

For Sale: Completely Reconditioned Club Golf Cart for Sale. Like New!!! \$2800.

Check us out at knoxcountynewsonline.com

Information at City Hall. EOE. Certified Nurses Aide Positions available. Apply in person at Brazos Valley Care Home 605 S. Ave F. Knoxville.

Lost puppy. 9-month-old female light brown Chihuahua. Last seen in the area of South 2nd & Ave. F in Knoxville.

Miscellaneous: New Business - Vernon Motorcycle & ATV now open in Vernon. Repair all types of motorcycles & ATVs.

Garage Sale: Garage sale at the Knox City Mini-Mall on North Central Ave. Friday and Saturday, March 26th and 27th.

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

Housekeeper/light cooking needed for K.C. man recovering from surgery. 8 hrs. daily, Mon - Fri., 2 hrs. Sat. Permanent position. 325-338-7207.

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Lawrence Bros IGA 206 N. Main, Knoxville City (940)658-3715

Residential: Very nice 4 bedroom brick residence-109 7th Street, Rochester- Contract

2009 Weekly Weather Report table with columns for Date, Temperature (Low/High), Rainfall, and Snow inches.

The City of Knoxville City will be taking applications for the position of swimming pool manager for the upcoming season until April 1, 2010.

CO-MANAGER Aspermont DQ Hwy 83 380 N. Excellent opportunity for continued salary growth.

Farms/Land: 805 Acres Haskell County/600 Acres cultivated/Awesome hunting

Commercial: Commercial Real Estate and Equipment- Knoxville City- \$55,000

Commercial: Super nice building, fully equipped for restaurant. Endless possibilities as hunting lodge, etc.

Auction: Terry & Darlene Carter Estate 10:00 am Saturday April 3, 2010

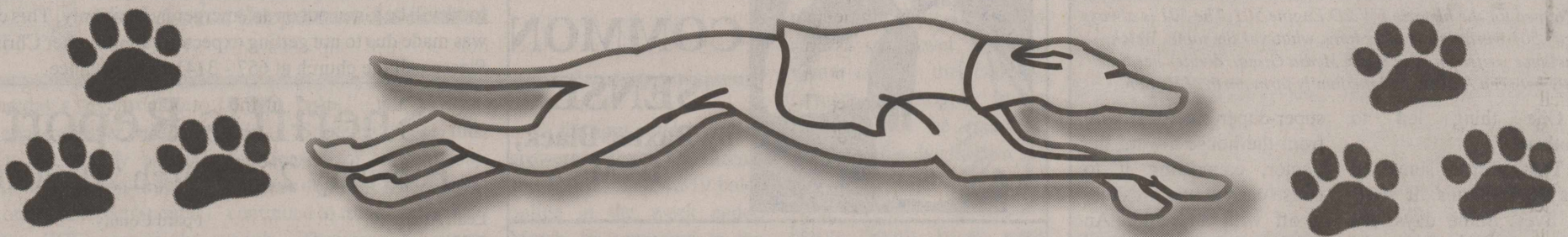
Auction: Watch for signs. Preview Day of Sale. Concessions.

Auction: List Growing Daily. Steve Pepper @ 940-256-0028

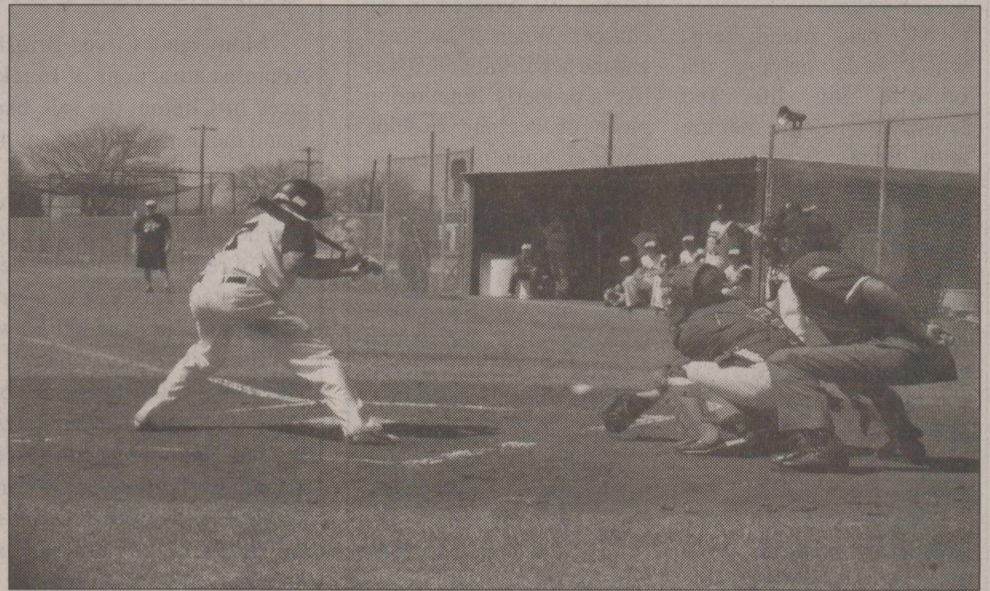
Auction: Pepper & Associates P.O. Box 241 112 N. Central Knoxville, Texas 79529

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KNOX CITY SPORTS



Brandon Bradley catches a ball and tags a sliding Piper player out. (Photo Courtesy Julie Bradley)



The Hounds strike out at Hamlin Pied Piper batter. (Photo Courtesy Julie Bradley)

GREYHOUND BASEBALL SEASON IN FULL SWING

Courtesy Coach Charles Steele

The Knox City Greyhound Baseball team has started the season and has matched last year's number of wins within the first week of the season. The Hounds opened the season with a 16-2 win over the Northside Indians in the only non district game of the

season after rain forced the cancellation of the Bryson game.

District play started and the Greyhounds went on the road to play Seymour and came away with a 7-6 win in 12 innings. The next two games were just as tough for the Hounds. They lost to Haskell 6-1 and Hamlin 14-0.

This brings their overall record to 2-2 and their district record to 1-2. Leading hitters for the Hounds are Zakery York (7-14, 1 HR, .500), Jarek Wilde (6-14, .429), Brandon York (6-14, .429) and MJ Abila (4-13, .308). Defensive standouts are Brandon Bradley, Kyle Harrington and Marcell Lewis. The Grey-

hound pitchers with game decisions are MJ Abila (1-1, 38 Strikeouts) and Brandon York (1-1, 12 Strikeouts).

Coach Steele commented, "We have started off this year showing that we are going to be someone that teams are going to have to take serious. Teams are having to throw their better pitchers against us because we are a better team than we were last year. I am excited about the boys attitude and work ethic this year. We are definitely headed in the right direction. We have several kids that have stepped up and contributed in a big way. MJ Abila on the mound and Zakery York at the plate are two that stand out". The Greyhounds next two games are Roby on Tuesday and Stamford on Friday.

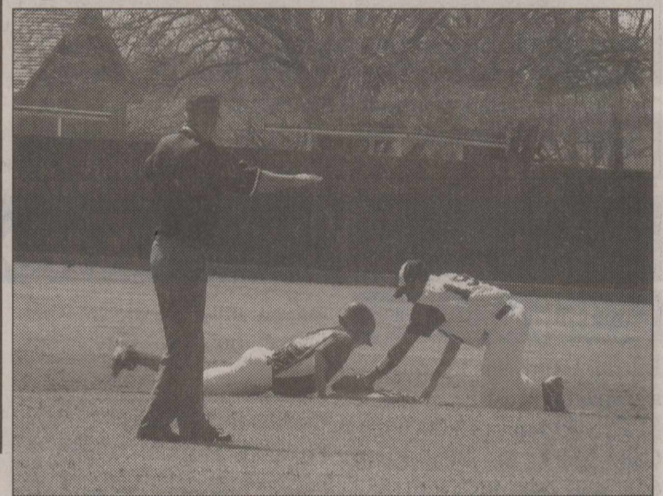
Track News

The Knox City boys won their second straight track meet at Jayton on March 12th, they were the Boys Champions at the Rolling Plains Relays scoring 90 points.

Boys

- Triple jump — 1. Derrick Coleman, Knox City, 41-7
- Shot put — 1. Blake Jones, Knox City, 39-5;
- Long jump — 1. Derrick Coleman, Knox City, 20-10 1/2
- Discus — 1. Blake Jones, Knox City, 98-9
- 400 relay — 2. Zach Shaver, Derrick Coleman, Marcell Lewis, Blake Jones, Knox City, 0:46.58
- 100 — 5. Marcell Lewis, Knox City, 0:11.96
- 400 — 1. Derrick Coleman, Knox City, 0:51.60
- 200 — 1. Derrick Coleman, Knox City, 0:22.88
- 1,600 relay — 3. Zach Shaver, Blake Jones, Chago Espinal, Marcell Lewis 3.50.39

"We are very proud of all of our boys for participating in track to better themselves as athletes overall. We have 21 boys competing and that is very exciting. We preach to our kids that there is strength in numbers and they have proved that at the last two track meets bringing home championship trophies." Coach Howeth



The Hamlin baseman was a moment to slow in catching the ball as Knox City Greyhound Zakery York slides safely into the place (Photo Courtesy Julie Bradley)

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Si contesta sí a uno de las preguntas y vive en los condados de Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Stonewall o Throckmorton, es posible usted puede elegible para ayuda del **Aspermont Small Business Development Center, Inc.** El Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) y los fondos del Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) están usado por ASBDC, INC. para suministrar servicios a las familias con ingresos bajos. Hay un proceso de aplicación a determinar elegibilidad para ayuda. Llame usted ASBDC, INC. para mas información o si tiene preguntas.

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If you answered YES to any of the above questions and live in Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Stonewall or Throckmorton counties, you may be eligible for assistance from the **Aspermont Small Business Development Center, Inc.** The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) funds are used by ASBDC, Inc. to provide services to low-income households. There is an application process to determine eligibility for assistance, so call ASBDC, Inc. for more information.

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ERIC WATSON

BENJAMIN NEWS

By Gladene Green

Well, it's happened again! A miserably cold, snowy weekend- The wind on Sat was terrible. Sunday was a bit better, & today (Mon) is a gorgeous day. Never can tell what's going to happen next! The story of Texas weather-

Better news regarding our ill friends. Jonnie Williams is feeling better after a weekend in a Wichita Falls hospital and a blood transfusion. Some days are better than others but right now she's doing pretty well.

E.O. Reed came home Sunday night after several days in an Abilene hospital. He's doing pretty well. Drs are working to get his medication regulated & maybe when they do, he will be ok.

Fred Carver was in Abilene on Wed. to see his heart Dr. No real new problems. Just needs to be careful not to over-do anything.

And Imagean Young continues to get better each day. Will have to be on her walker at least a few more weeks & I'm sure that it will be a relief to be "rid" of it, when & if she is able to.

Jack Young is out & about every day. Seems to be doing well- And is very thankful when the drs found his problem when they did.

I'm sure any of these friends would appreciate a cheery note or car as they continue to recuperate.

Here N There

The pancake supper Tues. nite sponsored by the BVFD turned out to be a big success. Many folks met at the Memorial Building for pancakes, bacon, sausage, milk and coffee & a wonderful time to just visit friends and neighbors. According to the department members, donations amounted to quite a bit- this is to benefit the department. The meal was cost-free & according to the fire chief, Dick McCanlies, people were most generous with their donations & they are most ap-

preciative. And we appreciate them in their efforts when the need arises.

The One-Act play practice continues & competition begins Sat. at Guthrie. WE hope to hear good things about our cast & crew after the first round. This year's play is "Leading Ladies" & again is directed by Benny Grill.

Spring Break is over & kids & teachers are all back in the classrooms today. It's not long now til all those last of school things begin bringing us down to the end of the 2009-2010 school year. Those days will pass pretty fast.

Devon Jones, student at Tech was here for Spring Break with family Kemp, Beckie, Blake, Brooke & Kamryn & other relatives & friends.

Sydney & Lexie Mendoza spent a couple their Spring Break Days with their dad in Abilene.

I was in Munday Wed. night- 17th- for great granddaughter, Taylor Herring, second birthday party. Taylor's parents Liz & Nathan, hosted the "T" party in their home. Other than myself, grandparents, Mike & Debbie Moorhouse & Randi Johnson, all of Benjamin, & Munday family and friends, Taylor's aunts, Jessica Moorhouse of Abilene, & Lynn Rogers of Snyder also attended.

Sara Clower spent her Spring Break for college with her mom Debbie. David Clower, student at tech, was also home last weekend.

James, Stacia & Cody Propps were in Houston last week. Enjoying a few days R&R also Cody showed his pig at the Stock Show. They returned home Fri nite.

Lorene Powers, Gloria West & Betty Parker of Aspermont spent the weekend with Cathy Tomlinson in Denton & on Sun. attended the 90th birthday party of Lorene's cousin at North Richland Hills.

Micro-RNAs control alternative splicing in heart development after birth

HOUSTON – Tiny slivers of genetic material called micro-RNAs regulate a critical event called alternative splicing in the immediate post-birth period that is crucial to proper development of the heart, said researchers at Baylor College of Medicine (www.bcm.edu) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing in a report that appears in the current issue of the journal Genes and Development.

"In the first two to four weeks after birth, an infant's heart undergoes dramatic remodeling to prepare for adult functional requirements," said Dr. Thomas A. Cooper (http://www.bcm.edu/pathology/profiles/cooper.htm), professor of pathology (http://www.bcm.edu/pathology/index.htm), immunology and molecular and cellular biology at BCM. In the past his group has shown that certain proteins – among them CUGBP1 and CUGBP2 – are part of a network that determines which proteins particular genes make. (CUGBP stands for CUG triplet repeat RNA binding protein.) In their latest work, they report on the coordinating role played by micro-RNAs, which control proteins that regulate alternative splicing.

Alternative splicing is a common occurrence crucial to enabling the estimated 25,000 human genes to make the 100,000 or more protein needed to carry out cellular functions.

Genes, made up of ge-

netic material called DNA, have exons that carry the coding sequences for amino acids that make up all proteins. However, DNA must be translated into messenger RNA (mRNA), which then translates instructions from genes to the protein-building structures of the cell. This mRNA can contain some or all of the coding exons. Variations in the makeup of the mRNA result in alternative splicing and different proteins coming from the same gene.

"The breakthrough here is that while most studies focus on transcription in which DNA is copied into RNA, it is now clear that genes are also controlled by how the RNA is handled in processes involving micro-RNAs and alternative splicing," said Cooper. "This provides new opportunities for understanding how things go wrong in disease and new targets for potent and specific therapies."

Micro-RNAs are very small pieces of single-stranded RNA no more than 20-25 nucleotides (the smallest structural component of genetic material) long. They bind to matching pieces of mRNA, making it double-stranded. This reduces production of the corresponding protein.

To determine how micro-RNAs affect gene output, Dr. Auniash Kalsotra (http://www.bcm.edu/pathology/labs/cooper/people/kalsotra.htm), a postdoctoral fellow

at BCM and lead author on the study, and his colleagues deleted a gene called dicer. Dicer is essential to making all micro-RNAs. That deletion provided important information.

"By deleting dicer in the adult heart, we have uncovered a previously unknown link between micro-RNA and alternative splicing in the heart," said Kalsotra.

"This is part of a hierarchy of regulation," said Cooper. "All of this happens after the DNA is transcribed into RNA, which contains the instructions for making a protein. "Here we show how two different forms of post-transcriptional regulation control genes during heart development. Changes in amounts of micro-RNAs control the proteins that then control alternative splicing."

The micro-RNAs are up regulated (increased) and the splicing regulators (CUGBP1 and CUGBP2) are down regulated (decreased)," Cooper said. "The increase in micro-RNAs causes the drop in CUGBP1 and CUGBP2 proteins. During the three week period of development after birth, a micro-RNA called miR-23a/b increases and binds to the messenger RNA that codes for CUGBP1 and CUGBP2," said Cooper.

The levels of those pro-

teins decrease dramatically even though the levels of the - mRNA stays the same.

The CUGBP proteins regulate splicing changes. When their levels decrease, this changes the expression of other proteins that are key to heart development, said Cooper.

Cooper and Kalsotra anticipate doing further research on how disruption of this micro-RNA activity could affect diseases such as myotonic dystrophy, characterized by heart rhythm problems.

Others who took part in this research include Drs. Kun Wang and Pei-Feng Li of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing.

Funding for this work came from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation and the Myotonic Dystrophy Foundation.

Cooper holds the S. Donald Greenberg Chair of Pathology.

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Cotton Market Weekly



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Thursday's export sales report added another building block to an already bullish foundation. Cotton futures prices on the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) rose to the highest prices in almost two weeks after a governmental report showed a surge in U.S. exports, signaling a possible return of global demand.

"Traders said the market got a little push to the upside" by the export sales report," a trader said. "I don't know anybody who was looking for numbers that good."

Export sales doubled from the previous week to 263,200 bales in the week ended March 11, 43 percent higher than the average of the previous four weeks, according to USDA. Turkey, Vietnam, Thailand, and Bangladesh were the week's top buyers. Net sales of 43,300 bales for delivery in 2010-11 were for South Korea, Mexico, and Indonesia.

"Of interest in this week's export report was that China had a net cancellation of

8,700 bales," an analyst said. "Some may see this as a reason for concern, but Chinese domestic prices have continued to trend higher this week. Therefore, I believe that it is just a matter of time before China returns as a buyer of U.S. cotton," he concluded.

Export shipments of 284,700 were down 12 percent from the prior week, but up eight percent from the previous four-week average. Primary destinations were China, Turkey, and Mexico.

With just over 20 weeks left in the current marketing year, commitments now total 10.0 million bales of which 6.2 million bales have so far been exported. In addition to that, there are commitments of half a million bales for shipments after August, many of which will be supplied from existing stocks as well. The U.S. must average shipments of only 290,073 bales per week to reach USDA's marketing year estimate of 12.0 million

bales.

In the spot cotton market, growers in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas sold 4,319 bales online in the week ended March 18 compared to the previous week when 1,356 bales were traded. Prices received by producers ranged from 65.90 to 69.48 cents per pound versus 62.40 to 71.98 cents per pound one week earlier. Many analysts are optimistic about continuing demand for U.S. cotton.

"As we all know, the best fuel in a bull market is strong demand," a market observer explained. "Unlike in 2008, when erratic price movements in the futures market were caused by over-leverage and cash flow issues, this time around we actually have a firm physical market behind it. Although western economies still are limping along, things are looking quite buoyant in the rest of the world," he said.

Market attention now has moved to USDA's planting intentions report due out

on March 31. According to many, Texas now seems to be the only state where conditions are pre-loaded for a great crop in 2010. With excellent sub-soil moisture reported in West Texas, and after a cold, wet, freezing winter across the country, farmers are hoping insect pressure will be minimal. However, the dye has not yet been cast. Last season, the crop was off to a great start before South Texas went completely dry.

"I don't remember how many times I chimed in last fall with the old adage that 'as goes the Valley, so goes the Nation,'" a trader said. "In West Texas, where the bulk of the U.S. crop was, and is going to be produced, last season looked like one for the record books. By the end of harvest, however, USDA was largely lowering average yields there, something no one predicted during the entire growing season. We need to remember that the government can pencil estimates, but ultimately it's Mother Nature who is in control of the outcome," he cautioned.

PROMISES

The Dash Poem
by Linda Ellis
I read of a man who stood to speak
At the funeral of a friend
He referred to the dates on her tombstone
From the beginning to the end
He noted that first came the date of her birth
And spoke the following date with tears,
But he said what mattered most of all
Was the dash between those years

For that dash represents all the time
That she spent alive on earth.
And now only those who loved her
Know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not how much we own;
The cars, the house, the cash,
What matters is how we live and love
And how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard.
Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left,
That can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough
To consider what's true and real
And always try to understand
The way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger,
And show appreciation more
And love the people in our lives
Like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect,
And more often wear a smile
Remembering that this special dash
Might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy is being read
With your life's actions to rehash
Would you be proud of the things they say
About how you spent your dash?

©1996 Linda Ellis

Jesus spoke these words in John 6: 63:

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; (B) the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. Live a fulfilled life in Christ! I pray that you experience the love of God in every way, every day.

Public Notice

Notice of Sale

Dated March 4, 2010, and issued pursuant to a judgment decree of the District Court of Knox County Texas, by the Clerk of said Court on said date in the hereinafter styled and numbered causes, and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff of said Court, I have on March 4th, 2010, seized, levied upon and will on the first Tuesday in April, 2010, the same being the 6th day of April, 2010 at the Courthouse door of said County, in the City of Benjamin, between the hours of 10:00 o'clock a.m. and 4:00 o'clock pm on said day shall proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all of the right, title, and interest of the defendants in such suit in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Knox and the State of Texas, to-wit:

- 9027 Knox County Appraisal District v. Joe Walaski
Lot 10, Block 16, Davis Addition, City of Knox City
- 9110 Knox County Appraisal District v. Jerry R. Robinson a/k/a Jerry Johnson a/k/a/ J. Johnson
Lot 3, Block 50, Original Townsite of Goree
- 9173 Knox County Appraisal District v. Robert P. Espinosa and Sandra Espinosa
The North 27' of Lot 1, and all of Lot 2, Block 7, Warren Addition, City of Knox City
- 9191 Knox County Appraisal District v. Ida K. Brown, Larry Browning, Gerald Taylor, Donny Edward Browning a/k/a Don Browning and Charlie Lee Browning a/k/a Charlie Browning
The East 58', more or less of Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, Block 138, Reeves & Musser Addition, City of Munday
The South 1/2 of the East 1/2 of Block 39, Lee Addition, City of Munday, with Manufactured Home "Windsor", 14x17, Label #UL10197447, Serial #ZWK801411484
- 9194 Knox County Appraisal District v. Jessie Nava (In Rem), Liz Nava (In Rem), Marvin Wheeler (In Rem) and Edith Wheeler (In Rem)
All of Lot 3, SAVE & EXEPT the Southwest 50' x 50' and the Northeast 50' x 50' of Lot 4, Block 28, Wallace Addition, City of Munday
- 9195 Knox County Appraisal District v. Jeanne Cooper, Brenda Comer, Leinholder (In Rem Only) and Shirley Dron, Leinholder (In Rem Only)
a 100' x 115' tract of land, more or less, out of the East 1/2 of Lots 1 & 2, Block 112 Reaves & Musser Addition, City of Munday
- 9196 Knox County Appraisal District v. David Hunter, Carolyn Hunter and Greg Abbott, Attorney General, State of Texas, Leinholder (In Rem Only)
The East 1/2 of the North 1/2 of Block 45, R.P. Munday Addition City of Munday
- 9198 Knox County Appraisal District v. S.C. Murphee, C.I. McNeil a/k/ Curtis Mc Neil (In Rem) and Willie Richards (In Rem)
Lot 4, Block 5, Original Townsite of Vera
The South parts of Lots 5 and 6, Block 2, Taylor Addition to the Town of Vera
- 9199 The Knox County Appraisal District v. Ron Laney, Cythia Laney, Bayview Financial Trading Group, L.P., Leinholder (In Rem Only) and Bayveiv Loan Servicing LLC, Lienholder (In Rem Only)
The West 1/2 of Block 3, Original Townsite of the Town of Munday
The East 1/2 of Block 3, Original Townsite of the Town of Munday
- 9201 Knox County Appraisal District v. Madelyn Goode Honea, Fleta Mayo, Dixie Bradley, Ettamae Frasier, Everett Barger, Dorothy Williams, Norris Barger, Jack Barger, Barbara Coffman and Dale Redding
Lots 7 & 8, Block 1, Original Townsite of the Town of Goree
The North 77-1/2' of Lots 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24, Block 1, Original Townsite of the Town of Goree
Lots 9-11, Block 1, Original Townsite of the Town of Goree
Lots 20 thru 23, Block 1, SAVE AND EXEPT the North 77-1/2', Original Townsite of the Town of Goree
Lot 6-1/2, Block 21, Elandel Addition, Town of Truscott

or upon the written request of said defendants or their attorney, a sufficient portion thereof to satisfy said judgment for delinquent property taxes and accrued penalties and interest and costs of suit and sale; subject, however, to the right of redemption, the defendants or any person having an interest herein, to redeem said property, or their interest therein, within the period of time and in manner provided by law and subject to any other and further rights to which the defendants or anyone interested therein maybe entitled, under the provisions of law. Said sale to be made by me to satisfy the judgment for delinquency property taxes and accrued penalties and interest rendered in the above styled and numbered cause, together with interest thereon and costs of suit and sale, and the proceeds of said sale to be applied to the satisfaction thereof, and the remainder, if any, to be applied as the law directs.

Dated March 4, 2010, at Benjamin, Texas.
By Sheriff Dean Homstad
You may contact the Plaintiffs attorney at 325-672-4870.

Russell Graves Outdoors Angel Fire - Ski Lessons

By Russell A. Graves

My first morning at the Angel Fire Ski Resort started off on a bright note. While Kristy enrolled she and I into adult ski school while I took our kids and enrolled them in the all day ski camp for kids.

The kids ski camp is cool. For a single price, the resort provides all of their gear, feeds the kids lunch, and mentors them on proper ski technique without parents having to be with them all day. The camp is modestly priced and kids attending are segregated by age groups.

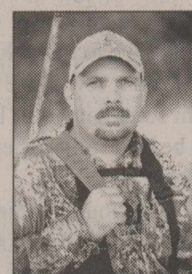
My guys were split up into two groups. Bailee with the 9 year olds and Ryan with the 5 year olds. Both groups were essentially taught the same thing: how to ski without poles. I never really found out why the kids were taught to ski without poles when the adults with whom I attended ski school had ski poles. Maybe it is because my kids took to skiing like ducks to water - they caught on quick.

While I didn't stay with them the whole day, every now and then I would catch a glimpse of them and their little ski buddies racing down the training hill and stopping by using the "pizza" technique. I am amazed at how well they skied with such little training. A low center of gravity and not yet old enough to have developed much fear makes kids ideal ski students. Seeing them in action, I knew that we'd just introduced them to a fantastic lifelong activity.

While our kids took their lessons, Kristy and I received expert tutelage by ski instructor and fellow Texan Darrell Orr. Besides Kristy and I, there were four others in our three-hour class. While we started as strangers, the tribulations of learning how to ski helped us all to become friends before the morning was over.

Like our kids, we learned the basics of skiing like putting on skis, maneuvering across a hill, getting off the lifts, skiing downhill, and stopping. For me, balancing on skis was the easy part. A skill a little more challenging was learning to stop when I wanted to. The hardest part, however, was getting off the lift. It really took me until day two of skiing before I became really comfortable with getting off the lifts. Of the dozens of times I rode the lifts, I only fell once. The exits on the other times were far less than graceful.

By three o'clock on day one, my whole gang was back together and we all skied the beginner slope the rest of the day. After their lessons, Bailee did well skiing and stopping but Ryan didn't believe in stopping. Instead, he grinned the whole time he skied even though the speeds he reached made me and his mother a bit nervous. He'd eventually slide to a stop but the whole concept of "pizza" either escaped him or he didn't care to use it. After all, he is a boy.



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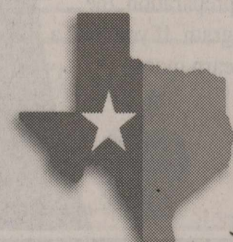
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OPINION

The Paperboy



By CHRIS BLACKBURN

Insurance reform, making sure there is coverage for all Americans, coverage of pre-existing conditions, blah, blah, blah...

Congrats on growing the government a ton?

As a business owner and an ordinary citizen, I am all for us taking care of one another. We are a compassionate country and we don't like seeing one another suffer.

That's what is so disturbing about health care reform legislation. It was never about making sure everyone got better insurance or someone without coverage could get treatment. It was about control. It was about growing the government.

I'm sure not here to defend insurance companies. Anyone over the age of 35 has had some issue with an insurance company. I guess it's the nature of the beast.

I've had excellent service and prompt payout in my insurance coverage and I've also had to get an attorney a time or two to get matters resolved.

No dear reader, I'm not here to take up for insurance companies.

But I'm sure not on the side of the government. This entire process - especially over recent weeks, has stunk to high heaven.

The back room deals, the sneaking around the rules ... it's just a sorry way to go about the people's business.

My family has been living with my in-laws for five weeks. I've watched my father-in-law, who did two tours in Vietnam, struggle to do things every day we've been here.

His body is battered and broken from fighting for a country where the elected leaders behave like this?

The bottom line is this: Our government is growing and spending like never before. And now it gets to collect even more taxes and grow even larger.

Furthermore, Uncle Sam gets the money upfront. Years before the entire bill is enacted. I'm assuming this bill is not settled in the Supreme Court or states use "States Rights" and elect out of it, but I digress.

America - we had such a great opportunity to do something grand. We could have had a bill which actually had a positive effect for everyone. Instead, it was squandered. What we got was a piece of convoluted junk.

Just as the Republicans before them, the Democrats have let their power go right to their collective head. And just like the Republicans, Independent voters will likely make Democrats pay come November.

Independents, which put Obama in office and gave Democrats the majorities they enjoy so much, will continue to drop the hammer.

Anyhow, back to our ever-growing government. Hopefully the vast, vast majority of you have heard of Thomas Jefferson, one of the Founding Fathers, the third President of the United States and the principal author of the Declaration of Independence.

Jefferson also feared the size and scope of government as he witnessed first hand what tyranny could do. Here are a few quotes from Mr. Jefferson regarding government:

If we can prevent the government from wasting the labors

of the people under the pretense of taking care of them, they must become happy.

That government is best which governs least.

Were we directed from Washington when to sow and when to reap, we should soon want bread.

I am not a friend to a very energetic government. It is always oppressive.

I hold it, that a little rebellion, now and then, is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical.

Does the government fear us? Or do we fear the government? When the people fear the government, tyranny has found victory. The federal government is our servant, not our master!

When governments fear people, there is liberty. When the people fear the government, there is tyranny.

Where is Mr. Jefferson when you need him?

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Christopher Blackburn is the president of Blackburn Media Group, owner of this publication.

Other Views The Doctors of the House

House Democrats passed President Obama's federal takeover of the U.S. health-care system, and the ticker tape media parade is underway. So this hour of liberal political victory is a good time to adapt the "Pottery Barn" rule that Colin Powell once invoked on Iraq: You break it, you own it.

This week's votes don't end our health-care debates. By making medical care a subsidiary of Washington, they guarantee such debates will never end. And by ramming the vote through Congress on a narrow partisan majority, and against so much popular opposition, Democrats have taken responsibility for what comes next—to insurance premiums, government spending, doctor shortages and the quality of care. They are now the rulers of American medicine.

Mr. Obama and the Democrats have sold this takeover by promising that multiple benefits will follow: huge new subsidies for the middle class; lower insurance premiums for consumers, especially those in the individual market; vast reductions in the federal budget deficit and in overall health-care spending; a more competitive U.S. economy as business health-care costs decline; no reductions in Medicare benefits; and above all, in Mr. Obama's words, that "if you like your health-care plan, you keep your health-care plan."

We think all of this except the subsidies will turn out to be illusory, as most of the American public seems intuitively to understand. As recently as Friday, Caterpillar Inc. announced that ObamaCare will increase its health-care costs by \$100 million in the first year alone, due to a stray provision about the tax treatment of retiree benefits. This will not be the only such unhappy surprise.

While the subsidies don't start until 2014, many of the new taxes and insurance mandates will take effect within six months. The first result will be turmoil in the insurance industry, as small insurers in particular find it impossible to make money under the new rules. A wave of consolidation is likely, and so are higher premiums as insurers absorb the cost of new benefits and the mandate to take all comers.

Liberals will try to blame insurers once again, but the public shouldn't be fooled. WellPoint, Aetna and the rest are from now on going to be public utilities, essentially creatures of Congress and the Health and Human Services Department. When prices rise and quality and choice suffer, the fault will lie with ObamaCare.

While liberal Democrats are fulfilling their dream of a cradle-to-grave entitlement, their swing-district colleagues will pay the electoral price. Those on the fence fell in line out of party loyalty or in response to some bribe, and to show the party

could govern. But even then Speaker Nancy Pelosi could only get 85% of her caucus and had to make promises that are sure to prove ephemeral.

Most prominently, she won over Michigan's Bart Stupak and other anti-abortion Democrats with an executive order from Mr. Obama that will supposedly prevent public funds from subsidizing abortions. The wording of the order seems to do nothing more than the language of the Senate bill that Mr. Stupak had previously said he couldn't support, and of course such an order can be revoked whenever it is politically convenient to do so.

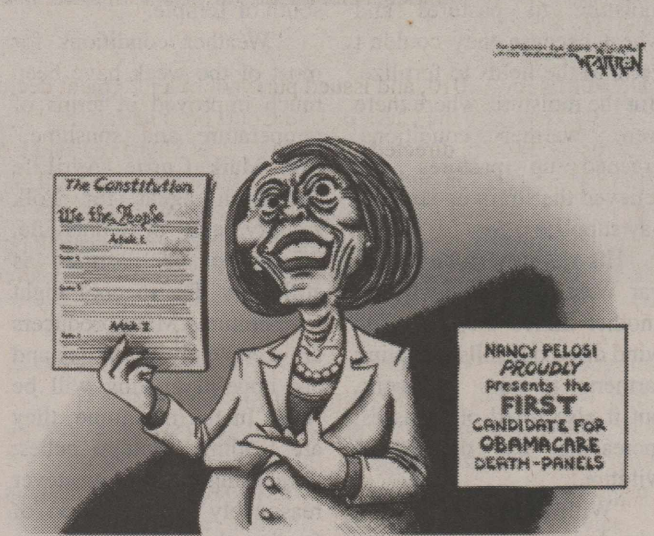
We have never understood why pro-lifers consider abortion funding more morally significant than the rationing of care for cancer patients or at the end of life that will inevitably result from this bill. But in any case Democratic pro-lifers sold themselves for a song, as they usually do.

Then there are the self-styled "deficit hawks" like Jim Cooper of Tennessee. These alleged scourges of government debt faced the most important fiscal vote of their careers and chose to endorse a new multitrillion-dollar entitlement. They did so knowing that the White House has already promised to restore some \$250 billion in reimbursement cuts for doctors that were included in yesterday's bill to make the deficit numbers look good. Watch for these Democrats to pivot immediately and again demand "tough choices" on spending—and especially tax increases—but this vote has squandered whatever credibility they had left.

Mrs. Pelosi did at least abandon, albeit under pressure, the "deem and pass" strategy that would have passed the legislation without a vote on the actual Senate language. We and many others criticized that ruse early last week, and the House decision to drop it exposes the likes of Norman Ornstein of the American Enterprise Institute and other analysts who are always willing to defend the indefensible when Democrats are doing it.

All of this means the Senate's Christmas Eve bill is ready for Mr. Obama's signature, though only because rank-and-file House Members also passed a bill of amendments that will now go back to the Senate under "reconciliation" rules that require only 50 votes. Those amendments almost certainly contravene the plain rules of reconciliation, and the goal for Senate Republicans should be to defeat this second "fix-it" bill. It's notable that Democrats didn't show yesterday for a meeting with the Senate parliamentarian to consider GOP challenges, no doubt because they fear some of them might be upheld.

Though it's hard to believe, the original Senate bill is marginally less harmful than the "fixed" version, not least be-



cause the middle-class insurance subsidies are less costly and it would avert the giant new payroll tax. That's the White House increase in the Medicare portion of the payroll tax to 3.8% that Democrats cooked up at the last minute and would apply to the investment income of taxpayers making more than \$200,000.

If the reconciliation bill goes down, Big Labor and its Democratic clients would be forced to swallow a larger excise tax on high-cost insurance plans, and it would also forestall the private student-loan takeover that Democrats included as a sweetener. In other words, they'd be forced to eat the sausage they themselves made as they have abused Congressional procedure to push ObamaCare into law.

We also can't mark this day without noting that it couldn't have happened without the complicity of America's biggest health-care lobbies, including Big Pharma, the American Medical Association, the American Hospital Association, the Federation of American Hospitals, the Business Roundtable and such individual companies as Wal-Mart. They hope to get more customers, or to reduce their own costs, but in the end they have merely made themselves more vulnerable to the gilded clutches of the political class.

While the passage of ObamaCare marks a liberal triumph, its impact will play out over many years. We fought this bill so vigorously because we have studied government health care in other countries, and the results include much higher taxes, slower economic growth and worse medical care. As for the politics, the first verdict arrives in November.

Rewriting the Social Contract

By Bill Wilson

"A contract lawfully made cannot lawfully be broken." — Thomas Hobbes.

Last week, Moody's issued yet another warning that the U.S. was "significantly" closer to having its credit downgraded. In short, if interest owed on the national debt, currently at an annual 8.49 percent of revenue at \$188 billion, rises above 14 percent, the U.S. will lose its Triple-A credit rating.

By the White House's own estimates, the U.S. will hit that dreaded market-imposed limit on sovereign debt some time in 2014. In that year, under Barack Obama's ten-year budget — which includes the unsustainable costs of ObamaCare — annual interest owed at \$510 billion will represent 14.76 percent of revenue.

At that point, there will be nothing to prevent the nation's credit from being downgraded — with interest rates skyrocketing and the dollar losing its status as the world's reserve currency. By then, it will be too late.

In order to avert flying off this precipice, as reported by Bloomberg, Pierre Cailleteau, managing director of sovereign risk at Moody's in London has stated that the U.S. may need to rewrite its "social contract" between the government and the American people.

But, in truth, the nation's social contract was rewritten decades ago. It was rewritten with the ratification of the income tax; when the Federal Reserve was established; when Social Security, and then Medicare were instituted; and when Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were nationalized, and the Troubled Asset Relief Program created.

In short, it was rewritten about the time that half of Americans were removed the tax rolls, and the other half ask to pay their way. When the U.S. became the entitlement state.

The nation's founding document, the Declaration of Inde-

pendence, states that to secure the natural rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness "governments are instituted among men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." Fulfilling that promise, eleven years later, the Federal Constitution was adopted in accord with its ratification process of 9 of 13 states.

In the end, ratification was unanimous amongst all 13 states.

It was a bold experiment in republican government that depended, James Madison said, upon the virtue of the people. At the Virginia ratifying convention, he famously said that without it, "No theoretical checks, no form of government can render us secure. To suppose that any form of government will secure liberty or happiness without any virtue in the people is a chimerical idea."

In Bantam's introduction to its edition of the Federalist Papers, Garry Wills writes that both Madison and the Federalist's other author, Alexander Hamilton, "admitted that a corrupt people can exist, making for a government that would accommodate that weakness."

Now that ObamaCare is the law of the land, it is abundantly clear that the nation's original social contract, based on the consent of the governed, has been completely revoked by the people's representatives. That it has been replaced by a corrupt charter of redistributionism.

Far from the constitutional republic that was once designed to preserve private property rights, this nation has now devolved into a tyranny of welfare recipients, who believe they are entitled to the wealth of others without ever earning it for themselves. Who justify bankrupting the many because, they suppose, it will only be at the expense of the few.

Overwhelmingly, the American people rejected the government takeover of health care, and yet 219 House Democrats chose to defy their clear will, and to instead indulge the whims of those who depend upon government as its willful benefac-

tor.

The nation's social contract, although it was lawfully made, has abruptly been revoked without amendment to the Constitution, the only just means of altering our free form of government. It was rewritten without any lawful referendum by the people of the United States.

Unfortunately, there will be a price to be paid.

Previously, Moody's has warned the U.S. that "If the current upward trend in government debt were to continue and become irreversible, the [nation's Triple-A debt] rating could come under downward pressure."

ObamaCare will cost \$2.5 trillion over ten years once fully implemented and will most certainly add much of that to the debt. Unless it is repealed, it is clear that this upward trend in government debt will almost certainly become irreversible. The die has been cast.

According to Cailleteau, as the "distance-to-downgrade" closes, the U.S. will "have to decide what level of pain they are willing to accept to have a healthy economy." This means painful cuts in spending to reduce the debt burden, or even more painful increases in taxes to pay for the unsustainable growth of government. Which will the nation's representatives choose?

With the passage of ObamaCare, it is agonizingly clear that the U.S. has chosen the path of ever-higher taxes, debt, inflation, and near-certain insolvency over any limits on spending.

Congress has entered the financial Abyss willingly. And as the Ship of State rapidly spins to the bottom, its ability to borrow money from overseas will deteriorate in tandem. To keep from taking on water, the government will increasingly turn to taxpayers to foot the bill.

It is then that we will learn whether a social contract imposed by force, rather than by consent, can be enforceable. Time will tell.

FFA NEWS

100 YEARS

low Jesus' command to share the gospel "throughout the nations" for the next hundred years. Ronnie Simmons closed the service with prayer and blessed the noon meal. Everyone enjoyed a traditional Texas meal of brisket, beans, and salads, catered by Mr. and Mrs. Louis Lee Baty and Rick Moeller of Knox City. An array of desserts were prepared by the ladies of the church.

The second service began at two o'clock with the opening hymn "Victory in Jesus" led by Jerry Bob Daniel. Rev. Marq Brockett opened in prayer. Bro. Matt Harrington, pastor of Gillespie Baptist Church, presented the Gilliland Church history highpoints. Rogers Lankford of Electra performed "Rise Again" for special music.

Former pastors were recognized with Dick Williams, H. B. Graves, Matt Harrington in attendance. The Bratton family filled two pews as they represented

Terry Bratton's years as pastor. A time of remembrances was offered and many people shared special memories and anecdotes of life in Gilliland over the years. Unable to attend, Gladys Meeks sent a letter by her family sharing her thoughts and wishes.

Lyndle Reeves brought a unique arrangement for special music. The song is called "The Old Country Church". Lyndle sang the verses and choruses from wonderful old hymns were sung by the congregation after each verse. From the expressions on each face, it seemed as if no one wanted this special time to end.

Bro. H. B. Graves brought a heartfelt message encouraging Christians to join "hands" together in love to offer Jesus to the world. Kenneth Carroll closed the service with prayer and the congregation sang "God Be With You Til We Meet Again".

New friendships began as easily as a handshake or a hug. Old friendships were rekindled with a smile and a memory. All of these people gathered together for more than just singing hymns and listening to preaching. They came to share their lives, their love and their grace with each other.

livestock. **SOUTH PLAINS:** Daytime highs were in the upper 50s and 60s with nighttime temperatures in the upper 40s. Heavy winds stirred up dust, which was followed by freezing drizzle turning into snow. Soil moisture was adequate. Producers continue to prepare for spring planting. Winter wheat was fair to good and continued to mature. Pastures and rangeland were in fair to good condition. Livestock were mostly in good condition.

SOUTHWEST: Year-to-date rainfall was close to twice the long-term average. The soil moisture profile is full, and the region was beginning to green up as temperatures became more moderate. Spinach, cabbage, potatoes, onions, lettuce, wheat and oats were making full use of the moisture conditions and cool weather and were making excellent progress. Corn planting was completed, and sorghum planting gained momentum. The harvesting of spinach, cabbage, broccoli and carrots was ongoing. Ranchers continue to concentrate on calving, lambing and kidding.

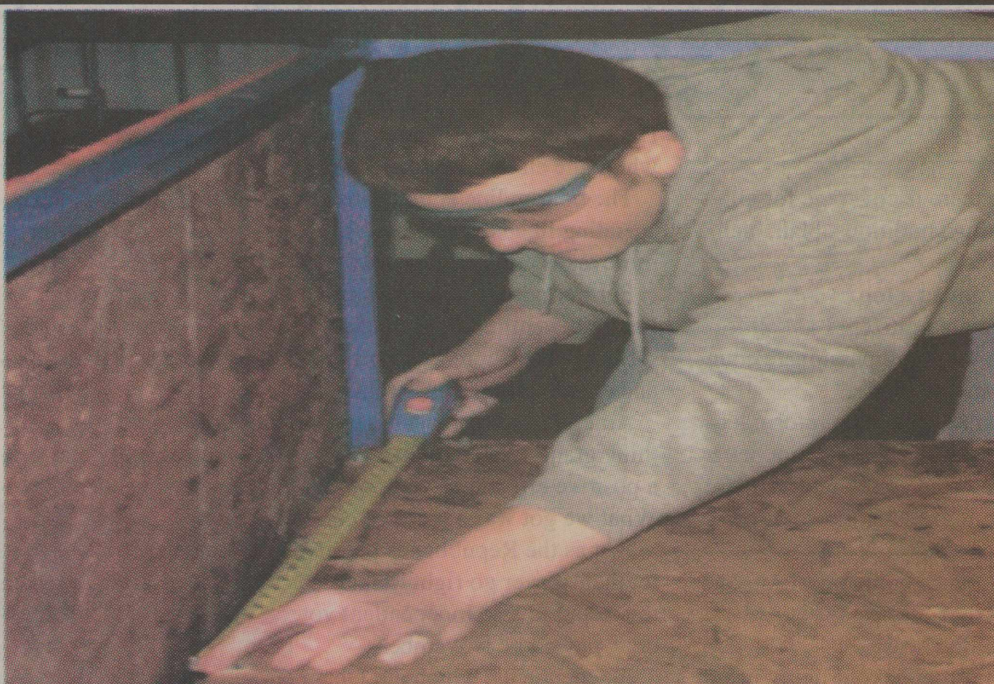
WEST-CENTRAL: Daytime temperatures were much warmer but nights were cool. A few counties reported rainfall. Soil moisture levels were very good, and small-grain crops were doing well. Wheat was about ready to head out. Rangeland and pasture greened up. Producers slowed supplemental feeding of livestock significantly. Fruit trees were starting to bud. Growers began pruning and applying herbicides.

The Knox City FFA, Ag Mechanics Teams recently competed in the San Angelo Livestock Show Ag Mechanics Competition and did very well. Bandy Moeller and Austin Valimont constructed a showed a winch operated, pig trimming table for which they received a Blue Award. Brittney Gonzales and Reagan Clark showed a Pickup mounted shooting platform, also receiving a Blue Award. Mike Wilburn also competed in the competition with a Chicken Brooder that he constructed, Mike received a Red Award for his efforts.

Project Show is a wonderful opportunity for Students in FFA to showcase projects that they have been working on, and it provides an avenue for those students which might not be able to compete with an animal, to participate in a major stock show."

In other stock show news, Bandy Moeller placed eighth with his Light Weight Duroc in the Houston Livestock Show this last week.

FFA Members have been busy since January competing in Fort Worth, San Antonio, San Angelo, Houston and will compete in Austin this week.



Mike Wilburn

Pastures green up, but corn planting still delayed

COLLEGE STATION: Warmer weather and sunshine dried out fields in parts of the state, allowing farmers back into fields, according to reports from Texas AgriLife Extension Service personnel. However, some parts of the state received more moisture, which continued to be a mixed blessing.

Corn planting was spotty in some areas, particularly central Texas, and farmers were unable to take full advantage of the added moisture to pastures and wheat because they couldn't get into the fields to fertilize. But the moisture, where there were warmer conditions, greened up pastures and relieved the strain on stressed hay supplies.

High winds came to the Far West region, which was another mixed blessing. The wind dried out soils, allowing farmers to do fieldwork, but it also dried out grasses, increasing the danger of wildfire.

"With most hay supplies wiped out, producers are grateful for the warmer temperatures," said Aaron Low, AgriLife Extension agent in Cherokee County, south of Tyler. "Warm-season grasses are beginning to germinate. Ryegrass fields are doing well with warmer temperatures and recent rainfall. Most producers are waiting on fields to dry up so they can begin fertilizing."

"No corn has been planted due to wet conditions," said Derek Scasta, AgriLife

Extension agent in Navarro County, Corsicana. "This puts corn growers two weeks behind the ideal planting date at this stage. This may cause a shift in acres to grain sorghum and cotton. Wheat and oats have made significant progress."

"We finally got a few clear, warm days without rain and the producers were finally able to get some corn planted," reported Jared Ripple, AgriLife Extension agent in Williamson County, south of Temple.

"Weather conditions for most of the week have been much improved in terms of temperature and sunshine," said Mark Currie, AgriLife Extension agent for Polk County, east of Huntsville. "Green-up of pastures is still slow due to cool night temperatures. Many producers are completely out of hay and are hopeful grazing will be soon. In the meantime, they are feeding (protein) cubes, purchasing hay and whatever reasonably price method of feeding they can find to get by until grass comes on."

"Very windy conditions this week with extreme fire danger," reported Jesse Lea Schneider, AgriLife Extension agent in Presidio County, south of Fort Davis. "The loco weed (locoweed -- one word) crop was continuing to grow quickly and in large numbers. There were some reports of nonnative yearlings consuming the weed and suffering the results. Most cattle were on supplemental

feed and consuming large amounts of mineral."

The following summaries were compiled by AgriLife Extension district reporters:

CENTRAL: Some producers were able to plant corn. It was hoped that others will be able to plant this week before another rainfall. Other producers were considering shifting to grain sorghum and cotton. Wheat and oats have made significant progress. All stock water tanks were full. Cattle producers were feeding less hay thanks to warmer weather. The spring calving season was under way.

COASTAL BEND: Fields began to dry out, and farmers were busy planting and applying fertilizers. Corn planting neared completion; sorghum planting was well under way; and cotton planting began. Warmer days and nights raised soil temperatures. Rangeland conditions improved. Forages were still in short supply, and most producers found supplemental feeding was still necessary.

EAST: Weather improved with warmer temperatures and more sunshine. Pastures began to green up from the warm days but the process was slowed somewhat by cool nights. Soils were very wet in most areas which has prevented producers from fertilizing pastures. Some parts of the area were drier, and producers were preparing hay meadows and pastures for the planting of improved forages. Cattle remained in



Bandy Moeller



Brittney Gonzales

fair to good condition. Feral hogs continued to damage pastures as wet conditions drove them out of low-lying areas to higher ground.

FAR WEST: Temperatures were mostly mild with winds gusting up to 60 mph. Wildfire danger was very high. There were some reports of cattle getting sick on locoweed. Farmers were preparing fields for cotton and chile planting with furrowing and pre-planting irrigation. Where possible, they also applied fertilizer and herbicide. Spring wheat emerged with good stands. Alfalfa was growing slowly but was fully out of dormancy. Fall-planted onions were at the fourth-leaf stage. Growers were irrigating pecans.

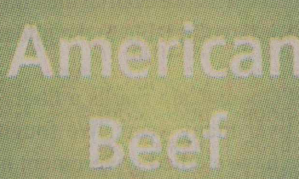
NORTH: Soil moisture levels ranged from adequate to surplus. Some areas received more rain last week, which was unfortunate as many fields were already saturated and some had standing water. There were a couple of reports of hail. Continued wet weather made pastures a muddy mess, so farmers still could not get into fields to prepare for corn planting. Where possible, they were fertilizing hay fields. Longer days and warmer temperatures seemed to help plants begin to wake from winter dormancy. Winter wheat was in poor to fair condition and could really use some dry days and sunshine. Feral hogs continued to be a major problem. Livestock was in fair to good condition, and producers continued supplemental feeding. With the warmer weather, ryegrass finally showed a little growth. Trees were starting to bud, and grass was greening up. Peach trees looked good. Rangeland and pastures were in poor to fair condition.

PANHANDLE: The weather varied greatly. Warm days were followed by snow,

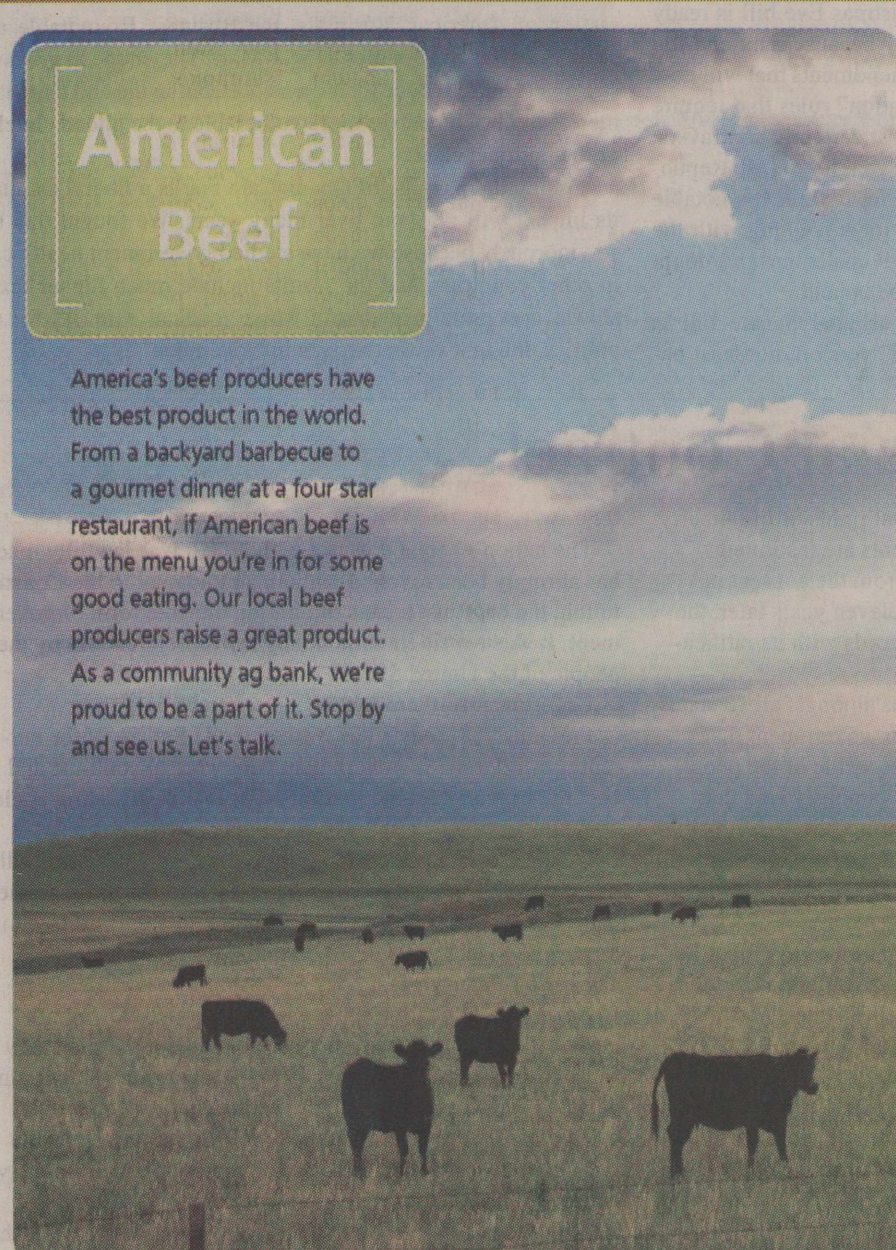
which was followed in turn by warm and windy conditions. The more northern counties received snow on two separate days. The western part of the district received as much as 8 inches of snow. Farmers began preparing for spring planting where fields dried out. Wheat showed growth, and producers were waiting for conditions to dry out further so they could apply fertilizer and spray for weeds. Beef producers were still providing supplemental feed as hay supplies ran low.

ROLLING PLAINS: Most of the past week was sunny with high winds, which helped dry out fields and allowed the rapid growth of wheat. Field scouting showed wheat was in the first hollow-stem stage of growth. Pastures were beginning to come out of dormancy, causing livestock producers to breathe a little easier as hay supplies were low. However, some producers continued to provide supplemental feed to livestock. Cattle on rangeland and wheat remained in good shape. Cotton farmers, encouraged by good soil moisture, were planning for the spring planting, plowing and listing fields, but were a long way from actually planting. Weeds were becoming a problem in fields.

SOUTH: Soil moisture levels conditions were good across most of the area except for the far northwest corner. Milder temperatures enabled producers to do some field work. Producers irrigated wheat, onions, spinach, cabbage and oats in the western part of the region. Planting of grain sorghum and cotton was expected to increase soon in the eastern counties. Rangeland and pastures began to show signs of growth, and the condition of livestock improved accordingly. Producers were still providing some supplemental feed to



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