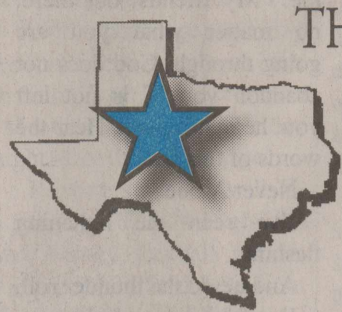


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THE

KNOX COUNTY NEWS

PROUDLY SERVING THE KNOX COUNTY AREA

10 PAGES PLUS INSERTS
VOLUME XXIX

KNOX COUNTY, TEXAS
THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2010

75 CENTS
NUMBER 43

Texas department of Rural Affairs present check to local officials



Picture left to right are. Isabel Diaz , Secretary , Chris Russell from TDRA, and Billie Ruth Walker, Alderperson representing O'Brien City Council.

Picture by Chris Russell

The Texas department of Rural affairs presented an oversized ceremonial check to local officials in O'Brien Texas to recognize the community for securing a grant from the agency's Texas Community Block grant program. Agency staff presented the check on August 3 at O'Brien City Hall.

The City of O'Brien will use it's \$247,615 to install a new effluent storage pond with irrigation pump, lines

and facilities to irrigate coastal grass on property owned by the City, so that it can meet TCEQ requirements.

The agency has awarded \$1,747,615 to seven West Central Texas area communities, including O'Brien, Haskell, Goree, Ranger, Loraine, Rising Star, and Benjamin. TDRA awarded more than 442 million to rural communities in Texas for the 2010 funding cycle.

FFA seniors receive degrees in Corpus Christi



Bandy Moeller receives his Lone star FFA Degree
Courtesy Photo

2010 Knox City High School Seniors, bandy Moeller and Britney Gonzales recently received their Lone Star FFA degrees while attending the State



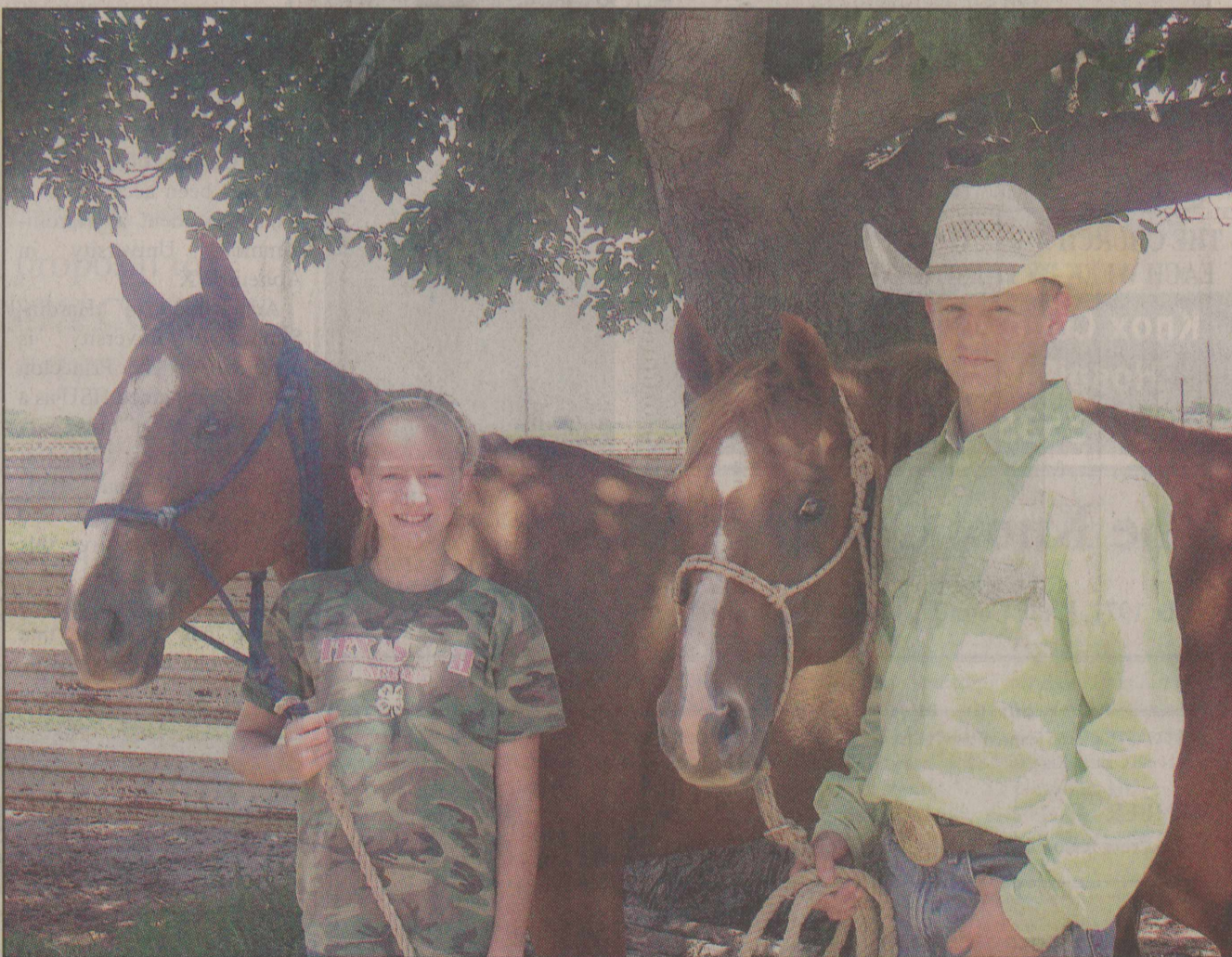
Britney Gonzales accepts her Lone Star FFA Degree
Courtesy Photo

FFA convention in Corpus Christi. Bandy is the son of Rick and Kristi Moeller. Britney is the daughter of Rick and Tammy Gonzales.

"We are proud of their accomplishment and wish them best in all their future endeavors," says local FFA sponsor, Joe Nelson. The local FFA would like to

thank everyone who supported them through these young people's high school careers and for the support of the Knox City Ag department.

4-Her's Take Honors at State Horse Show



State Horse Show 2010 2

The Taylor County Expo Center in Abilene, TX was filled with excitement and thrills as 4-Her's from across the state gathered at the 48th Annual State 4-H Horse Show. From July 25 - July 31 individuals competed in over 36 events ranging from showmanship and roping to precision drill teams and barrels. Once

again Knox County was not let down by its local competitors. Competitors participating at the event were Larami Stewart, Ryder Cude, and Kathryn Cude.

Starting the week off, Larami Stewart received a 5th place in the Cutting. In the 2 Year Old Futurity Classes Stewart placed

4th in Futurity Pleasure Pattern, 13th in Versatility, and 11th in Western Pleasure Pattern. These places enabled her to come in 8th place overall in the finals. In the 3 Year Old Futurity classes Stewart placed 25th in Trail, 9th in Reining, 11th in Working Cow Horse, and she also worked well in the Pleasure Pattern.

Stewart received 20th place overall in the 3 Year Old Futurity division. Stewart's highlight of the week was in the Team Penning where she and teammates Lottie Elliott of King County and Kelsey Stokes of Dickens County took 1st place. Ryder Cude also had a very good showing at the state
See 4-H on Page 10

LOOKING AHEAD

Summer is winding to a close- Knox County schools all reconvene for the Fall Semester on Aug. 23.

Knox City Football: Varsity scrimmage Thursday in Petersburg vs Petersburg, Valley and Meadow at 6 p.m. JV scrimmage Friday vs Lueders Avoca Varsity in Knox City at 6 p.m. Friday is also meet the Hounds and Houndettes night. We ask that people donate laundry soap or shower soap for admittance to scrimmage

The St. Paul Baptist Church will be collecting funds for their new building through a can collection drive. Anyone with cans can donate them to the cause by simply dropping your cans off at 308 SW 4th Street in Knox City. There is also a raffle going on through the end of August, please see a St. Paul member for more details.

Looking forward to the Liberty Church 16th Homecoming/ 85th Anniversary Celebration will take place Sept. 4 and 5. At the Liberty Church located at 302 Aspen Street. The festivities will include Games, a Musical, Church anniversary Service, Fellowship, and much more. Make sure you mark you calendar- everyone is invited to attend.

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Starting on Aug. 20, Knox County News will officially be open from 9-3 Monday thru Wednesday, and 9-4 Friday. The Office will continue to be closed on Thursday. You can email us anytime at KCNews@Valornet.com or call the office at (940) 657-4132, at which time the editors cell phone number is listed for any needs that require immediate attention.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - Knox City

Jerry Vincent, 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 -

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
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MUNDAY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Adrian Fletcher, Pastor

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God's Promises

By H.B. Graves

After sixty-three years as a preacher of the gospel, I would like to share with you some truths I have learned.

1. The greatest knowledge of all is that Jesus loves me. Having obtained the highest degree in my field of learning, this is the best knowledge of all. I learned this before I started school. We sang at kids, at the top of our voices, "Jesus loves me, this I know, because the Bible tells me so. I still sing it in my head. John 3:16 was the first verse I learned.

2. The second truth is that the Word of God never fails. The Bible says, "Heaven and Earth will pass away God's word shall not pass away." Again, as a kid, we sang "The BIBLE. Let's stand on in- believe and act on it."

3. The third truth is the promises never fail. God always keeps his promises. Try Romans 8:28 for one. Hebrew 4:16 says: "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of Grace, that we may obtain mercy and forgiveness to help in the time of need" (In Texas terms: "when we come to the end of the rope, hang on and pray.") Job 36:6 says "he will draweth not eyes from the righteous; but with kings as they are on the throne, yes, he doth establish them forever and they are exalted."

4. The fourth truth is the gospel never fails. Romans 1:16 says, "I am not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God into salvation to everyone believeth." "To the Jews first, then to the Greek." My first pastor and the one

who baptized me, wrote a note to me after I became a preacher... "Keep preaching the old time gospel, it is the only thing that will save sinners and keep the heart of the saved warm." Because of the gospel, I have seen the worst lives changed.

5. The fifth truth goes all the way back to the time I became a preacher: The presence of God never fails. The promise of God has kept me through many a storm. Hebrews 13:5: "I will never leave you and forsake you." I think of all life's troubles, sorrows and deaths; and Jesus was there all the time. Our first parsonage burned to the ground. He was there. Then polio struck my son, and then two wives died of cancer. But God's presence was right there in the lonely midnight hours. While my

first wife, Ruth, and mother of my children was dying in M.D. Anderson in Houston, I walked the parking lot, out of my mind. God brought me through and said, "H.B., I know where you are, trust me." My friends, out there, no matter what you are going through, God does not abandon you. E is not left you, he is near you. Hear the words of this song:

Never Alone
 I've seen the lightning flashing;
 And heard the thunder roll,
 I've felt sinners dashing,
 Trying to conquer my soul;
 I've heard the voice of Jesus
 Telling me still to fight on,
 Never to leave me alone.
 There are many other truths, but these five stood out in my mind.

Sheriff's Report

Knox County Sheriff, Dean W. Homstad recently attended the Sheriff's Association of Texas 132nd Annual Training Conference at the Fort Worth Convention Center in Fort Worth on July 25 through 27.

The first Sheriff's Association of Texas Conference was in 1878. Held annually in various cities across the state, this event allows Sheriffs, Deputies, Federal, State and City law enforcement officers to network and discuss different issues that effect law enforcement across the state and nation. This year, participants received training on a variety of topics, including: bail bonds, communications inter-operability, prisoner transportation safety, mental health/ Medical clearance protocols, records keeping management, forensic data

analysis, and pardons/parole, among many more topics. Participants also had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the latest in crime fighting tools and technology at more than 240 exhibitor booths.

The Sheriff's association of Texas (SAT) is a 501 ©(3) non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the effectiveness of local law enforcement in Texas. Through the support of their members, SAT provides training, legal/technical information, and other critical resources to Peace Officers in Texas. SAT also offers scholarships to Peace Officers and their children who wish to further their education. In addition, they honor fallen officers with their Lost Lawmen memorial. For further information on the Sheriff's Association of Texas and

how to join as a member, visit www.txsheriffs.org or call (512) 455-5888.

As an added note, SAT is a genuine organization, putting a lot of the dues and fees back into scholarships and training that really does benefit the Law enforcement community as a whole. If anyone tries to call you and coax or persuade you to send money to join SAT, call Dean at the Sheriff's Office at (940) 459-2211, but only after you tell the caller in no uncertain terms that the local Sheriff advised to do so. SAT does not call and bother citizens to join. There are a large number of organizations that do call and try to get sympathy going with stories about assisting groups of Law Enforcement, and there are probably a few good ones around. By the time you get to the good organizations, you will be

broke from giving crooked ones with high-pressure sales persons. I get the same sales persons calling me, but when I tell them I am a member of the SAT, they usually give up and quietly hang up.

I do say thank you to all the Knox County citizens who are members of this association, and hope the magazine and other benefits are worthwhile. As you members know, you do get a renewal notice every year, but that should be the only notice to get you to re-join. Those who are not members, think about it, try it for a year or two, see what you think. It's really a pretty neat organization.

Hope you are surviving the hot summer. Seems like they get longer every year. Have a great day.
 -Dean W. Homstad, Knox County Sheriff

Sarah Clower to attend Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, TX

ABILENE, TX (08/16/2010)(readMedia)-- Sarah Clower, of Benjamin, TX, has been accepted as a transfer student at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, TX.

Admission to Hardin-Simmons University is competitive. The Princeton Review has named HSU as a "Best in the West" university in its "2011 Best Colleges: Region by Region." HSU is one of 120 colleges and universities to receive this distinction.

U.S. News and World Report has reported that HSU is one of nine private universities in the nation

offering a tuition guarantee program. HSU is also named among the Colleges of Distinction and is on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

Hardin-Simmons University, founded in 1891, is a fully accredited church-related Master's (comprehensive) University. Affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas since 1941, HSU provides excellence in education enlightened by Christian faith and values.

With its 13:1 student-to-faculty ratio, students enjoy personal attention as

they pursue over 70 fields of undergraduate study, 20 programs of graduate study, including the Doctor of Physical Therapy and the Doctor of Ministry degrees. Pre-professional programs include dentistry, engineering, medicine, law, pharmacy, and seminary.

Clower is among approximately 550 students who will start fall classes on Aug. 23.

On the web: <http://readme.readmedia.com/hometownnews/Sarah-Clower-to-Attend-Hardin-Simmons-University-in-Abilene-TX/1694865>.

The Knox County News

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DEADLINES - The deadline to submit news and advertising is 5 p.m. on Fridays. Exceptions may be granted only by permission from the Editor.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

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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.

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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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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.

My laptop computer screen has a crack across it, east to west. I'm getting used to it. Reminds me of a windshield.

Is there virtue in playing the martyr and putting up with something that's broken? If so, give me a few points, mostly for windshields.

Or is it nobler to get things fixed? Maybe it is. My parents were always getting things fixed. They were good people. Give them points.

A friend of mine had an equally nice set of parents, who didn't believe in fixing things. Give them some points too. When reverse went out on their car, no problem. They lived in the country - better said, in a village. When they drove to town on Saturday, they simply parallel parked, which wasn't easy in a town where most spaces were angled. For a couple of years their favorite spot to leave the family car was near a lumberyard not far off Main Street. When they finally replaced that car with one that went both directions, reverse must have seemed like a luxury. I guess it is. That's how I think of it when it comes to horses, although I've never had one that didn't back. I've only had two.

As for cars, reverse has never failed me, but a brake return spring went haywire more than once on my 1962 Chrysler in college days. When it happened, I could drive that car only in reverse. Talk about a moral dilemma. Should I drive down the right side of the street the same as always except for the orientation of my car? Or should I drive on the left side of the street with my car pointing the same direction as all the other cars but going against traffic? Even now, it's hard for me to sort it all out.

I do remember that at one point I found myself grill-to-grill with a policeman. Seems like I told him I was going only the short distance to the gas station. I don't remember getting a ticket. Anyway, it was the truth.

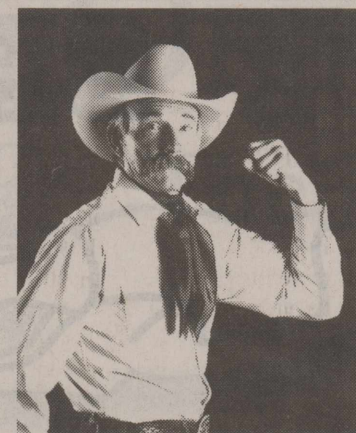
If things didn't break, we'd all miss a lot. A friend of a friend of mine would have missed the love of her life. He repaired appliances. She broke her stove to get to know him better. It worked.

How do you break a stove? I don't know. Ours is already broken. I think it bothers my husband more than me. It's not that it doesn't work. It's a cosmetic issue involving some irreplaceable trim. If I were a pushy wife I'd complain. But instead I'm a martyr, chalking up points.

Regarding stoves, I like gas. Electric stoves are pretenders. Ours is an electric one from the harvest gold era. Ho-hum.

Some of these days, I'll tell my husband I've put up with our broken stove long enough. He'll agree we need a new one. I'll cash in my points to press for gas.

Or maybe I just won't do anything. I'd hate to lose all those points.



ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE
by Baxter Black, DVM

THE EYEGLASS INCIDENT

Back pain is the bane of many farmers and ranchers. A life of lifting, riding, shifting and physical exertion often leads them to a long-term relationship with osteopathic surgeons.

Last spring Colorado rancher, Evan, suffered through the spring branding and the state cattlemen's meeting before making his doctor appointment. As his wife was checking him in, he excused himself to the rest room. Even pulling the door open was a strain. Unzipping the barn door made him wince!

Ah...relief! Then closure. He looked down and a sharp pain shot from his left ear down the back of his neck! His face contorted and the left lens fell out of his glasses! Leaning to the side for a quick glance, he broke the laser beam and the automatic flush mechanism fired off, gurgling, flooding and sucking water out of the wall mounted unit!

Evan straightened, looked down in the well and saw his lens floating at the bottom of the pool.

"Oh, halla-loo-ya!" he thought, then reached down to pluck it out. Which, of course, activated the auto flush again... slosh, gurgle, gulp! A pain shot down his sciatic nerve, causing him to arch backwards, firing off the auto flush again, but he caught a glimpse of the lens burbling in the white water.

An idea slid into his tormented mind. He backed up, and with the caution of a man unfolding an origami duck, he dropped to one knee, then to the other, then to his paws. Stealthily Evan snuck up on the evil white porcelain monster, staying well below the auto flush laser beam. Using his tactile memory he raised his right arm, cocked his wrist and reached into the quiet pool. The aperture admitted only two fingers. He explored the sidewalls and felt the lens up in the ascending ceramic pipe.

"Okay!" he said. Many facial contortions accompanied his digital efforts but the lens was hard to hold on to. He considered asking one of the nurses at the desk for a six-inch curved forcep to extract the missing lens, but he dismissed the idea thinking it would make him look "less than professional."

He was absorbed in deep concentration when suddenly the bathroom door swung open and a large man walked quickly behind him to the next wall unit. Evan looked around in surprise, pinching a nerve, as the stranger's movement broke the red beam and cracked the automatic flush bazooka!

Trapped in the slooshing whirlpool, Evan managed to grasp the lens! He pulled it out then raised his dripping fingers and sodden shirtsleeve in victory! The stranger peered over the divider at the pitiful demented figure crouching on his knees and grinning like a lopsided duckbill platypus.

Evan opened his mouth to speak...wincing, then simply said, "...never mind."

KNOX COUNTY AGING SERVICES MENUS FOR AUG. 23rd TO AUG. 27th

Monday Aug. 23rd Meatloaf Pattie/Gravy Hominy Casserole Green Beans Hot Rolls Pudding	Thursday Aug. 26th Beef Burrito/Cheese Sauce Salad Refried Beans Cake
Tuesday Aug. 24th Chicken/Stir Fry Vegetables Rice Salad Garlic Toast Cobbler	Friday Aug. 27th Bbq On A Bun Tater Tots Pickle Spears Dessert

New serving time is 12 noon (in Knox City only). Alternate desserts for diabetics. Please call in your orders by 10 A.M. to 657-3618. Orders cant be taken after 10 A.M. And need to be picked up after 11 A.M.

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Stewart, Benjamin, Texas. Position will remain open until filled.

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Classifieds get results!

Legal Notice

A sealed bid was received for the following property:
Parcel number #9754, Account 50370-00800-00000-340119 further described as being Abst 370 BLKC Sec 119 H&TC RR, Benjamin, 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 a cashiers check or money order for the amount of the sealed bid. The taxing units, owners of the property, reserve the right to reject all bids. If your bid is rejected, our 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.

Legal Notice

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

interim and final inspections for the application's project that is awarded a contract by the Texas Department of Rural Affairs (TDRA). Please submit your proposal of services and a statement of qualifications for these proposed services to the address below:
Mayor Sylinda Meinzer
City of Benjamin
P.O. Box 286
Benjamin, Texas 79505
Proposals must be received by the City no later than **Friday, September 3, 2010 at 3:00 P.M.** to be considered. The City reserves the right to negotiate with any and all engineers or firms that submit proposals, per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards. The City of Benjamin is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

The City of Benjamin is requesting proposals for engineering services in conjunction with Community Development Block Grant Fund, Community Development Supplemental Fund and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Fund from the Texas Department of Rural Affairs (TDRA) for program 2010. Accordingly, the City is seeking to contract with a qualified engineering firm registered to practice in the State of Texas to prepare all preliminary and final design plans and specifications, and to conduct all necessary

NRCS

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)		Rainfall inches	Snow inches
	Low	High		
8/02	70	103		
8/03	72	102		
8/04	74	102		
8/05	71	101		
8/06	76	98		
8/07	73	103		
8/08	77	102		
Total Rainfall for month			0.0	
2010 Rainfall (ytd)			27.33	6.6

Counts Real Estate
David Counts, Broker
Marla Hawkins, Agent Patsy Gonzales, Agent
102 North Ave. A (940)658-3390
Knox City, Texas

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. REDUCED

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

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

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

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: 1900+/- sq ft brick home. CH/AC, 2 living areas, 4 E Contract Pending yard, cellar, great closets!

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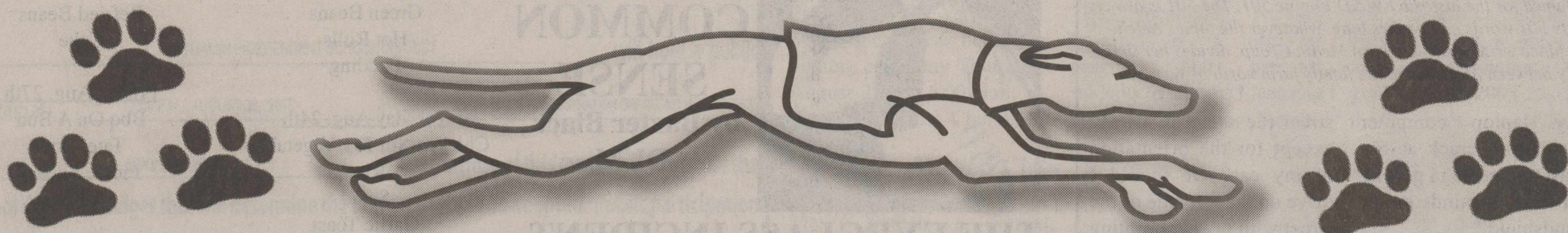
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Thanks for reading the Knox County News!

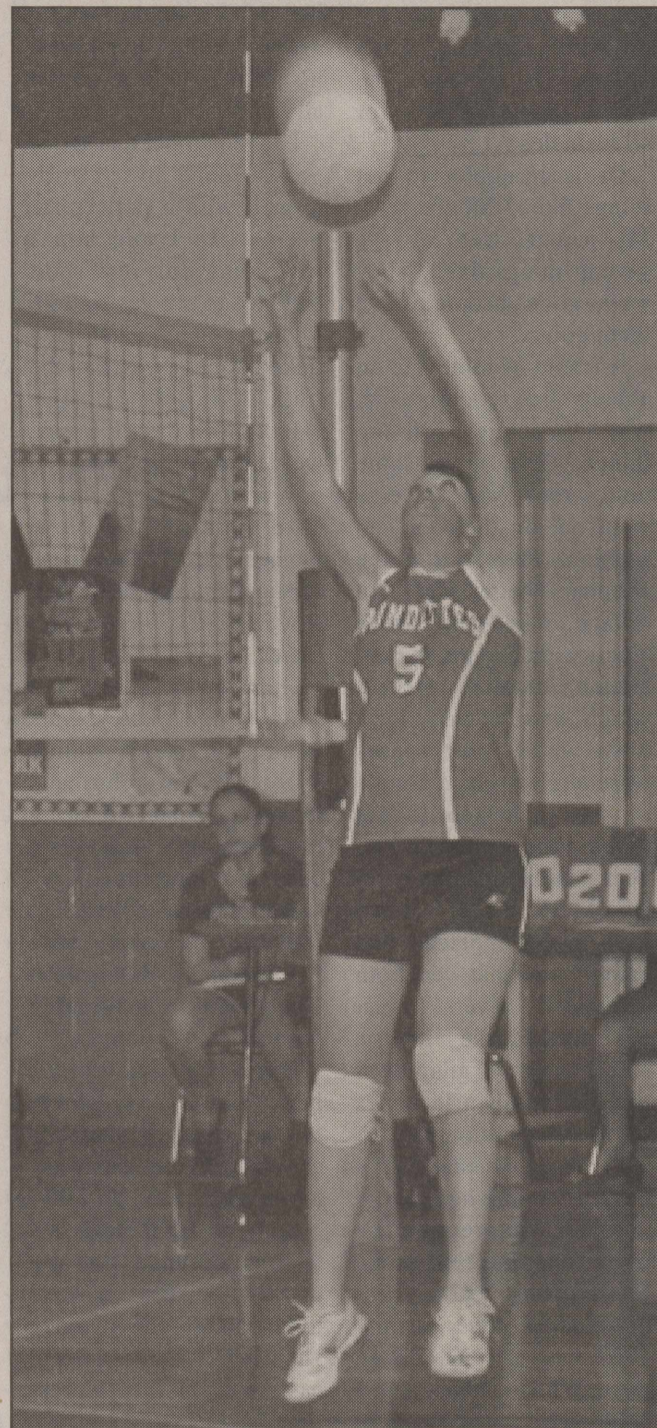
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KNOX CITY SPORTS



Reagan Clark sets one up against Forrestburg at the Tournament this past weekend. The Houndettes won against Forrestburg 2 and 1.



Chastity Tolson Spikes one over at this weekends tournament. The girls lost to Munday in the Semi-Finals of the Tournament.

Photo by Daveine Clark

Photo by Daveine Clark

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The Hounds beat up on Newcastle, get hounded by Paducah

By Jeff Stanfield
It could not have been warmer unless you played your 1st scrimmage in Hell. It must have been 110

degrees when the Knox City greyhounds opened their season against Newcastle. The boys played well as the Hounds tied 1-1. With the Hounds giving up an early score, the defense quickly stiffened up.

Blake Jones got his motor running and really started getting in the backfield and that seemed to get a fire under us. Zach Shaver and Ryan Ledesma then started making some hits and the Hounds really looked a lot better on defense after they got warmed up and settled in. On offense Knox City looked shaky the first couple of plays, then the coaches put in the boys who are going to be this year's "bread and butter". Ryan off the left side behind Brandon Bradley's blocking and Blake Jones and Austin Valimont. The Hounds moved the ball well then would mix up the personal and seem to bog

down. Although there was a fumble on one possession, one of the most memorable moments of the game was a great pass from Zach York to Blake, then the Hounds drove down the field and Ryan punched it in.

On defense T.J. Moore really stepped up and made some heads up plays. Jarek Wilde made some good stops and showed lots of hustle. Marcelle Lewis showed his speed on a nice burst around the end.

Against Paducah though, the boys looked like Coach Maxwell in a sprint race against Derek Coleman. Paducah is fast and they had 3 big plays. They used more of an open offense while the Hounds worked on the basics, substituting all of the players. Brandon Bradley done a great job in coverage, Santos and Chago Espinal really have

See HOUNDS on page 9

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NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 152.013, Local Government Code, notice is hereby given of salaries, expenses, or allowances of elected officials proposed to be increased for FYE 09/30/2011.

Elected Official	Salary	Increase	Total
County Judge	\$29,657	\$1,483	\$31,140
County/District Clerk	\$26,602	\$1,330	\$27,932
County Attorney	\$24,193	\$1,210	\$25,403
Tax Assessor/Collector	\$14,779	\$739	\$15,518
County Treasurer	\$26,602	\$1,330	\$27,932
County Sheriff	\$31,315	\$1,565	\$32,880
Commissioner Prct 1	\$27,654	\$1,383	\$29,037
Commissioner Prct 2	\$27,654	\$1,383	\$29,037
Commissioner Prct 3	\$38,263	\$1,383	\$39,646
Commissioner Prct 4	\$28,438	\$1,383	\$29,821
Justice of the Peace	\$26,602	\$1,330	\$27,932
Constable	\$6,582	\$329	\$6,911

Hearing on salary increases will be held during the regular budget hearing on August 26th, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

BENJAMIN NEWS

By Gladene Green

It's been a pretty full weekend for folks over this way. Teachers were getting ready for their first day of school- the football team scrimmaged Knox City Saturday morning and other activities captured much of the residents' time. A busy, busy time indeed.

Regarding Our Ill

Bo Milson suffered a fall at her son, David's, home at Cedar Hill last Monday. First reports back here were that she had some broken vertebrae in her neck and also a broken collar bone, but on Sunday, Janice Tolson received word from Bo that she does not have any broken bones. What the doctors were seeing were old scars from an injury when she was 19 years old. Not real sure is she's still in the hospital or not but Janice said she doesn't much think she is. She's sore and bruised but that will leave before long- It's just such good news that she has no broken bones. Bo also said David's doing pretty well. He has gained some weight and will have his second chemo treatment this week. Very encouraging news from both of them.

Sharon Patterson Bivens finally got her report after surgery two weeks ago, and now she will see an oncologist to determine what kind of treatment she will have. Sharon had melanoma cancer many years ago and had treatment at MD Anderson, so naturally she (and the rest of us) are very anxious about what is ahead for her.

Jonnie Williams continues to have some good days and some not so good days, but she's hanging in there. It always makes us feel good to hear when she is feeling better.

Jack Young has been having some problems and undergoing tests and scans to try and determine the cause. The results were in on Friday. Jack has a brain tumor and they are getting an appointment this week with an oncologist and after that meeting, they will know what type of treatment will be used. Mary told me he doesn't feel too bad, just has trouble with his equilibrium and is dizzy from time to time. We pray for the success with whatever treatment he does have. I urge everyone to remember Jack, Sharon, Jonnie and Bo in their prayers as well as others we may not be aware of.

Sympathy Sent

My deepest sympathy to Brenda Floyd and her family this week- Brenda's mom passed away last week after being in failing health for quite some time. Her funeral was Friday in Munday.

Here 'N There

Josh and Nicholas Brumley spent a few days with their dad, Brandon, in Vernon before school starts. Their sister, Liddy, planned to stay but developed a sore throat and had to come on back home to recuperate.

Jennifer Roberts, who lives in Virginia is here for a few days visit with her grandparents, Kenneth and Jessie Roberts and other relatives. Jennifer lived in Tokyo, Japan for several years before returning back to the good ole' U.S. of A.

My daughter, Debbie Moorhouse and I spent Saturday in Amarillo visiting her kids and grandkid, Beckie and Cody and their families. It was Cody and Kyla's oldest, Lexie, birthday so highlight of the day was a party (complete with a Hanna Montana cake) at Mr. Gatti's Pizza. A good day and lots of good visiting.

On Sunday, Debbie and Mike visited daughter, Lynn and her husband, Michael Rogers in Snyder.

Sue Terry and children, Summer and Jake of Dallas spent the weekend with Sue's mom and dad, Jane Gideon and Weldon Gideon, and her sister, Lana Mendoza and family.

Linda Griffith was in Lubbock Thursday for a fun day with her granddaughter, Kate and Abby Tyson before the girls go back to school.

Jack Jr. and Cindy Young of Round Rock spent several days here with his parents, Jack and Mary. Debbie Neil, the Young's daughter who lives in Boca Raton, Florida will arrive at DFW today and Butch and Letha Young, who will be in the Metroplex will bring them here to Benjamin. Debbie will be here for an indefinite time. She is an RN and her medical knowledge will be helpful during this time.

Mitzi and Shane Welch were in Abilene on Sunday for a reunion of his mother's family. Mitzi said about 60 were in attendance.

Laura McCanlies is in school this week in Wichita Falls. This to do with her work in the tax office.

Just Jeff

I went to school in Austin a couple of weeks ago for the longest week of my life. It was like getting sentenced to a week at a dentist. The thing that struck me the most was apparently when you go to law school you automatically lose your common sense. It seems the entire administration in Washington must be lawyers. They have zero common sense.

As I sit and think about the last year and what they have done for us common folk, it really gets me hot under the collar. First, the blackmail or bribe for votes on healthcare; then restricting the off shore drilling; followed by lawsuits against Arizona, and the newest rumor, that Obama is going to forgive all the Fanny Mae and Freddie Mac home loans. What? How can you just forgive this debt for these bad home loans? What about all of us who paid our homes off or struggle each month but make our home loans? Why do we keep rewarding those who either bite off more than they can chew, or sit around waiting on a free ride? If your going to forgive some loans, how about college loans for those who are trying to contribute to society instead of being a burden? Or those folks who cannot find jobs? Patrick Henry said, "Give me liberty or death". I just wish someone would tell me what "Liberty" is.

What would I expect from D.C. this same administration will not speak out against building a Mosque next to the world trade center. Can you imagine if in 1950 if the Japanese would have wanted to build a religious center next to the U.S. Arizona. Heck no- it would not have even been considered. We as Americans have become soft, most men today would rather look the other way than to be involved, or even help someone in distress. Grow a spine people and start acting like Americans and doing the American thing. Raise your kids with some manners, respect and a backbone!!!

Make them go to school, be accountable and when things get tough not quit, make them finish what they start. We are raising a country

full of whiners and quitters. We are lucky we live in West Texas where we still have respect, and help each other out.

I am very outspoken and everything I put in print I will say to someone's face. I do not hide on my opinions or thoughts. I love this country and want to see my kids have the same opportunities that I had. When I was younger the main difference in the political party's was very little. Each had an agenda but both where all about America and keeping it safe and prosperous. Today it seems we have an administration that is all about making America its second thought and foreign countries and its economy its main focus.

Obama if you want to prove me wrong I openly invite you to a Town Hall meeting with the citizens of Knox City, not pre screened but just us a bunch of West Texas Americans who want our country back. Let us ask some questions and get some answers about healthcare, tax increases and border security. I figure if you can take vacations all over and go through money like a fat kid through cake then you could put some of your "trip fund" into coming and facing the True Americans like us. You could stimulate our economy and I will even hook you and your 80-man security team up for a free night at the Big Honker Lodge.

Why do people forget how they where raised, or forget about helping others. How come it is so hard to give back? Never turn your back on your past and never forget about someone else's future.

My citizen of the week is to all of our College Students who are going to be heading out to face the real world. Maybe it is your 1st year away from home or your senior year. I am proud of each of you for pushing on with your life and making something of yourself. Follow your dreams and you will always be happy with the results.

Pray for our troops and check on your neighbors. Istanfield@windstream.net

Wildlife biologists conduct spotlight surveys in area

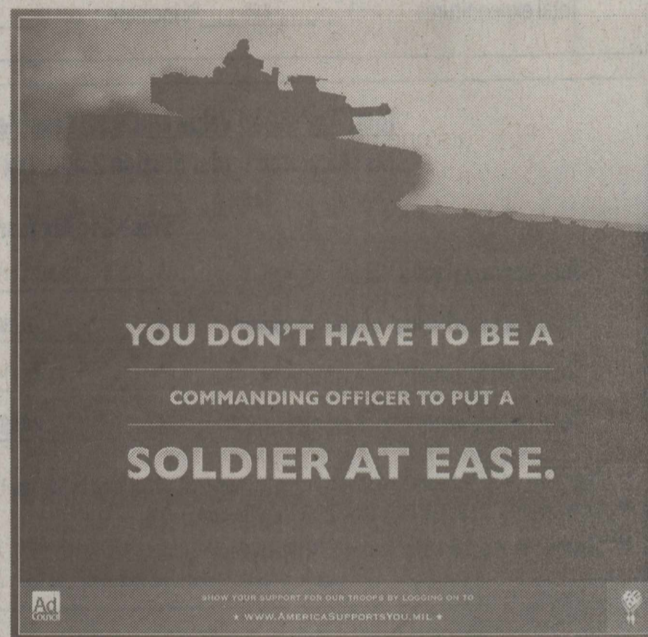
Wildlife biologists across the State will be heading to the field this fall conducting various types of wildlife surveys including Annual Roadside White-tailed Deer Spotlight Surveys. These surveys are conducted each year to determine white-tailed deer population trends, estimate deer densities and determine herd composition.

These surveys will begin the middle of August and continue through the end of September. The survey is conducted by three Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) Biologists, at night beginning one hour after sunset and continuing for the next four hours. These surveys will be done from a State vehicle along public roads including county roads, farm to market roads and state highways. The survey will consist of one driver and two employees riding in the back of a State vehicle spotlighting on both sides of the road, the vehicle will

be going between 5 and 15 miles per hour and making frequent stops to identify deer found using spotlights and binoculars.

TPWD requests that motorists who approach survey vehicles be courteous. However, if you see spotlighting and suspect illegal activity you should contact your local Sheriff's office, Texas Parks & Wildlife State Game Warden or call Operation Game Thief at 1-800-792-GAME. Local Wildlife Biologists make every attempt to notify the local Game Warden, Sheriff's office and landowners along the route prior to conducting the spotlight survey.

In this area there will be White-tailed Deer Spotlight Surveys in Baylor, Childress, Cottle, Foard, Hall, Hardeman, King and Knox Counties. If you have questions concerning this survey, please contact Dana Wright, TPWD Wildlife Biologist, (806)596-4016.



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Lawn and Landscape Program

Texas AgriLife Extension Service will be hosting a Lawn and Landscape Program on Thursday, Aug. 26. The workshop will take place at 6 p.m. in the Perry Patton Community Center in Munday, TX. CEU's and refreshments will be provided. There will also be a couple of drawings for door prizes. Topics that will be discussed include lawn water management and fertilization, rose pruning, and shrub trimming.

If you have any questions

you can call the Knox County Extension Office at (940) 459-2651. Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in a meeting or program are encouraged to contact the Knox County AgriLife Extension office at (940) 459-2651.

Thanks for Reading!

Tax Free Weekend is August 19-22!

Shop at home for great sales and no tax!

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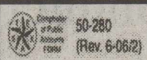
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The KNOX CITY-O'BRIEN CISD will hold a public meeting at 7:00 p.m. AUGUST 31ST, 2010 in SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE, 806 MAIN STREET

KNOX CITY, TEXAS

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$ 1.17000 / \$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$.065 / \$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	2.01	% increase	or	0.000	% (decrease)
Debt service	2.75	% increase	or	0.000	% (decrease)
Total expenditures	2.03	% increase	or	0.000	% (decrease)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 123,943,175	\$ 116,269,193
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 350,550	\$ 552,140
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 73,301,714	\$ 80,525,039
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 350,550	\$ 524,120

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
 ** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
 *** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$ 550,000

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 1.17000	\$ 0.06500 *	\$ 1.23000	\$ 3,373	\$ 7,382
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.17336	\$ 0.06539 *	\$ 1.23876	\$ 3,717	\$ 6,708
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.17000	\$ 0.06500 *	\$ 1.23500	\$ 3,692	\$ 7,602

* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 35,136.00	\$ 36,210.00
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 20,136.00	\$ 21,210.00
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.23000	\$ 1.23500
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 247.67	\$ 261.94
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 14.27

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.17. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.17.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 1,900,000
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 0

TxDOT Debuts New Travel Information Line

AUSTIN - The Texas Department of Transportation wants to hear from Texans. Literally.

Today, TxDOT launched its new interactive voice response (IVR) interface for the Texas Travel Information Line, which provides both road conditions and travel information at 1-800-452-9292.

For the first several weeks, the new IVR system will be "learning" to understand caller*s voices. The first 10,000 calls to the new hotline will supplement months of beta testing by TxDOT employees to help the automated system understand different voice tones and accents.

"John Steinbeck wrote that Texas is 'a nation in every sense of the word,' and at times, we even seem to have our own language with accents from every corner of the state," said Steve Simmons, TxDOT Deputy Executive Director.

"Now we need callers with an East Texas twang and a Panhandle drawl," said Simmons.

"We want South Texans to help the system learn to understand 'Refugio' and Central Texans to teach the computer the number of times the letter 's' is in 'New Braunfels' or how to pronounce 'Mexia' or 'Bexar.'"

TxDOT's new IVR system will be available 24 hours a day. When the state's Travel Information Centers are open, callers will be able to speak to a TxDOT travel counselor with the push of a button. Travel counselors are available 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week.

A Big System for a Big State

The new system was designed by TxDOT and AT&T* and will contain near real-time information on traffic and weather impacting conditions for the Texas roads and highways. In just one phone call, drivers can learn everything about current road conditions - from hurricane evacuation routes to construction delays.

"AT&T worked collaboratively with TxDOT to bring this innovative traffic conditions application

to travelers in Texas," said Christopher Roy, vice president, Government/Education - West, AT&T Operations Inc.

"As one of the first traffic conditions* applications, this solution was more complex than most, due to the road conditions components that make it easier for callers to understand directions."

TxDOT operates and maintains an 80,000 centerline-mile highway system that consists of interstates, U.S. highways, state highways, state loops, farm to market roads and other facilities. Texas is home to 254 counties stretching across two time zones.

The new Travel Information Line IVR system is programmed to recognize the names of more than 1,200 cities and towns. The system is also designed to recognize multiple names for the same highway, such as "MoPac" and "Loop 1" in Austin or "Central Expressway" and "U.S. 75" in Dallas.

In addition to accessing highway road conditions, callers are able to speak to travel counselors during business hours and can also request travel literature.

The new Texas Travel Information Line can handle as many as 900 calls for automated information at any time. In the event of a large-scale event like a winter blizzard or a hurricane, TxDOT and AT&T will have the ability to expand the IVR system to handle higher call volumes.

Available and Updated Around the Clock

Automated information on highway conditions is updated every five minutes each hour of every day. When TxDOT employees across the state update the state's online Highway Conditions Reporting System, the new IVR phone system will have access to the new information almost instantly.

The previous TxDOT Travel Information Line included pre-recorded information that was potentially irrelevant for a traveler with a specific question about a road in one part of the state. With the new IVR technology, callers will have direct access to

updates on the highways on which they want to drive.

The New Texas Travel Information Line Needs to Hear from Texans

TxDOT employees have been testing the new travel line for several months to help the IVR system "learn" to recognize different voices, accents and names. The first 10,000 calls from the public to the information line at 1-800-452-9292 will also serve to fine-tune and improve the system. Callers who have difficulty using the automated system will be able to access a travel counselor from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week.

If callers have feedback or suggestions regarding the new Texas Travel Information Line's IVR system, they can send TxDOT's Travel Information Division an email at askTxDOT@dot.state.tx.us.

"Last year, our Travel Information Line took almost 290,000 calls requesting reports on road conditions," said Simmons. "With help from Texans in our 'learning phase,' the new system will assist callers faster and give them the information they need. Everyone who calls the system in the early days will play a role in helping build a travel line that is created by travelers and for travelers."

The Texas Department of Transportation

TxDOT is responsible for maintaining over 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, rail and public transportation across the state. TxDOT and its more than 12,000 employees strive to empower local leaders to solve local transportation problems, and to use new financial tools, including tolling and public-private partnerships, to reduce congestion and pave the way for future economic growth while enhancing safety, improving air quality and increasing the value of the state*s

transportation assets. Find out more at www.txdot.gov. Follow us! www.txdot.gov/facebook, www.twitter.com/txdot.

For more information, call TxDOT's Government & Public Affairs Division at (512) 463-8700.

Thanks for Reading The Knox County News!

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Childress
 Contract 0043-02-068 for DISTRICTWIDE SEALCOAT in HARDEMAN County, etc will be opened on September 08, 2010 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.txdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
 NPO: 33813

State Office

Constr./Maint. Division
 200 E. Riverside Dr.
 Austin, Texas 78704
 Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div Office(s)

Childress District
 District Engineer
 7599 U.s. 287
 Childress, Texas 79201-9705
 Phone: 940-937-2571

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

OPINION



The Paperboy

A matter of taste

By CHRIS BLACKBURN

I think the possibility of a mosque being built so close to Ground Zero in Manhattan is a direct slap in the face to our American way of life.

Should it be allowed? Absolutely!

Sometimes our freedoms are used against the will of the people. That's a small price to pay for having such freedoms.

President Obama and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg are correct in their assessment of whether or not the mosque should be built there. Obama has had to defend himself on the issue more than once, but he certainly made the right call.

What needs to be questioned is not whether there is a right to build, but why build in that location?

At the very least, it shows a lack of taste. In fact, it is a ludicrous decision to build a mosque in lower Manhattan. The decision-makers must know this. Why build so close? Why there?

That horrible day nearly nine years ago was the darkest day many of us have ever had. I can honestly say it was the worst thing I've ever witnessed and the thought of it turns my stomach and makes my heart ache to this day.

If the reasoning for building a mosque that close to one of the most sacred places on the continent was to better relations, then it was grossly misjudged.

Unfortunately, I think the choice of the location is an effort to twist the sword in our collective wound. If not,

certainly wisdom or common sense would have won the day.

Our freedoms can and always will be used in manners many of us dislike. However, I'd much rather live here than in a place where people are butchered for their beliefs.

One more thought on the mosque: I would not be surprised in the least if the completion date for that project is 9-11-2011, or near the anniversary of that horrible day.

Something I take for granted here in fly-over country is the sky ... particularly the night sky.

Most of the population of this country rarely sees stars like we do here in rural America. Out here, 10 miles in the right direction and the sky is very dark. I love it.

In the mountains it's even better. You can almost reach out and touch the rest of the Milky Way when you are in the Rockies.

As the U.S. population has grown and more and more light has been pouring from the planet into space, dark skies have become rare. Light pollution prohibits good views of the night sky, depriving our city cousins of the beauty and majesty of a star-filled sky.

Between Paducah and Crowell, Texas, lies Comanche Springs Astronomy Campus. This amazing place, a product of Three Rivers Foundation of the Arts and Sciences, has some of the most advanced astronomy equipment anywhere and they like to party! Well, they have Star Parties and they take their dark sky very seriously.

I encourage you to learn more about Comanche Springs and perhaps get your local elementary, junior high or high schools to set up field trips to the campus. The place is remarkable.

You can learn more at www.3rf.org.

Fall is nearing and so is football season. It's the time of year when every team is undefeated and has a chance to win a championship.

A game where the objective is to get a ball across a line can consume entire cities and states. Am I the only one who finds that strange?

What is it about football that gets our blood pumping? Is it the violence? Is it the athleticism and speed?

I'm a huge high school and college football fan. I like the discipline and teamwork it takes to accomplish the goal of winning.

My wife may never understand why I like football so much and I'll be honest, it's a little difficult to explain. I do inform her how lucky she is to have a husband who rarely watches NFL teams and does not participate in fantasy football. Hopefully she knows enough about football to realize this is a valid point.

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

Other Opinions

April 15th is no Holiday

By REBEKAH RAST

Ed Brown was sentenced to 37 years in federal prison in January after refusing to pay federal income taxes.

The story of New Hampshire couple, Ed Brown and his wife, Elaine, received national coverage. The couple insisted it was unlawful for the government to require them to pay income taxes. They were sentenced to 63 months in federal prison for tax evasion after failing to pay more than \$1 million in income taxes.

But, according to Ed, they weren't going anywhere. Ed and Elaine barricaded themselves inside their concrete walls for nine months.

Supporters of the couple would bring by food and ammunition in case the U.S. Marshals decided to raid the home. Ed was ready for a combat-style standoff, but all his preparations weren't necessary. In October of 2007, U.S. Marshals made it inside the home by posing as supporters of the Browns, and arrested them both.

The government does not take lightly its citizens not paying their taxes.

"As the great American orator Daniel Webster once argued in front of the Supreme Court, 'An unlimited power to tax involves, necessarily, a power to destroy,'" says Bill Wilson, president of Americans for Limited Government (ALG). "This may be why the IRS is the most feared federal agency of them all."

This also may be why Ed and Elaine Brown barricaded themselves in their home with a full arsenal of weapons.

The income tax is part of the tax code that is especially touchy. Not only is it complex, but it hits you where it hurts the most — your personal income. How did this tax evolve? How has America's history complicated and twisted this tax into what it is today?

Believe it or not, America hasn't always had an income tax. In fact the American people had very little interaction with the federal government as it was the states' job to monitor the revenues it needed. The federal government relied on donations from state governments.

When the Constitution was adopted in 1789, the Founding Fathers decided that no government could run properly if it had to depend on extra revenue from other governments, so they decided to give the federal government the power to raise taxes. The Constitution gave Congress the ability to "... lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises, pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States." (Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution)

Soon after the new nation was established, citizens started fighting against various taxes they deemed unfair. The Whiskey Rebellion of 1794 started with a group of Pennsylvania farmers who refused to pay the tax on

whiskey. Their adamant opposition forced President Washington to send federal troops to end the rebellion. Thus displaying how determined the federal government was to keep in place its revenue laws.

The Civil War brought about more changes to the U.S. Tax Code. At the start of the war, Congress passed the Revenue Act of 1861, which imposed a tax of 3 percent on all incomes higher than \$800 a year. From there the tax moved into a tiered system much like today with different levels of income being taxed at different rates.

After the war there wasn't a need to continue the tax. The income tax was abolished by 1872.

The need for more federal funds didn't take long. Congress ratified the 16th Amendment by 1913 and introduced a new income tax law as well as the 1040 tax form.

All was going well in America in the 1920s. The economy was strong and the government lowered the income tax rate dramatically. When the stock markets crashed and the Great Depression hit, the government began losing money fast. So, during the time of a broken economy and high unemployment rates, the federal government raised the taxes on the people. What was the result? The federal government had more money at the expense of an even weaker and ever-shrinking economy.

As the government had a continued need for revenue it began implementing new taxes like Social Security and Medicare. It also

changed the income tax model to a tax withholding method. Income tax withholdings were used during the Civil War and greatly eased the collection of the tax. As the government moved back to this method, taxpayer's were no longer aware of how much they were really paying in taxes and it made it easier for the government to hike up the rates in the future.

America now faces an ambiguous, less transparent income tax system. If asked how much you gave the federal government in taxes last year, would you know the answer? Most Americans know what refund they received or how much they owed, but how much was actually paid to the government is often unknown.

What's more alarming, a report by the Tax Policy Center, based in Washington, D.C., found that for tax year 2009 about 47 percent of U.S. households paid no federal income tax. This is due to the level of income and available tax preferences.

You begin to wonder if this is the system the Founding Fathers were hoping for when they gave Congress the right to raise taxes.

The income tax deserves a closer look. With more changes to the tax system set to take effect next year it's time to learn who is most affected by this tax and how it might change. After all, no one takes taxes more seriously than the federal government. Ed Brown can attest to that.

Other Views

Early Signs Point to Constitutional Rejection of ObamaCare

By Dr. RONALD L. TROWBRIDGE

What most Americans do not know about the current legal challenges against ObamaCare: the constitutional resolution depends exclusively on how the case for adjudication is written.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott says often that if the case is presented as a judgment about the individual mandate requiring individuals to purchase a certain private sector product or service, "we win." If, on the other hand, the case is presented as a matter of whether the federal government can control health care, as it does with Medicare, "we lose."

Georgetown law professor Randy Barnett, counsel for Angel Raich in the Supreme Court's Raich case, coined what he called "the dirty little secret of constitutional law" — whether a petitioner will find relief in federal court "depends on which accurate description a court chooses to accept." He sums up: A "court may rule however it wishes simply by choosing how to describe the right."

It is this court's discretion on how to phrase the constitutional issue that makes U. S. District Judge Henry Hudson's recent rendering so vital to the case. He refused to dismiss a Virginia lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the federal health care law.

Note that he focused on the issue of the individual mandate, not on the matter of whether the federal government can

control health care. "While this case raises a host of complex constitutional issues, all seem to distill to the single question of whether or not Congress has the power to regulate — and tax — a citizen's decision not to participate in interstate commerce. Neither the U. S. Supreme Court nor any circuit court of appeals has squarely addressed this issue." He who frames the argument wins the case.

Of equal critical importance, Judge Hudson also granted the Virginia petition standing. This could have gone the other way for Virginia.

To have standing, a case must be "ripe" — that is, there must be "harm" or "imminent harm." But the Department of Justice argued that the individual mandate will bring no possible harm until the law kicks in in 2014. No individual will be forced to buy health insurance or otherwise pay a fine until that date. Hudson ruled, however, that the case is ripe now.

But the issue of the constitutionality of the individual mandate will still be a close call, and here's why.

In the Raich case in 2005, where Angel Raich argued that she grew marijuana in her own back yard for personal medical use only, the Supreme Court nonetheless ruled that her action violated the Commerce Clause. Even the usually conservative Justice Antonin Scalia sided against Raich, concurring with the majority that Raich's personal noneconomic, non-commercial activities "taken in the aggregate, substantially affect interstate commerce."

In other words, if Raich grows pot and thousands of others do the same thing, eventually in the aggregate pot has the potential to become involved in interstate economic activity.

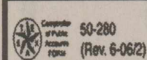
Will the individual mandate of health insurance fall within the aggregate of interstate commerce?

Randy Barnett believes that the constitutional battle over health care will likely center on the Necessary and Proper Clause in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, which reads: Congress has the authority "to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States."

No one can predict with certainty how the constitutionality of the health care law will be resolved. But Judge Hudson's focus on the individual mandate and his granting of standing is the best of all possible starts for finding the individual mandate unconstitutional.

And as the new law has no severability clause, if any part of the law is found unconstitutional, the whole bill goes down.

Ronald L. Trowbridge, Ph.D. is a Senior Fellow at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a non-profit, free-market research institute based in Austin. He served as chief of staff to the late U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger and to the Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The BENJAMIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT will hold a public meeting at 7:00 P.M., AUGUST 30, 2010 in LIBRARY, BENJAMIN ISD ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 303 HAYS STREET BENJAMIN, TEXAS.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$ 1.17 / \$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$.00 / \$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	.00	% increase	or	.07519	% (decrease)
Debt service	.00	% increase	or	.00	% (decrease)
Total expenditures	.00	% increase	or	.07519	% (decrease)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 170,113,191	\$ 165,485,170
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 92,450.00	\$ 266,370
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 26,624,384	\$ 27,008,725
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 92,450.00	\$ 266,370

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
 ** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
 *** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$.00

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 1.17000	\$ 0.00000 *	\$ 1.17000	\$ 3,942	\$ 7,548
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.26427	\$ 0.00000 *	\$ 1.26427	\$ 4,404	\$ 6,943
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.17000	\$ 0.00000 *	\$ 1.17000	\$ 4,043	\$ 7,782

* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 31,529.00	\$ 32,822.00
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 16,529.00	\$ 17,822.00
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.17000	\$ 1.17000
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 193.40	\$ 208.51
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ +15.11

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.17. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.17.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 658,905.00
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$.00

Vocational Nursing graduates

Vernon College Department of Vocational Nursing Program on the Vernon and Seymour campuses held their pinning ceremony Thursday, August 12, at 6:00 p.m. in the First Baptist Church in

Vernon.

The Vocational Nursing Program is a one-year program that prepares students to take the Licensing Exam for Vocational Nurses.

After passing the exam, a vocational nurse provides direct patient care under the supervision of a registered nurse or physician. The graduates for 2008-2009 are the following:

Vernon Class

Mary S. Daniels Vernon
 Billie M. Denham Quanah
 Paul A. Goodrum Vernon
 Jennifer D. Lee Seymour
 Krysinda C. McElwee Vernon
 Sharon N. Monaghan Quanah
 Naomi Morales Vernon
 Celine A. Mwalawa Vernon
 Briana L. Rejino Vernon
 Nancy A. Sandoval Guthrie
 Stephanie C. Stewart Vernon
 Donna H. Thompson Quanah

Seymour Class

Kendra J. Adkins Seymour
 Chelsy L. Bruton Olney
 Rachel A. Cothron Haskell
 Kristina Escalon Throckmorton
 Michelle Espinoza Haskell
 Melissa Ferrier Seymour
 Kimberly N. Gonzales Knox City
 Star N. Harrison Olney
 Jennifer D. Hill Seymour
 Terri J. Rambo Kamay
 Jessica L. Sorley Haskell
 Kayla D. Willden Seymour

Texas Tech University announces opening of Jenna Welch Center

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) President Tedd L. Mitchell, M.D., today (Aug. 10) announced the official opening of the Jenna Welch Women's Center (JWWC) of the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health, 301 N. Ave. N in Midland.

"We are extremely honored to expand our program under the designation of two leaders whose names represent such support and advocacy for women," Mitchell said. "This center has the potential to make an impact on women's health, not only in West Texas, but throughout our state."

Named after the mother of former first lady Laura W. Bush, the JWWC delivers expert medical care for

women and their families. In partnership with the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health, the center strives for excellence in research, education and community outreach.

In 2007, TTUHSC, Midland Memorial Hospital and Medical Center Hospital united to successfully create the Permian Basin presence of the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health (LWBIWH). The Board of Regents approved the designation of the JWWC of the LWBIWH in October 2008. In April 2010, Texas Tech Physicians of Midland opened its doors and now houses the JWWC.

Today, under the direction of Leslie Chupp, M.D., an associate professor in the Department of

Obstetrics and Gynecology at TTUHSC Odessa, the JWWC provides patient care in the areas of women's wellness, adolescent health, first trimester pregnancy loss, chronic pelvic pain and minimally invasive total hysterectomies.

The regional Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health, in collaboration with the JWWC, will continue to partner with other TTUHSC School of Medicine campuses for research opportunities and community health events. Several local areas of women's health will be targeted to provide health literacy, risk prevention and specialty care that will enhance and broaden medical training and services already in existence.

Tips for preventing altitude sickness

HOUSTON - If summer travel plans include high altitude conditions, it is important to take proper precautionary measures to prevent sickness, said a travel medicine expert from Baylor College of Medicine (www.bcm.edu).

"People who do not often travel to high altitudes may not be prepared for their body's reaction," said Dr. Jane Corboy, associate professor of family and community medicine and director of the Travel Medicine Clinic at BCM (www.baylorfamilymedicine.org/travelmed.cfm).

Corboy said most travelers come down with the less serious, mild form of altitude sickness but there are more serious types that can cause permanent damage.

Travelers going from sea level to destinations such as Denver, at about 8,000 feet, may have mild altitude sickness conditions for the first day or two, Corboy said. "The body has to adjust to the new height."

Symptoms are similar to the flu and might include headaches, poor appetite, breathlessness or fatigue.

"It is important to drink adequate amounts of fluids to help the body adjust," said Corboy. "Avoid excessive alcohol or caffeine, though a little bit of caffeine might help with a headache. Just do not go overboard."

Also, stay away from heavy foods. Stick to light carbohydrates like pasta, she said.

"Taking an anti-inflammatory such as Advil, or Aleve might also help," said Corboy.

Travelers trying to conquer more steep heights, such as 14,000 feet, are more at risk for developing one of the two forms of serious altitude sickness.

High altitude pulmonary edema, or HAPE, is a progression of the breathlessness feeling. It is caused by a dilation of blood vessels in the lungs to allow more oxygen to flow. If the blood vessels leak, fluid can fill the lungs and could potentially cause heart failure.

This condition could be characterized with continued shortness of breath, and "frothy" cough, Corboy said.

High altitude cerebral edema, or HACE, is a progression of the headache symptoms. It is caused by dilation of the blood vessels in the brain. If it persists, the blood vessels can leak, causing the brain to swell and potentially leading to a coma.

Watch for a persistent headache and change in mental status such as drowsiness or decreased coordination, said Corboy.

"If any of these symptoms are noted, the traveler should descend down 1,000 or 2,000 feet to help get the body back to normal, and should not attempt to ascend until all symptoms are completely resolved" she said.

Severe altitude sickness is not common in heights 8,000 feet or below.

There is one medication - called Diamox® -- available to treat and prevent symptoms of altitude sickness, Corboy said.

The medication works by regulating the carbon

dioxide in a person's blood, increasing ventilation. "The body needs this ventilation when traveling to high heights," said Corboy.

Travelers to high altitudes, both new and experienced travelers with history of altitude sickness, can take this to prevent symptoms from occurring.

"If the body is not used to traveling at higher altitudes, it is hard to determine the risk of getting sick," said Corboy. "It is not related to fitness, age or gender."

People with asthma or other lung problems might be at a higher risk of developing high altitude pulmonary edema, Corboy said. Young people, she added, are at a higher risk for developing high altitude cerebral edema because their brains are a larger size.

When traveling or hiking above 10,000 feet, avoid increasing your sleeping elevations more than 1,000 feet per day, Corboy said.

"If a climber is trying to reach 14,000 feet, once they get to 10,000 feet they should not stop and sleep any higher than 11,000 feet the first night, 12,000 the next night, etc.," said Corboy. "If they reach 14,000 feet, they should climb back down to sleep."

This allows the body to adapt to the new altitude, Corboy said.

"There are beautiful heights in this world that many will want to aspire to climb," said Corboy. "Whether the goal is Denver or the Himalayan Mountains, it is important to take the necessary precautions to avoid getting sick."

HOUNDS

improved and will help the team a lot this year with added depth and work ethic.

Next week the Hounds will play on Thursday in Petersburg in a 4-way scrimmage with Valley, Meadow and Petersburg. The scrimmage will start at 6. The J.V. will scrimmage on Friday against Lueders at 6 pm here in Knox City. There will be a "Meet the Hounds" on Friday night after the scrimmage.

Reporters note: I will do a story on The Jr High, JV and Varsity football games. I appreciate all the help from the coaches and look forward to a great season. I will try to include as many stats, player info and any other information I can. I am not a writer, which you all know by now but I will try to be as biased as possible.

I would like to thank all those that attended the scrimmage it makes them feel good to see the support from the faculty, friends and neighbors.

Mosquito Control tips for Knox County

By Anthony Munoz, CEA-Ag/NR

Knox County has received an abundance of rain this past spring and summer. With this moisture come many benefits, such as, great cotton and hay crops, excellent yards/gardens, and recharges to livestock tanks and streams. Unfortunately, along with these benefits come some problems in the form of mosquitoes.

Mosquitoes are not only insects that can be very bothersome and annoying, but they are also the transmitters of many disease causing organisms to humans and animals. Some of these diseases include West Nile virus, dengue, encephalitis, yellow fever, malaria, and filariasis. Mosquitoes are also responsible for transmitting heart worm in dogs.

If a person wanted to figure out a way to effectively control mosquitoes around their household, one would need to know their life cycle. A mosquito has four distinct stages during their life cycle: egg, larvae, pupa,

and adult. These stages can be completed in as little as 10 days depending on food availability, weather/conditions, etc. In the egg stage, mosquitoes will lay their eggs individually or in clusters on the water surface or in areas with periodic flooding. Sometimes a mosquito's eggs will remain viable in dry conditions for many months. During the larvae stage eggs hatch into 1/2 in. long organisms known as wigglers that feed on microscopic plants, animals and organic debris suspended in the water. As the larvae mature into the pupal stage they will remain at the water surface and move only when disturbed. Once fully matured with wings the adult mosquito will spend most of its time on land. The adult males will feed on nectar, plant juices, and other sources of liquid carbohydrates. The females will also feed on the same things, although before they produce eggs they will need a source of protein in the form of a blood meal i.e. humans/animals.

The lifespan of a mosquito is short lived. An adult mosquito will usually see a life from about a week to a month, depending on environmental factors. During this time most species of mosquitoes will not travel more than a couple hundred yards from their breeding site and some even up to a mile.

Now that you know the basics of the life cycle of a mosquito, here are a few quick ways to aid in the control of mosquito problems:

Reduce standing water that provide breeding site. These include old tires, buckets, and cans that can hold and catch rain water. Drain water from flower pots, bird baths, rain gutters, pet dishes, and livestock troughs at least once a week.

Empty children's plastic wading pools when not in use and store indoors.

Repair leaky pipes and outdoor faucets.

Mow tall grasses and reduce the amount of brush for mosquito resting sites.

In high traffic areas use fog treatments, surface treatments of insecticides, and citronella candles.

In ponds and other permanent bodies of water use mosquito fish or other fish species.

Use Bacillus thuringiensis israeliensis products such as Mosquito Dunks® to treat permanent water bodies to eliminate larvae.

Along with tips to control mosquitoes, individuals need to be able to avoid contact with them if all possible. Be sure to have good screens on your windows and doors on your home and pet kennels that securely fit around the entire frame. Most mosquito activity is usually done around dusk and dawn, so try to schedule all outdoor activities around these times.

During the hot summer months people usually want to wear short sleeves and shorts, but if all possible wear long, loose fitting clothing to avoid bites.

If all else fails you can always use repellent spray that contain

high strengths of DEET.

Mosquito control can be a never ending, complex, and expensive task, but there are many agencies that can aid in assistance. The Texas Department of State Health Services can provide useful information on mosquito management and the Texas Animal Health Commission can track diseases of animals and knows the current situation of mosquito-borne animal diseases in Texas. If you have any questions on Mosquito control feel free to contact the extension office at (940) 459-2651. Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in a meeting or program are encouraged to contact the Knox County AgriLife Extension office at (940) 459-2651.

Final Plea for Host Families for Foreign Teens

Foreign high school students are scheduled to arrive soon for academic semester and year homestay programs, and the sponsoring organization needs a few more local host families. The students are anxiously awaiting news of their new families. This is the last chance for these young ambassadors to fulfill their life-long dreams, and their placement deadlines are rapidly approaching.

According to Pacific Intercultural Exchange (P.I.E.) President, John Doty, the students are all

between the ages of 15 and 18 years, are English-speaking, have their own spending money, carry accident and health insurance, and are anxious to share their cultural experiences with their new American families. P.I.E. currently has programs to match almost every family's needs, ranging in length from one semester to a full academic year, where the students attend local public and private high schools.

P.I.E. are representatives match students with host families by finding

common interests and lifestyles through an informal in-home meeting. Prospective host families are able to review student applications and select the perfect match. As there are no "typical" host families, P.I.E. can fit a student into just about any situation, whether it is a single parent, a childless couple, a retired couple or a large family.

Families who host for P.I.E. are also eligible to claim a monthly charitable contribution deduction on their itemized tax returns for each month they host a

sponsored student.

For the upcoming programs, P.I.E. has students from Germany, the Former Soviet Union, Venezuela, Argentina, Norway, Belgium, The Netherlands, Brazil, Hungary, Korea, Mexico, Australia, China, and many other countries. P.I.E. is also participating in two special government-funded programs to bring scholarship students from the Newly Independent States of the former Soviet Union as well as predominantly Islamic countries such as Yemen, Syria, Jordan, Morocco,

Kuwait, Iraq and Qatar to the United States.

P.I.E. is a non-profit educational organization that has sponsored more than 25,000 students from 45 countries since its founding in 1975. The organization is designated by the United States Department of State and is listed by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET), certifying that the organization complies with the standards set forth in CSIET's Standards for International Educational Travel Programs.

Doty encourages families

to contact the program immediately, as it will allow the proper time for the students and hosts to get to know one another before they actually meet for the first time.

Families interested in learning more about student exchange or arranging for a meeting with a community representative may call P.I.E., toll-free, at 1-866-546-1402. The agency also has travel/study program opportunities available for American high school students as well as possibilities for community volunteers to assist and work with area host families, students and schools.

Thanks for Reading!

Form 50-198

Notice of Tax Revenue Increase

The KNOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT will be conducting public hearings on August 19th and August 23rd on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of KNOX COUNTY from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 5 percent.

The total tax revenue raised last year at last year's tax rate of 0.753647 for each \$100 of taxable value was \$1,195,901.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of 0.766253 for each \$100 of taxable value, excluding tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$1,215,940.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of 0.766253 for each \$100 of taxable value, including tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$1,263,598.

The KNOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on August 26th, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. at The Knox County Courthouse Assembly Room.

50-197 (Rev. 05-06/10)

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The Knox County Commissioners Court will hold two public hearings on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by 5 percent (percentage by which proposed tax rate exceeds lower of rollback tax rate or effective tax rate calculated under Chapter 26, Tax Code). Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The first public hearing will be held on August 19th at 10:00 A.M. in the Assembly Room at the Courthouse.

The second public hearing will be held on August 23rd at 10:00 A.M. in the Assembly Room at the Courthouse.

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR: Judge Floyd, Commissioners Birkenfeld, Godsey, McCown & Urbanczyk
AGAINST:
PRESENT and not voting:
ABSENT:

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in 2009 last year was \$ 27,214 (average taxable value of a residence homestead in the taxing unit for the preceding tax year, disregarding residence homestead exemptions available only to disabled persons or persons 65 years of age or older). Based on last year's tax rate of \$ 0.75366 (preceding year's adopted tax rate) per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed last year on the average home was \$ 205.10 (tax on average taxable value of a residence homestead in the taxing unit for the preceding tax year, disregarding residence homestead exemptions available only to disabled persons or persons 65 years of age or older).

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in 2010 this year is \$ 27,433 (average taxable value of a residence homestead in the taxing unit for the current tax year, disregarding residence homestead exemptions available only to disabled persons or persons 65 years of age or older). If the governing body adopts the effective tax rate for this year of \$ 0.729765 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$ 199.96 (tax on average taxable value of a residence homestead in the taxing unit for the current tax year, disregarding residence homestead exemptions available only to disabled persons or persons 65 years of age or older).

If the governing body adopts the proposed tax rate of \$ 0.766253 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$ 209.95 (tax on the average taxable value of a residence homestead in the taxing unit for the current tax year, disregarding residence homestead exemptions available only to disabled persons or persons 65 years of age or older).

Members of the public are encouraged to attend the hearings and express their views

STATEMENT OF INCREASE/DECREASE

IF KNOX COUNTY GENERAL ADOPTS A 2010 TAX RATE EQUAL TO THE EFFECTIVE TAX RATE OF \$0.63505 per \$100 OF VALUE, TAXES WOULD INCREASE COMPARED TO 2009 TAXES BY \$0.01066.

IF KNOX COUNTY SPECIAL & JURY ADOPTS A 2010 TAX RATE EQUAL TO THE EFFECTIVE TAX RATE OF \$0.13120 per \$100 VALUE, TAXES WOULD INCREASE COMPARED TO 2009 TAXES BY \$0.00195

Schedule A - Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

TYPE OF PROPERTY TAX FUND	BALANCE
GENERAL FUND	-0-

This statement of Increase/Decrease notice was prepared by Mitzi Welch, Chief Appraiser



With the wild weather in Knox this summer, there has been rare and beautiful scenes, like this one welcoming people into Knox City.

Courtesy Photo



Lottie, Larami, Kelsey
Courtesy Photo

We've got a strong bank behind us.

As a single mom it means a lot to me to have a strong banking relationship. With the cost of living as it is, I have to make the most of everything I make. I can't afford to get the wrong car loan or use the wrong credit card. It's not easy, but we're making a go of it. We've got a strong bank behind us.



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4-H

horse show. In the speed events Cude had an 8th place in the Pole Bending and 3rd in Stakes. These placings allowed Cude to take home 3 buckles and Reserve Champion Timed Horseman honors. There was only a 2 point difference between Ryder and the Champion. Timed Horseman for the saddle. Ryder also did well in the Barrels, Breakaway

Roping, and Tie-Down Roping. Also having a really good showing in the Barrels, Pole Bending, and Stakes was Kathryn Cude. These individuals represented Knox County in a good way both at district and state this past year and a big congratulations goes out to all of them on their accomplishments. Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife

Extension Service are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in a meeting or program are encouraged to contact the Knox County AgriLife Extension office at (940) 459-2651.

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