



THE

KNOX COUNTY NEWS

VOL. XXIX NO. 67

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2011

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Lyndon Baty Gets International Attention for "Baby Bot"

Tamara Smart

On Thursday, February 17, 2011, while during their morning coffee, several Knox Citizens were surprised to see the familiar face of Lyndon Baty on their TV screens as Lyndon and his parents, Sherri and Louis were welcomed onto the Today show and were interviewed by Meredith Viera about the use of his "Baby Bot" in his schooling at Knox City High school.

As reported in a previous article on January 20, Lyndon Baty has been given the opportunity to continue attending public school, even though he has almost no immune system after a kidney transplant that his body is now rejecting. Lyndon

is not physically able to attend school; rather Vgo that invented a computer-controlled robot that Lyndon controls from the safety of his home has allotted him a new technology. Through the robot, whom Lyndon lovingly calls his "Baby Bot", attends class at KCHS, and Lyndon is able to interact in classroom lessons, intermingle with classmates and almost get the complete high school experience. This comes after a year of home schooling, where Lyndon was shut off from his friends and any social interaction because of his lack of an immune system.

Although the robot cannot allow Lyndon to

"physically touch the person" with whom he is interacting, nor can he open doors with the Vgo; Lyndon told reporters that "[the Vgo technology] is the most amazing thing that has happened to [him] in a very long time." From the privacy of his own home, Lyndon was given a tour of the Today show set by Meredith Veira at the close of the interview.

The new equipment has never before been used in a school setting, thus becoming the center of an international interest. The Today Show is not the only media entity that has covered this story; it has become an international phenomenon. Only thirty

See LYNDON
on page 12



LOOKING AHEAD

The Annual Cotton Pickin' Quilt Show will be held on February 26, from 9 a.m. until 3 pm at the old school in Goree. The theme this year will be "Wild About Quilts". Visitors will be able to vote on a "viewers choice" quilt which will be the official winner of the show. A home-cooked lunch, door prizes, bake sale and vendors will be available. Also a man who sharpens scissors will be available for scissor sharpening.

The Knox City Chamber of Commerce annual Banquet is set to take place on March 10th. Tickets are \$15 and must be

See LOOKING AHEAD
on page 12

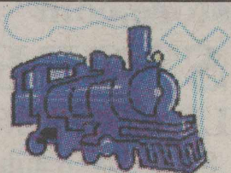


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God's Promises

**Empty Cots
Ricki Russell
Faith Chapel**
In life, there is always something hard to deal with. Sometimes it is sickness, poverty, loneliness, a lost love or dealing with the loss of a loved one in death. In the following words of this old cowboy song; I

will attempt to give some understanding to how one particular group of people deal with death, the dying breed "The Cowboy".
There's One Empty Cot In The Bunkhouse
"There's one empty cot in the bunkhouse
There's a saddle that nobody

rides
One empty place at the table
The remuda is five horses shy."
The above chorus describes what on a day to day basis the remaining cowboys see that reminds them that there is a void in there lives. The empty saddle that used to be ridden by a friend and

brother. The cot where he slept and probably snored to the high heavens. The seat at the seat at the table or the place at the wagon where he would sit to eat. At the coral every morning when they gathered there horses the five that nobody rides.

"We turned his string out to pasture
He'll never ride em no more
We buried him out on the hillside last Sunday
Another good cowboys gone home"
Once the cowboy was gone his horses were turned out to pasture until another cowboy was hired to fill his place. Many times the cowboys horses would find there way into another cowboys string of ponies until the man came along and got all the rejects on the ranch. This was one of the first steps to deal with the death realizing he would never ride with them again. When he was buried in their minds he had gone home by the way he lived his life.

"He came on a train to west Texas
From a farm back in east Tennessee
All he wanted outta life was to cowboy
He came west to full fill his dream"
This verse reminds me of my wife's uncle and the way he came to west Texas to work the ranches around the turn of the century. He came out to become a cowboy and didn't know how rough of a life it would be. When I spoke to him at some ninety years old he recalled his cowboy life with the fondest of memories, as hard as it was. It took a real man to cowboy in those days. He told of sleeping out on the line with just a tarp and was glad to have it even if there was a hole or two in it.

"He got his first job on the sixes
That was forty some odd years ago
He was the best we ever saw with the bad ones
One hell of a hand with a

rope"
This verse is the way the men who worked with him remember him. Just as we remember the ones that we have lost and how good they were at something. You look back on the job they stayed with to provide for their family and the steady hand they put to the task.

I saw him just one time in service
It was the day that the boss lady died
You could tell by the way, he handled people and horses
He'd made his own deal with his God
Everyone that loves the Lord isn't necessarily "church people". I just attended a funeral of such a man. His pastor only saw him at service one time and that was at his own funeral. A man's church isn't inside of a building it is in his heart. Don't get me wrong, I believe in getting together with other

See GOD on Page 11

The Knox County News

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TAMARA SMART
Reporter
Sports Writer
Advertising Manager

DEADLINES — The deadline to submit news and advertising is 4 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.

SUBMISSION POLICY

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

PHOTO SUBMISSION POLICY

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

NOTICE

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

KCN OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Wednesday • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. • Closed Thursday • Friday • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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Obituaries



FRED PEPPER

When "Friendly" Fred Pepper shouted the word AFLAC!, he wasn't talking about insurance. His friends and loved ones knew he was expressing his code word

for "I Love You!". Fred Ray Pepper, of Knox City, TX, expressed his last AFLAC! on earth early Wednesday morning, February 16, 2011. He was ready to rest. Ready to "go home". Fred was born in his home May 3, 1934, in Clay County, TX, near the communities of Thornberry, Freiburg and Byers. He attended a one-room schoolhouse until he moved to Wichita Falls, TX. Fred worked dozens of years for SG Eddy's garage in Wichita Falls. After that he owned his own garage "Pepper's

Garage" until he relocated. "Peppy's Automotive" was a full service station on the corner Hayes Street. Always greeting customers with his trademark friendly smile, Fred made sure his customers were treated with the best service. Fred loved playing the steel guitar. He always wanted to play and always worked at it. He knew one song, "The Steel Guitar Rag", and was rumored to play it as good if not better than Ms. Barbara Mandrell! Fred loved flying remote control airplanes and was a member of the

Wichita Falls Red River RC Club. After retirement, Fred was a security night guard at the Texoma Christian Care Center in Wichita Falls. Before moving to Knox City, Fred was an active member of the Eden Hills Baptist Church where he took pride in being the treasurer and bookkeeper. Fred's greatest passion and hobby in life was doing something for someone else. Fred could often be found at Bud's Café in Knox City, TX at the appropriate "Pepper-Upper" times of 10-2-4. He wasn't drinking Dr. Pepper, but sipping coffee with his local buddies. Fred was married to Esther "Bong-Bong" Pepper for 24 years. Fred was preceded in death by his parents W.C. Jack Pepper and Hersel Pepper, his brother Jerry Dell Pepper, his wife Esther "Bong-Bong" Pepper, and one granddaughter Kodi Renee Hill Degler. He is survived by his children Steve and Kay Pepper of Knox City, TX; Cynthia and Boyce Hill of Bowie, TX; Marvin and Angela Walls of Wichita Falls; Sanudra Thompson of Iowa Park; Glenda Day of Iowa Park; John and Tess Cole of Dallas; and Lela "Lady" Blair of Iowa Park; his brother Don and Peggy Pepper of Wichita Falls; sister Jackie and Don Dean of Wichita Falls; brother Joe and Donna Pepper of Amarillo; and brother Mickey and Darla Pepper of Midland. Fred had 20 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews. Family visitation was Friday, February 18, at 6 p.m. at Smith Family Funeral Homes, 210 Avenue A in Knox City. Services took place at O'Brien Baptist Church, O'Brien, TX, Saturday, February 19, 2011 at 10 a.m. with Brother

Leon Burkham officiating. Graveside services followed at 2:30 p.m. at Crestview Memorial Park in Wichita Falls with Brother Bob Butterfield officiating. Arrangements were under

the direction of Smith Family Funeral Homes in Knox City. Suggested memorials included the Bible Prison Ministry of O'Brien Baptist Church in O'Brien, TX.

See OBITS on page 7

Sheriff's Report

Pursuant to your open records request, here is a list of those arrested within the indicated time and processed though the Knox County Jail:

Feb. 5 - Feb. 17

Jones, Christopher
2/5/11

Theft of Service (M-A)
Knox County

Dockins, Bobby Lynn
2/6/11

MTR Parole/ Possession of Control Substance (F-a)
Knox County

Gutierrez, Savannah
2/7/11

Theft (SJF)
Knox County

Gonzales, Thomas
2/7/11

Assault/ bodily injury (M-A)
Baylor County

Fetters, Wilbur E.
2/7/11

DWI 1st (M-B)
Knox County

Hebel, Rowdy
2/8/11

TBC (M-B)

Baylor County

Adams, Lester Jr.
2/10/11

Agg. Assault (F-2)
Evading Arrest (M-A)
Knox County

Knight, Kevin R.
2/15/11

MTR/ Resisting Arrest (M-A)

MTR/ Terroristic Threat (M-B)

Foard County
Submitted by Dean Homstad,
Knox County Sheriff

Alzheimer's support group meeting, Feb. 28

The Haskell County Alzheimer's Support Group will meet on **Monday, February 28** at the Haskell County Extension Office located at 101 S. Avenue D in Haskell. The one hour meeting will begin at **3:00 p.m.** Caregivers, family members and friends of individuals with Alzheimer's or a related dementia, should consider attending this meeting that is open to

anyone in Haskell County or the surrounding area.

The support group meets the 4th Monday of every month from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The monthly meetings offer a confidential environment where participants can share their concerns, support each other, and learn ways to cope with the challenges associated with long-term caregiving.

For more information you may contact Jane Rowan, County Extension Agent/FCS at (940) 864-2546 or Alzheimer's Association North Central Texas Chapter at (325) 672-2907 or 1-800-272-3900.

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

KC AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

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.

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

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

WEINERT FOURSQUARE CHURCH

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

MUNDAY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Adrian Fletcher, Pastor

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SAMMIE'S KNOX CITY CORNER AND FINAL THOUGHTS

Sammie Offield

This past weekend as I drove around town, I saw many kids who had come home from college or elsewhere to see their parents or other relatives. Everywhere you look, you find someone who is not just enjoying the holiday on Monday, but the beautiful weather that came with it.

Last Monday, late into the afternoon, the florist and all her helpers were still out delivering orders for Valentines Day.

Well, looks like our kids from Ag were in San Antonio for stock show with their animals. Hope that they do

well. They've worked very hard with their animals in order to get this far with them.

Fred Pepper, who had been brought down by health problems mainly from a lung disease, was in the hospital at Knox City until Tuesday, when Fred joined his Father in Heaven. We all will miss him greatly and our hearts will be filled with good memories of him. He was a good man with lots of love for everyone he came in contact with, and I thank God that I got to be one of those people.

Keep Brandon Grimsley in mind. He is on a list for a kidney transplant that

someday God will provide. I am so sorry not to have reported this earlier, I had not yet been told about the Grimsley's, but I will try and keep everyone in touch as his progress comes about because we believe that all prayers are answered; when one door closes another one will open. Starting this Friday, I will be beginning an expense fundraiser for Brandon and his family- we all know how difficult it is. This fundraiser will help with the cost of fuel and other expenses he may incur while on the waiting list for the kidney.

News about Ester Grindstaff. She is still in the

hospital in Abilene for care to a wound. She is having to be treated very carefully, and I know her kids are doing all they can do and thank God we have them to help care for her.

Well, as I drive through town, I have begun to notice everyone beginning to work in their yard; planting flowerbeds, fixing things in need of repair, repainting. It great when the weather has changed from winter to spring; but we learned a long time ago, that in West Texas, you'd better be prepared for anything (but I wouldn't change this weather for anything). God is good to us.

I see where Frankie and Danielle don't only have a new grandbaby, they will soon be getting a new daughter in law. I know they will be busy getting things ready for the wedding, which will hopefully prove to be a great experience and lots of fun. I really get to enjoy this from the sideline. They will do a great job for two of the most wonderful kids—but

everyone in this community or around this area are great kids.

Well, talking to Marvin Jones, I understand Sammie B is doing good and staying with Karen in Graham. They say he is having a wonderful time.

May God bless our troops and all of us-

Knox County Aging Services

Menus For Feb. 28th To March 4th

Monday Feb. 28th

Hamburger Steak/Gavy
Buttered Noodles
Green Beans
Sliced Bread
Fruit Cups

Thursday, March 3rd

Hamburgers/Cheese Slices
Chips
Lettuce, Tomato, Pickles &
Onion
Cobbler

Tuesday March 1st

Chicken/Stir Fry Vegetables
Brown Rice
Salad
Hot Rolls
Poppy Seed Cake

Friday, March 4th

Stew
7 Minute Cabbage
Cornbread
Dessert

New serving time is 12 noon (in Knox City only). Alternat. desserts for diabetics.

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

Orders cant be taken after 11 a.m. And need to be picked up after 11 a.m.

Wednesday March 2nd

Chicken Strips/Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Mixed Vegetables
Biscuit
Fruit Crunch

Knox County Market Place

House for Sale

House and 9± acres for sale. Country living but only minutes away from Knox City. 2 bedroom/ 1 bath, great location with a lot of potential. Asking \$35,000. Cal 940-200-0818 or 940-200-0819

House for sale in Vera, Texas. Located at 15247 Drive, CR 7008. 3 bed/1bath. Living room. Covered parking. 3 lots, big back yard. Needs a little repair. \$5000. 940-459-4049.

For Sale

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House and 9 acres for sale. Country living but only minutes away from Knox City. 2 bedroom/ 1 bath, great location with a lot of potential. Asking \$35,000. Call 940-200-0818 or 940-200-0819

Miscellaneous

Now buying pecans. Drop off station, Knox County Cleaners. \$1 per pound.

Help Wanted

Knox County Hospital District is accepting applications for Clinic Clerk. Medical and insurance background helpful but not required. Must meet the public well. Applications can be picked up at the Knox City or Munday Clinic. Knox County Hospital District is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Brazos Valley Care Home is now accepting applications for LVN-Charge Nurses. Please Apply in person at Brazos Valley Care Home at 605 S. Ave F, Knox City

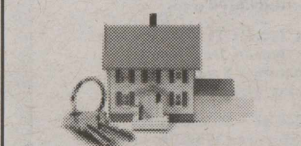
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Natural Resources Conservation Service
James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center
Knox City, TX

2010 Weekly Weather Report

Date	Temperature (F) Low / High	Rainfall inches
11/22	46/84	
11/23	35/68	
11/24	47/84	
11/25	23/58	
11/26	18/58	
11/27	21/65	
11/28	33/69	

Total Rainfall for month 0.40
2010-Rainfall (ytd) 36.43

Commissioners' Court Minutes

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF KNOX

BE IT REMEMBERED on the 10th day of January, 2011, there was conducted a **REGULAR** Meeting of the Honorable Commissioners' Court of Knox County, Texas, at the Courthouse thereof, in the City of Benjamin, Texas, for the purpose of transacting any and all business that may lawfully be brought before the same.

Knox County Judge Travis Floyd, called the Regular Meeting to order at 1:31 P.M. Commissioners Johnny Birkenfeld, Jimmy Urbanczyk, Charles Griffith, and Johnny McCowan were present. Also attending were County Attorney Megan Suarez, County Chief Clerk Lisa Cypert, County Sheriff Dean Homstad, County Treasurer Rosie Ake, 911 Director Pam Reed, County Court Coordinator Michelle Esquivel. The Court considered the following matters as posted and filed for Record in the office of the County Clerk

January 10, 2011 and Addendums filed January 10, 2011

There were no Public Comments.

Commissioner McCowan made the motion seconded by Commissioner Birkenfeld to approve the minutes of the Special Session held January 3, 2011. The motion passed five to zero.

Charlie Schur with NRCS ask the Commissioners if they would approve a

request to burn some land as long as it was maintained and right weather conditions. Commissioner Urbanczyk made the motion and seconded by Commissioner Birkenfeld to approve the burn. The motion passed 5-0

Dennis Duke came and spoke about the guardrail work on CR2610 across Brine Lake to Truscott.

New computer for Treasure office was discussed did not need approval from Commissioners since it was already in the Treasures' budget.

Motion was made to consider adding Penny Eaton, And Laura McCanlies to Tax Collectors Bank signature card. Motion by Commissioner Birkenfeld Seconded by Commissioner Griffith. All in favor passed 5-0

Motion to Approve Bonds for the Elected Officials. Commissioner Urbanczyk seconded by Commissioner

McCowan to approve bonds. Passed 5-0.

Consider proclamation-declaring February 4, 2011 as National Wear Red Day in Knox County. Motion by Commissioner Griffith, seconded by Commissioner Birkenfeld. All approve 5-0

The Extension Activity Report, Aging Services Report, 911 Report, and Road and Bridge Report required no activity.

Commissioner Birkenfeld made the motion to approve Financials, Budget and pay the bills for December 2010; the motion was seconded by Commissioner McCowan, the motion passed five to zero.

There being no further business to come before the Court Commissioner Griffith made the motion to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Urbanczyk, all agreed. The meeting of the Court was **ADJOURNED at 3:16.**

APPROVED this the 10th of January, 2011.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING Benjamin Independent School District Monday, March 7, 2011 – 7:00 pm

Topics for Discussions Include:

- 2009 -2010 Academic Excellence Indicator System
- 2010 Performance-Based Monitoring Analysis System
- 2010 Adequate Yearly Progress Results

BISD School Administration Building
303 Hays Street
Benjamin, Texas

Check us out at
knoxcountynews.com

CORRECTION

In last week's edition of County News sends it's The letter that was intended the Knox County News a deepest apologies and regrets for publishing will be in next Letter to the Editor was mis- to the author of that letter, week's issue. Our sincerest takenly published. Knox and to her family members. apologies again.

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Legal Notice

CITATION BY PUBLICATION – Rule 114 & 101 – Rules of Civil Procedure

CAUSE #9347

CLERK OF THE COURT

Annette Offutt, Clerk
50th District Clerk

Attorney: MICHEAL HENRY
BOX 113
QUANAH, TEXAS 79252

THE STATE OF TEXAS

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorneys do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty two days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."

To: **MOSES DENA**, Respondent, Greeting:

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Petitioner's petition at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this citation, the same being Monday the 07 of MARCH, 2011 at or before 10 o'clock a.m., before the 50th District Court of Knox County, at the Courthouse in Benjamin, Texas.

Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed on SEPTEMBER 20 2010 in this case, numbered 9347 on the docket of said court, and styled IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF

The names of the parties to the cause are as follows: TANYA DENA are Plaintiffs and MOSES DENA are Defendants.

A brief statement of the nature of the suit is as follows, to-wit: ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and the Seal of said Court, at office in Benjamin, Texas, on January 25, 2011.

ATTEST: Annette Offutt, District Clerk
Knox County, Texas

(Seal)

By: Lisa Cypert, Deputy
LISA CYPERT





The Paperboy

Great Presidents

By **CHRIS BLACKBURN**

Have you ever attempted to get your mind around how much a trillion is? With our national debt now over \$14 trillion dollars, it's almost incomprehensible.

Our government throws the word trillion around like it's just another number. They're right, it is just another number ... a very large one.

In a discussion about Social Security the other day, I told someone that I viewed the Social Security deducted each week out of my check as a payment I make to older family members. In a sense, that's what it is. It's certainly not something I'm depending on seeing for myself someday, not with the country going broke. Throw in the fact that the baby boomers are hitting retirement and you can kiss Social Security goodbye for my generation and younger.

So how much is a trillion? Here's some perspective:

- The population of California is about 34 million. One trillion people would equal 29,500 Californias.
- Texas is roughly 270,000 square miles. One trillion square

miles would equal 3.7 million Texas size states.

- If you travel around the world at the equator 40 million times, you would travel one trillion miles.
- One trillion dollar bills laid end-to-end would stretch from the earth to the sun ... and back ... with a lot of miles to spare.
- With one trillion dollars, you could buy 50 aircraft carriers such as the USS Ronald Reagan and outfit each of them with 45 of the newest fighter jet, the F-22 Raptor.
- The average annual premium that a health insurer charges an employer for a health plan covering a family of four is \$12,700. For one trillion dollars, you could cover 78 million people with health insurance for one year.
- One trillion dollars would allow you buy Coca Cola, Apple, IBM, Bank of America, Ford, General Motors, Toyota, Motorola, AT&T, Exxon Mobil and have billions left over.
- One trillion seconds is longer than recorded history, about 32,000 years.
- A trillion dollars would pay the entire cost of college for every student now in high school in America.
- A trillion dollars could pave the entire Interstate highway system with 23 karat gold leaf.

• A trillion dollars is enough to double the 700,000 cops now on the beat across America... for 32 years.

• A trillion dollars could build 16 million habitat for humanity houses... enough to house more than 50 million people.

Understand? A trillion is a thousand billions, or, a million millions.

Maybe this gives you a clue as to the significance of our national debt, maybe not.

By the end of the year, our debt will exceed \$15,000,000,000,000. Our federal government is spending money more rapidly than it ever has. This must change!

I don't want to live in a banana republic and if we don't start making changes, we're finished.

Sell land, drill on U.S. soil, mine for gold, charge China more for selling their goods here ... do it all. Do everything it takes, but in the meantime, STOP SPENDING LIKE TEENAGE GIRLS AT THE MALL!

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

No Laughing Matter

By **ROBERT ROMANO**

According to Barack Obama's ten-year budget, the \$14 trillion national debt will increase every single year and never be repaid.

But don't believe your lying eyes. When Obama delivered his budget to Congress, he boldly suggested that "[B]y the middle of this decade our annual spending will match our annual revenues. We will not be adding more to the national debt." Everyone laughed.

A fourth grader could easily calculate that on average the White House promises to add \$1.088 trillion to the national debt every year for ten straight years. It will hit \$15.459 trillion the end of this fiscal year, and then rise to \$26.346 trillion by the end of FY 2021. So, what is Obama talking about?

He was using an accounting gimmick, called the "primary deficit," that does not count the average annual \$572.6 billion of net interest owed on the public debt. Nor does it count the average \$275.8 billion owed in interest on the Social Security and Medicare trust funds.

All told, by not counting interest, the White House is attempting to avoid talking about some \$848.4 billion being added to the debt every year. Neat trick.

Of course, the only way interest payments can be avoided is if the principal balance on a debt is paid early. Otherwise, those payments are simply added to the gross debt — the total owed.

The hilarity carried forward into the White House briefing room. There, the White House's pretense that we are not adding to the debt was easily exposed by ABC News' Jake Tapper in an exchange with Obama's green, new Press Secretary, Jay Carney.

Tapper said, "The president seems to think that borrowing money to

pay the interest on the debt is not adding to the debt. I don't understand that math." He wanted Carney to explain it to him. Now, the whole White House press corps was laughing at the Administration.

Carney replied, "What the president made clear is that we need to get to a place — and his budget absolutely does this — where we are no longer spending more than we're taking in." Except, making interest payments is spending. Everyone knows that. It's a real obligation that must be paid, or the nation would default.

Tapper tried again, saying, "I assume when the president calls for an adult conversation, he means that conversation should be forthright and politicians shouldn't be hiding behind cute language such as 'We will not be adding more to the national debt,' even if hundreds of billions of dollars are being added to the national debt in interest — paid on debt that President Obama helped, himself, create." Ouch.

Now, Tapper was questioning the White House's maturity to carry on an "adult conversation" as promised with the American people. Carney dodged, simply regurgitating the tired line to Tapper that the debt "has been created over a number of years, as you know. And we came in here with an economic crisis, the likes of which, I daresay, I think nobody in this room has ever seen, and which threatened to head straight into a depression if we didn't act."

Now, the White House was making excuses. Carney's very first press conference was not going well. Tapper was eating him for lunch, and then went in for the kill, finally asking of Carney, "Just to button this, you think that, 'We will not be adding more to the national debt,' is a statement that stands [up] to scrutiny?"

Carney quickly replied with a straight face, "Absolutely, absolutely." Really?

More like absolutely absurd. What a lousy liar. A better campaign commercial could not have been contrived by the Republican National Committee for 2012.

The best Tapper could say about the Obama statement was to call it "cute". Nonetheless, Carney maintained that Obama "looks forward to working with Republicans and Democrats in Congress to, you know, deal with both the budget proposals and the long-term debt."

Of course, if congressional Republicans were mention the interest payments, they might wind up talking in circles with Obama, who childishly wants to quibble over who started adding to the debt first. Some "adult conversation".

The fact is, the nation really does need to get serious about all of its spending, including its rapidly escalating interest payments. If we do not, the debt will bury us.

In 2021 alone, a total of \$1.167 trillion in interest payments will be made both on public debt and the trust funds. That would be exactly 19.38 percent of the \$6.02 trillion budget planned for that year, including all of the interest owed.

The problem is that tax revenues would only be \$4.923 trillion that year, resulting in approximately \$1.09 trillion in new debt from interest being added to the debt.

But not to worry, says Obama, "We will not be adding more to the national debt."

While everyone is laughing, the truth is that this is not really that funny. By 2031, interest alone will easily surpass \$2.4 trillion every year. There will come a day when the principal and interest owed on the debt shall become too large roll over, and we'll default. Then, the ensuing insolvency will be no laughing matter.

JUST JEFF

Jeff Stanfield

A private snobby boarding school in New Jersey has been having a problem with their high school girls. It seems these little Prima Donna's have a habit of using the restrooms in groups. That is a real shock, huh! Well it seems they need to touch up their make-up at least 3 times a day, and every time requires a new dollop of lipstick. It is not good enough to just put on the lipstick, but after they apply it they would each kiss the mirror to check their lip coverage. So 30 sets of lips, 3 times a day, poor Joe the janitor. All he did was clean the mirror. So, because of this, Joe goes to the headmaster and tells him about the situation. The headmaster goes to the

young ladies and they just roll their eyes and hear nothing he says. You can imagine 30 future millionaires, who listen to nobody really paying attention or caring how much work this janitor was going through because of them. The next day the same messy mirror. So, the headmaster calls the little spoiled gals in and escorts them to the restroom where he asks Joe to demonstrate how he has to clean the mirror. They have no care in the world about poor Joe. He pulls out his squeegee and dunks it in the toilet and wipes down the mirror. The girls go to gagging and spitting and, guess what, the next day a clean mirror. See sometimes a little butt water on the lips is

all it takes to get somebody's attention.

I consider myself a little bit of a Redneck. I like dirt track racing, country living, and being around real people. Football, fried foods and, of course, who would not like Daisy Duke? But I met some real rednecks this weekend. My brother, Tony, and I went to a hunting show and set next to a lady selling "noodling trips". Noodling is when you stick your arm down a hole in a riverbank and let a Catfish bit down on your hand and then you pull it out. That is about as redneck as you can get! She told me they have caught "or pulled out" a 62 pound fish in 6 feet of water. Image, being 6 foot down with

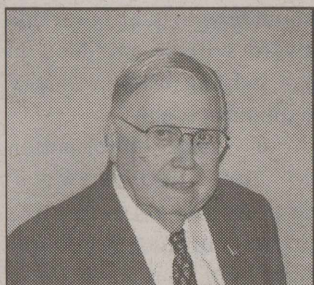
a 60 pound fish chewing on your arm; and fighting to stay down while your are trying to get a gulp of air. People where actually paying to do this/ In all likelihood, the participants could have dove down, stuck their arms in a hole and getting the surprise of their life when a beaver bite down, or worse a snake, rather than the intended catfish. Jesus could walk on

water, but I am telling you now, if I get a snake on my arm; this fat boy will be running on water. I did look at the pictures of people noodling, not one person in those pictures had a half a mouth full of teeth, and most could stick 3 fingers in their mouth with their teeth clinched shut. Some even had tattoos that where misspelled. The best part of it all is this

is all done in Oklahoma- and you know why birds fly upside down over Oklahoma? Nothing worth crapping on or looking at!!

Remember God Blessed us by being Americans and Texans. Be thankful for all we have and remember those who fought so we could have all that we do.

OBITS



**LEONARD C
WAGGONER**

Graveside service will be at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, February 7, 2011 at Knox City Cemetery in Knox City, Texas. Memorial service will be held February 13, 2011 at 4 p.m. at Bell Avenue Church of Christ with Mr. Glen Walton officiating. Arrangements are by Schooler Funeral Home, 4100 South Georgia.

Leonard was born on June 29, 1917 to James Earl and Rose Etta Waggoner in Clyde, Texas. He graduated from Abilene Christian University. He was in the armed forces and served in WWII and the Korean War. He was stationed in England during

WWII as a Chaplain and during the Korean War he was a Chaplain at Fort Hood. Leonard married Elizabeth Wilson in 1944. He was a renowned Church of Christ minister throughout the state of Texas. He was a member of Bell Avenue Church of Christ. He was instrumental in forming the Houston Christian Home for the Aged.

He is preceded in death by his wife, and parents and five brothers.

Survivors include daughter, Rosalyn Boatman and husband Joe of Boulder, Colorado; two sons, Don R Waggoner and wife Frances, of Houston and Jon R Waggoner of Dallas; brother, Carroll Waggoner and wife, Daisy of College Station, Texas; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Boys Ranch.



NORMA LEE LOWRY

Norma Lee Lowry, 87, of Knox City, went to be with her lord, Wednesday, February 16, 2011 at her home at Country Elegance in Stamford. A Funeral Service will be 2:00pm, Friday, February 18, 2011 at the First United Methodist Church in Haskell with Rev. Tom Long officiating. Burial will follow in Knox City Cemetery under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Homes, Haskell.

Norma was born December 8, 1923 in Chillicothe, Texas, the

See OBIT on page 8

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 CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Lubbock

Contract 6221-75-001 for TOTAL REST AREA MAINTENANCE, OPERATIONS AND REPAIR in CROSBY County, etc will be opened on March 08, 2011 at 1:00 pm at the State Office for an estimate of \$3,936,000.00. All prospective bidders are required to attend the pre-bid conference for Contract 6221-75-001 to be held on March 03, 2011 at 2:00 pm at the 200 EAST RIVERSIDE DR, ROOM 1A.2, AUSTIN TX.

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: 35640

State Office

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

Dist/Div Office(s)

Lubbock District
District Engineer
135 Slaton
Lubbock, Tx 79408-0771
Phone: 806-745-4411

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.

OBIT

daughter of the late Homer Johnston and Lela (Brown) Johnston. On April 14, 1946, she married William Victor Lowry in Vernon, Texas, he preceded her in death December 8, 2005. While in Quanah, she worked at the bank and later retired from working as a bookkeeper for Judge Williams in Knox City. Norma was a 4-H leader in Jayton as well as a member of the First United

Methodist Church in Knox City and was active in the Methodist Women's organization.

Norma Lee will be missed for her kind sweet spirit, her love of giving and doing for others. She enjoyed being the wife of a Texas State Game Warden and cooking for all the game wardens in the district. She said she felt blessed when she and Vic were stationed in Jayton and Knox City. Norma's greatest joy was living long enough to get to enjoy her grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She will be dearly missed by her family and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband of 59 years William Victor Lowry, son William Michael "Mike" Lowry, grandson Heath Josselet, sister Ruby Fitzpatrick,

and brother Cecil Johnston.

Norma is survived by daughter Vickie Josselet and husband Danny of Haskell, grandchildren Cody Josselet and wife Michele of Abilene, Ember Medford and husband Rodney of Haskell, great grandchildren Bethany, Allison and Dylan Josselet, Cutter and Harley Medford, brother-in-law Foster "Kayo" Fitzpatrick of Plano, several nieces, nephews and a host of dear friends.

Pallbearers are Danny Wainscott, Curtis Jones, Jimmy Fitzpatrick, Cody Josselet, Rodney Medford, Danny Josselet, Jimmie Wilhelm, and W.O. Nanny.

Memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church, Knox City, First United Methodist Church, Haskell, Noah's Project North, or a charity of choice.

ACU to help start new businesses

ACU has opened up their Business Plan competition to surrounding counties. If you have a burning desire to start a business or a plan to diversify your current business, but need some extra cash to help you do it, this is for you! They are giving away cash prizes to help you start your business. See the information below and visit their website for more information. It is a very tight deadline to make this year, but it can be done.

The 4th annual Springboard Ideas Challenge is coming in spring 2011!

The Springboard Ideas Challenge is a mini-business plan competition with the goal of providing aspiring entrepreneurs in Abilene and the surrounding West Texas region an opportunity to get their business up and running with significant cash and in-kind prizes. Each team, which can consist of up to four members, must submit a written mini-

business plan for their idea, addressing the fundamental issues that would be of interest to potential investors. After making it through a preliminary round of judging based on their written plans, finalists will be asked to present their ideas in front of a live panel of judges.

The registration deadline has been extended! Teams must register for the competition no later than Friday, March 4, 2011, and must submit their mini-business plans by Thursday, March 10, 2011. Register online today!

Prizes

Participants in this year's competition will be eligible to win the prizes described below. Additional prizes may be added up until the registration deadline. Check back or follow us at www.facebook.com/SpringboardACU for updates.

Division Prizes

Winners in each of the Student, Community Pre-

Revenue and Community Post-Revenue divisions will receive the following prizes:

1st Place = \$7,500
2nd Place = \$2,500
Honorable Mention = \$1,000

"Most Fundable" Award
Of the three division winners, one will be selected as the business concept that is most likely to receive funding from potential investors today. This award will be an additional \$7,500, giving the winning team a total cash prize of \$15,000.

Social

Entrepreneurship Award
This special award of \$2,500 recognizes the best social venture submitted in the competition, across all three divisions. Details about how to qualify for this award will be included in the judging criteria shared with participants.

For more information go to: <http://www.acu.edu/academics/coba/griggscenter/springboard/rules.html>

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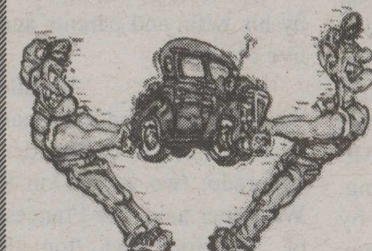
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Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

We have again had a weather "shift"- after several days of unseasonable warm temps, we are now experiencing some cooler days and nights. Though the spring like days were nice, this is much more like February. We do know, however, that the days and nights of thunderstorms can't be far off. That is not something I look forward to!

I express sympathy this week to the family of Fred Pepper who passed away last Wednesday after several months of failing health. Though I had not known Fred too many years, I liked him a lot and after he began to have so many health problems, I admired his courage as he didn't complain and was always cheerful when I knew he was feeling so bad. His funeral was Saturday morning in O'Brien with burial later in the day in Wichita Falls.

Also Sympathy to the Morris Jenkins family of Rochester. Morris passed away on Thursday. He, too, had many months of failing health and had been in an Abilene Hospital for quite sometime. His funeral was Monday in Rochester.

Here 'N There

Gloria West called to say she had company on Monday. Lucille McCanlies, Delores Dykes and Leroy Yarborough of Ft. Worth and Eddie Yarborough and his wife of Effie, Minnesota were here for a visit.

I had a nice visit with George and Patsy Lane Spann on Sunday night. They and their daughter, Sheryl had been to

Brownfield for the funeral of George's niece, Debra, who was the daughter of Janie and the late Con Link. They said Janie is now residing in a Nursing Center in Andrews. Of course (for those who don't know), these are former Munday residents. George and Patsy now live in Ennis.

Word received here Thursday of the death of Norma Lowry, the wife of the late Vic Lowry, who was the Game Warden in this area for many years. Her funeral was this past weekend. Sympathy to the family.

I visited briefly with former Benjamin resident, Jimmie Klutts, on Monday night in the Knox County Hospital. She had been admitted earlier in the day with chest pains. They were doing tests and when I was there they had not yet determined the cause of her problems. She was feeling better though, and hoped to be back home this morning (Tuesday).

Also while I was there, I visited briefly (in the E.R.) with Gilliland resident, Mary Welch, who had fallen at her home. This has happened before and the doctors want to be sure there is no serious problem so are sending her to Wichita Fall for further testing. Had started down there last night, but had ambulance problems, so it will be today when she goes. She was feeling better, but of course, she wants to find out what's causing her problems and get on treating it. Mary is the mother of Susan Cartwright (and as a side night, Mary's daughters, Becky Beaty was at

the hospital. I don't see Becky often, and was glad to visit with her a few minutes). She lives at Howe.

James and Stacia Propps and Cody returned home on Friday night after several days in San Antonio at the Livestock Show. Cody said he didn't place with his pig, but several Knox County Youth did well, which I'm sure will be in another part of the paper. It was a good experience and gets him ready for Houston, which will be in March.

It was a big day on Saturday her in Benjamin when little dribblers and their parents, grandparents and friends met for a full day of basketball. Starting about 9 a.m. and going on until nearly nightfall, lot of money was made for the Class of 2011, and there was lots of entertainment throughout the day for all in attendance.

Legal Notice

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code that an incorporated association known as Knox City Country Club, Inc. has applied for renewal of the Private Club Registration Permit Number N106836 and Beverage Cartage Permit Number PE106837 doing business as Knox City Country Club, Inc., to be located at 13030 Knox County, Texas. The officers are as follows: President, Gilbert Casillas, Vice President, Eddie Offield, Secretary/Treasurer, Pat Gonzales

Legal Notice

Notice of Sale

The State of Texas
By Virtue of an Order of Sale
County of Knox

DATED January 27, 2011, as issued pursuant to a judicial decree of the District Court of Knox County Texas, by the Clerk of said Court on said date in a certain suit No. 8909, and styled Knox County Appraisal District vs. Jay White, Ind. & d/b/a The Munday Courier, Cynthia White, Ind. & d/b/a The Munday Courier, M.L.Waggoner, Lein Holder (In Rem Only), Michael Waggoner, Lienholder (In Rem Only), Estar Waggoner, Leinholder (In Rem Only), Texas Converting, Inc., Leinholder (In Rem Only), State of Texas, Texas Workforce Commission, Leinholder (In Rem Only) Account Number 07-338889-9 and United States of America Internal Revenue Service, and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff of said Court, I have on January 27, 2011, seized, levied upon and will on the first Tuesday in March, 2011, the same being the 1st day of March 2011, at the Courthouse door of said County, in the City of Benjamin, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on said day, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all the right, title and interest of the defendants in such suit in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Knox and the State of Texas, to-wit:

The West 125' of Lots 11 and 12, Block 46, Lee Addition, City of Munday

The South 150' of Lots 1 and 2, Block 4, Original Townsite to the City of Munday

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

DATED January 27, 2011 at Benjamin Texas
By Dean Homstad, Sheriff, Knox County

You may contact the plaintiff's attorney at 325-672-4870

Visit us on the web at
knoxcountynewsonline.com

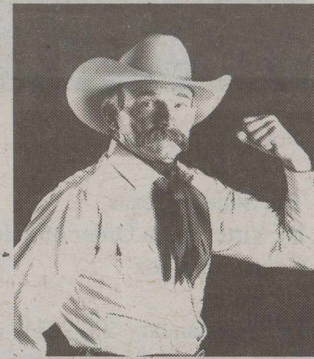
Resolution

WHEREAS, The West Rural and Community Texas Area Health Education Health, the West Texas Center Program has improved Area Health Education Center Program coordinates access to health care in more the efforts of educational than 100 counties through the development of the medical workforce; and institutions, health care providers, communities, and counties; the program's five centers, located in Abilene, Amarillo, El Paso, Midland, and Plainview, are hosted by local organizations in partnership with the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center; they belong to a national network of Area Health Education Centers, which was created by Congress in 1971 to enhance access to quality health care, particularly primary and preventive care, by recruiting, training, and retaining health care professionals for communities with critical needs; and

WHEREAS, West Texas is one of the most medically underserved regions in the United States; with a predominantly rural population of approximately 2.8 million people, it encompasses a land mass larger than all but four of the states; 64 of its counties have been designated as Health Professions Shortage Areas, and another 15 have a partial county or population HPSA designation; the West Texas Area Health Education Center Program, since its founding in 2002, has sought to address the health care provider shortage by increasing the number of future rural health care providers and supporting the retention of professionals currently practicing; and

WHEREAS, Established by the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, F. Marie Hall Institute of

See RESOLUTION on page 11



ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE by Baxter Black, DVM

THE CORN ATTACK!

In the last few years we have watched an increasing attack on corn. The skewed reasoning is: corn syrup is available, reasonably priced, and good for the average person, therefore; it must be bad! This is the kind of logic that has been applied to farmed salmon, Big Macs, lower taxes, capitalism and pasteurized milk.

I'm sure this same kind of reasoning was applied to earlier "civilizing" discoveries such as air conditioning, the steam engine and fire. In the book *The Omnivore*, by Michael Pollan, © 2006 it was noted that "too much" corn syrup can make you fat, reduce the popularity of competing vegetables like beets and wheat straw, AND someone can make a profit on it!

In the book *FIRE*, © 5286 BC, the author noted that "too much" fire could cause global warming, reduce your ability to withstand the cold, and someone could likely invent matches and make a profit!

Too often, in the long-established profession of the Luddites, Nay-Sayers, and, otherwise unemployed columnists, their motives can be found by "following the money." To sell a book or theory, wacko as it may be, you must first find a trend, discovery, or product that is well-known and well-liked. Then you make a persuasive observation casting doubt on the safety, ecological impact, availability and/or the morality of its use. The purpose is to create a problem where none exists; i.e., wild horses, hormone implants, preservatives, oil drilling the tundra, pesticides, irradiation of food, hog confinement sheds, Alar in apples and antibiotics in cattle. Look at what a waste of common sense and money has resulted from the discovery of BSE...in one cow in the United States! It was a fear monger's feast!

So while lettered experts, authorized "mullers", activists, and writers are trying to portray corn syrup as some evil substance, others of their kind are searching for easy prey so they can be the "nay-sayer de jour"...Potential headlines:

"Burnt toast, a carcinogen suspect!"

"People who lean have a tendency to fall over!"

"Carrots used as weapons in Arctic battle!"

"Could bovine dewlap be related to snood shrinking in turkeys?"

"Should Holsteins sue the Dairy Improvement Association for the Chick-Fil-A ads?"

"Is Tractor Fantasy Dangerous?"

"Can Tolstoy save your Marriage?"

"Packers blame the tennis ball shortage in New Zealand for the drop in the beef market!"

The corn attack has stimulated discourse on why we eat so good, have so much cheap food, and can feed the world's hungry if need be. The majority of this discussion has been among non-producers, non-scientist and journalists, wherein common sense, economic impact, scientific validity, and overwhelming acceptance are not on the table.

Michael Pollan in his book *THE OMNIVORE* caused a ripple. He put corn syrup on the stage for its fifteen minutes of fame. But, as Lincoln said when his dog swallowed an Indian head penny, "This too shall pass."



Sofa cushions are beneath me.

Actually, at the moment, just one sofa cushion is beneath me. But in the grander sense of my opening statement, the reference is to all sofa cushions in roadside ditches – the ones people lose when they transport sofas and forget to batten down the cushions. I don't brake for sofa cushions. Unless they're mine.

But as for other roadside objects of interest, that's a different story. Why not turn around, backtrack, investigate and possibly appropriate whatever the treasure happens to be? (Refer to Section 545.058, Texas Transportation Code.)

Last week the treasure was a blue hardhat. Maybe you saw it too resting upright on the right-hand southbound shoulder of U. S. 287 somewhere between Vernon and Wichita Falls. Maybe it's yours. Describe it in detail, and I might give it back. Otherwise not. I needed a hardhat.

If you have a hardhat, clipboard and safety glasses, you can walk onto a job site and pretend to be a safety inspector. The idea of doing that was one of the first things that came to my mind once I had that hardhat in hand. Not that I'd do that.

Enter Carl Jung. What I remember from reading one of his books is his theory that humankind shares some sort of collective historic subconscious or something like that, which is why drunks tend to see the same things when they hallucinate, namely pink elephants or mice, although the elephants aren't always pink. That's what I remember from reading Jung

three decades ago. Back then I was working at a mental hospital. Even as a low-echelon employee, part of my job was to interview incoming patients to learn about them and note any odd notions or behavior. For instance, one woman thought she was God. I made a note of that.

Of course, doctors did all the diagnosing and social workers did the counseling, but we front-line workers executed various fill-in-the-blank intake assessments for the patients' charts and made other written comments during their time with us.

A popular delusion then among the patients was that they conversed with E. T., the extra-terrestrial creature popularized by the blockbuster movie of the same name. Even though it was a shared delusion, it didn't seem Jungian to me but more like a delusion du jour – just what you would expect mentally unstable movie-watchers to think after watching the cleverly concocted E. T.

But when I came across two patients who both erroneously claimed to be safety inspectors, of all things, I figured I'd stumbled onto a significant common delusion to add to Jung's list of common hallucinations, if it's OK to mix delusions and hallucinations. I think it is.

That said, when I found that hardhat and begin to fantasize myself about masquerading as a safety inspector, it's no wonder I remembered those two deluded guys at the mental hospital who, amazingly enough, each believed they really were safety inspectors.

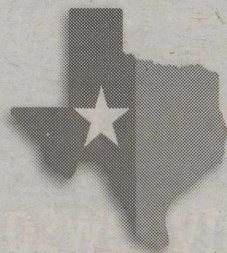
If only they'd had hardhats, they might have pulled it off.

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them for these opportunities and encourages their progress, and conducts targeted outreaches to minorities; now underrepresented in the health care professions; its community-based clinical training programs introduce health care

professions students to underserved communities while enhancing the ability of those communities to recruit new professionals; in addition, the West Texas Area Health Education Center Program provides health needs assessment and

planning, coalition building, and strategic prioritization to avert future personnel shortages and to ensure that the current workforce is well trained; and

WHEREAS, Improved access to high-quality health care strengthens communities,

and the West Texas Area Health Education Center Program has greatly benefited quality of life and economic development in the region; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas Legislature

hereby honor the West Texas Area Health Education Center Program for its outstanding contributions in behalf of the residents of West Texas and extend to all those associated with the program sincere best wishes for continued success in their vital endeavors; and,

be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the West Texas Area Health Education Center Program as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.

GOD

believers to strengthen one another. The Good Book says "for each man to work out his own salvation with fear and trembling". The cowboy in this song had done just that and you could see it in the way he dealt with the other cowboys and the kind hand he had with his horses. I have to ask myself how does the way I treat others reflect my relationship with God. Will people know about your relationship with God by the way you live your daily life?

"He hated to fence and dig post holes

He would if he's ask to of course

Then he'd swear how there's nothin' in life that's worth doin'

If it can't be done from a horse"

Most cowboys have a credo they live by. Building fence, working on windmills or touching their hand to a plow is just plain disgusting. Your whole life revolves around being atop a good horse. When I was a working cowboy I didn't like getting down off my horse to open a gate. I thought every gate should be made to open horseback. I didn't like feeding cattle cubes in the winter because I had to use a vehicle. The cowboy I replace drove a team of mules up until the last couple of years before he died. One mule drowned in a tank and the ranch made him use a powerwagon. He hated it.

"He taught me how to top out the bad ones

How to tell a good horse from his eye

How to watch on the roundup when a cows on the prod

She's hidin' her baby nearby"

I remember when I was just a boy my dad wasn't a cowboy, but he knew I wanted to be one, so he told me to follow an old cowboy and do what he did. That old cowboy was Bill Holcomb and he took me under his wing and taught me the things, like in the above verse, that I needed to know. I remember the first stampede I rode in, the time he had me pop a fried pie wrapper out of his hand and when he borrowed my new rope and broke it on a wild one. He just brought it back in two pieces and handed it to me. I never loaned my rope to another cowboy as long as I lived.

"Well we ain't changed a thing in the bunkhouse We ain't ready to admit that he's gone

His hot roll still lies across the foot of his bed

His leggings still hang on the wall"

Sometimes it is difficult to deal with the loss of a friend or loved one. We don't want to let them go, so we leave things just as they left them. You will remember earlier in this song they know he has gone home, but they want to leave things here on earth just as if he was still here and coming back. Some people leave a bedroom just as it was or refuse to sell their car. They can't get rid of their clothes, guns, hats, golf clubs or what ever else reminds them of the loved one.

"But there's one empty cot in the bunkhouse.

Even though there is an empty cot in the bunkhouse there is a new resident in heaven and now doesn't need that bunk anymore.

There's a saddle that nobody rides."

His saddle here on earth is replace with a new way to ride that we can't even imagine. There are no saddle sores, no pain and only the joy of a great ride.

"One empty place at the table"

His place at the table here is replaced with a banquet table with the Lord and a feast like he has never seen before. No burnt beans, the biscuits are as light as air and the steak is so tender you could cut it with a fork. Peach cobbler that would make you throw rocks at the cook on the ranch.

"The remuda is five horses shy"

The void left by him can only be filled by the grace of the Lord healing the hurt. No one can ever take that special persons place and no one should try. There will be others to be a friend to or others to love. We have to remember the goodness and let them go to that great Headquarters in the sky where the Boss is easy to please and the work in light. No more broncs to ride and no more wild cows to chase. I look forward to crossing that great divide someday where the grass is always green and the streams are crystal clear. A place where the days are warm and the nights are cool. No more suffering or pain and no more losing a good hand. The boys that have gone on before me will greet me with a smile and we'll ride across heaven up to the big house and lay our treasures at His feet. I can't wait to hear that "well done you were all top hands and always rode for my brand".

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 6218-45-001 for SEAL COAT in DONLEY County, etc will be opened on March 09, 2011 at 1:00 pm at the State Office for an estimate of \$1,042,589.50.

Dist/Div: Lubbock

Contract 6221-75-001 for TOTAL REST AREA MAINTENANCE, OPERATIONS AND REPAIR in CROSBY County, etc will be opened on March 08, 2011 at 1:00 pm at the State Office for an estimate of \$3,936,000.00. All prospective bidders are encouraged to attend the pre-bid conference for Contract 6221-75-001 to be held on February 22, 2011 at 2:00 pm at the 150 EAST RIVERSIDE DR, ROOM 1B.1, AUSTIN TX.

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: 35483

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

Lubbock District
District Engineer
135 Slaton
Lubbock, Texas 79408-0771
Phone: 806-745-4411

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.

LOOKING AHEAD

purchased by March 1st. Seating is limited, so ticket reservations need to be made as soon as possible. The theme this year is ENERGY as we celebrate all of the businesses in Knox City that are connected to the energy industry. If you have any

questions you can call Emily Nelson @ 325.721.5277.

The Haskell/Knox Relay for Life will be on April 1 at Indian Field in Haskell from 7PM until 7AM.

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LYNDON

minutes after the Today Show aired, the MSNBC station held another live interview via Skype. A month ago, CNN aired a story about the KCHS student; and the FUGI network broadcast an editorial in Japan. A reporter out of

Brazil has set up another interview. Next Wednesday, Lyndon will be recognized on the Texas Senate Floor with his Baby Bot.

About the international attention given to his son and the equipment that has allowed

him to resume a semi-normal life, Louis Baty, KC/O'Brien Superintendent says: "We hope this coverage will allow other children with the same affliction as Lyndon to become aware of the technology available to them".

To watch the segment featuring Lyndon Baty and his Baby Bot on the Today Show, you can log on to

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21134540/vp/41641714#41641714>

or for a simpler URL use

<http://tinyurl.com/46lzqmn>



What's this? A new addition to the Knox County News; QR codes. For more information about this new service, see the article below.

The Knox County News now using QR Codes

What's this? This is a QR Code, which Knox County News is debuting in this publication.

A QR Code is a specific matrix barcode (or two-dimensional code), readable by dedicated QR barcode readers and camera phones. The code consists of black modules arranged in a square pattern on a white background. The information encoded can be text, URL or other data.

"We will use these codes to enhance our publications and begin offering them to customers," said Chris Blackburn, publisher. "The codes can be used to make Knox County News an interactive product where you can use your phone to explore websites, videos, coupons ... just about anything you can imagine." Anytime there is a story with this bar code along side of it, there has been video feed

that is associated with the article that can be accessed through a Smartphone.

Smartphones with any of several free scan application downloads is all that's needed to begin to interact with The Knox County News like never before. Basically, if you have a smartphone with a camera, you can download any number of free phone apps which allow you to scan barcodes and QR codes. You can then use your phone to scan the QR codes placed in stories and advertising. Once scanned, your phone will link to what it has been directed to from the code.

This is going to be cutting edge for advertising in Knox County News. A realtor can use a QR code to show a virtual tour of a house they're listing, or a bank with the code leading to their Website, a restaurant with a code leading to a coupon

which can be printed off and redeemed, a hotel using the code to link you to their reservation system are some of the countless ways that this code maybe used.

As readers and advertisers being seeing and using the codes, the personal interaction between the reader and the newspaper is complete.

In this manner, newspapers have gone from near extinction to a vital way to interact and connect with the story or the store.

"We will continue to educate the public and our clients on this new feature," Blackburn continued. "We're looking forward to seeing what these codes can do."

To use the QR code system, contact Tamara Smart at the Knox County News during business hours at 940-657-3142 or at 110 N. Central Ave in Knox City.

THANK YOU FOR READING THE KNOX COUNTY NEWS!