



THE KNOX COUNTY NEWS

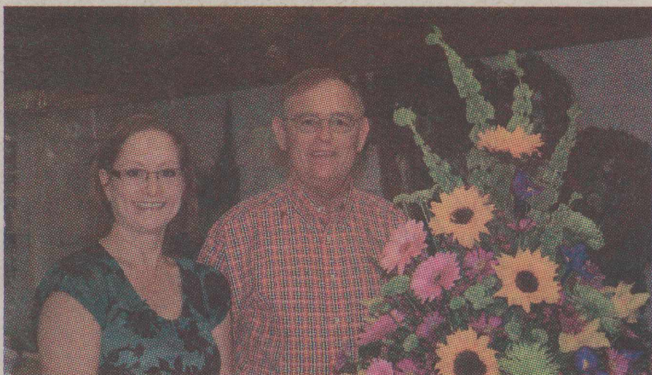
VOL. XXIX NO. 73

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2011

75CENTS

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KNOX COUNTY, DISTRICT
PO BOX 196
BENJAMIN, TX 79505-0196

Knox City Florist celebrates 30 years of ownership



Tamara Smart

On April 1, two local business owners celebrated the 30th anniversary of their ownership of a downtown staple in the Knox City community. These very hard working and devote citizens' business have brought cheer to sad events like funerals, enhanced weddings, been the saving grace for many a lovers quarrel, been a solemn way to profess true feelings about another, helped increase the joy of landmark birthdays, been the haven of "last minute gifts", and is a continued

blessing to the downtown economic scene.

Thirty years ago, Joe and Barbara Barnard bought the Knox City Florist from Spurgeon and Helen Neely of Rochester. The business had been established in the late 40's or early 50's, and when the Barnard's came into possession of the "flower shop", as so many people refer to it, the business was located at 204 S. Ave F. It only moved to its distinctive downtown location in December of 1997.

Barbara was only 23, Joe was 29 years old when the

See **FLORIST** on page 11

two amassed ownership of Knox City Florist. They had met at Texas Tech a few years before, gotten married, and had children. Because Barbara grew up in Rotan, Joe is a Knox City native; both knew the benefits of raising children in a small town rather than a big city.

So when Joe's mother, also named Barbara Barnard, who worked for the previous owners of the flower shop, informed the young Barnards that the floral shop was available for purchase, the young dreamers jumped on the opportunity.

When they embarked on their business venture, things were very different than they are today. "Back in the day", the Flower shop deliveries came by Greyhound bus. When the bus pulled into town, AP Denton Sr., who ran the bus stop, would call the

KC Hometown Variety Store construction underway

Tamara Smart

When taking a drive through the downtown area of Knox City, something grand has begun. After mourning the loss of The Duckwalls store last year, the local communities have suffered. A great convenience of having a variety store within a short drive was rendered nil after Duckwall's officially closed it's doors forever. Since that time, the building where the old variety store once occupied has sat empty for several months. Yet, in the past few weeks, the store has started to see a rejuvenated life

be born. Several members of the community saw the need for such a store in town, and started to dream about the creation of the "KC Hometown Variety Store". Yet, it took some months to make this plan a reality. The building had to be commissioned from the City, as well, the funds needed to be in place.

It was finally official last Monday morning, when the Knox City mayor signed the final papers for the \$75,000 grant given to the KC Hometown Variety store from the CDC Type B Board. This

See **VARIETY STORE** on page 11

BENJAMIN CLEAN-UP DAY

The City of Benjamin has scheduled their annual "City Clean-up Day" for April 9th. If large items needed to be discarded, trucks will come by to get them (call City Hall to get on list for disposal). The Chipper Shredder will be available to shred foliage (branched and tree trunks) to those who make appointments with City Hall. To make an appointment with these services, the number to Benjamin City Hall is 459-3131. Meet at City Hall at 8:00 a.m. to do the street clean-up. Carry out lunch will be at park at noon. Bring enough to share!

LOOKING AHEAD

The KCHS One Act Play will be presenting "Quiet Please" for the community on Thursday, April 14th at 7:00 PM in the auditorium. They will be accepting donations for repairing our unit set. If you have any questions, please call the school and ask for Terra Gonzalez

The next Aging Center Talent show will be held on April 12 at the Knox City Aging Center. Make plans to come on out and boogie.



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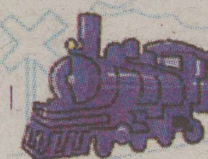
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God's Promises

The Great Escape!

Gary Schnable,
Foursquare Church

When the words "The Great Escape" are mentioned, the older generations may think of World War Two. When on the night of March 24, 1944, a moonless night 76 men escaped from the Sagan POW camp in Poland. The camp was thought to be

inescapable!

Of the 76 men who escaped, 3 made it home to the United Kingdom. 23 were recaptured and sent back to Sagan POW camp. The other 50 men Hitler personally ordered to be executed by the Gestapo and their remains sent back in urns to deter any further escape attempts.

More recently, on October

13, 2010 the world watched 33 miners be rescued from a deep grave. They were raised one by one through a smooth-walled shaft of rock after being trapped for more than two months, 2,014 ft beneath the Chilean earth.

The last miner out was the one who held the group together when they were feared lost, a shift foreman

named Luis Urzua. He said this "We have done what the entire world was waiting for," he said immediately after his rescue. A great escape!

If we had time to list all the many stories of escapes by individuals from tyranny or from certain death the volumes would be plentiful. We could talk about the many escapees from terror on September 9, 2011 or the amazing escapes from death of those here in West Texas from violent weather, accidents and the like. In fact I have heard many stories of days gone by, of you my neighbors who have lived through certain death or about someone you knew personally.

No matter how great these events of history and life were of which we must thank our Heavenly Father for, there is one "Great Escape"

that tops them all!

It is the escape from the sentence of sin and Death! There are no earthly possibilities escaping from this. We inherited this death sentence from our parents passed down from our first parents Adam and Eve. The required animal sacrifices simply appeased God for a time...it would require a perfect man (Without sin) to lay His life down for unworthy sinners like us.

Yeah, like that's really going to happen...an innocent man dying for the guilty? Come on, what innocent person in their right mind would die for a guilty person...willingly???

Well, our Heavenly Father found one who would give His life for ours! His name is Jesus! In fact on a dark afternoon (All His enemies... the demons of hell gathered

blocking out the sun to witness the event), the Son of God...in His right mind, chose to take our place, paying the price for us to escape death...eternal death!

Jesus suffered three, long, humiliating hours by taking our penalty, our insults, our humiliation, and our diseases and putting them to death on the cross. As Jesus sealed the deal with His final words on the cross, "It is finished" we today have the opportunity to lay claim to His great act of compassion. To escape from sin, sickness and eternal death! Man, to really think about it, all I can say is "Thank you Lord!"

Two wealthy followers laid Jesus' body hastily in a tomb that Friday afternoon just before the religious holiday

See **GOD'S PROMISES**
on page 11

The Knox County News

"Since 1971, Knox County's Oldest Established Newspaper"

P.O. Box 188
110 N. Central
Knox City, Texas 79529
940-657-3142
FAX 940-658-3228
kcnews@valornet.com

USPS 903-920

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MEMBER —

Texas Press Association • West Texas Press Association

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Knox County & O'Brien: \$26/Year
Within Texas: \$28/Year
All others: \$30/Year

CHRISTOPHER
BLACKBURN
Publisher

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.

The Knox City Annual Staff would like to extend an invitation to any local business or individual who wishes to sponsor a page in the 2011 Knox City Yearbook. The staff has worked very hard and composed a yearbook that everyone will be glad to be a part of. If you have not sponsored the year book in the past, this is an open invitation for you and your business to have your name in the Knox City - O'Brien Yearbook. Below is a list of packages that we offer. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Cosby at the High School at 940-657-3565 or you may email him at dade.cosby@esc9.net. With your purchase you will receive a receipt and a printed colored printed print out to hang in your door, window, or office, along with your name or your business name on a yearbook page. If you wish to make an order, please choose from the options below and mail it along with your payment to 600 E Main St, Knox City, Texas 79529. Thanks for your support.

FIRM OR BUSINESS AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT LISTED ON THE PAGE

MANAGER/OWNER

AREA(TELEPHONE)

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

PLEASE CHECK THE BOX OF THE PAGE SIZE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR

¼ Sponsor Page: \$45.00

With a ¼ page, your business and three others will be listed on the page as a sponsor.

½ Sponsor Page: \$75.00

With a ½ page, your business and one other business will be listed on the page as a sponsor.

1 Full Sponsor Page: \$100.00

With a full page, your business will be the only business listed on the page as a sponsor.

2 Full Sponsor Page: \$150.00

As a 2 full page sponsor, your business will sponsor two full pages side by side, by itself.

DEADLINE IS APRIL 30TH, 2011

Obituaries

BETTY WEAVER

Betty June Weaver, age 84, of Knox City, Texas, formerly of Mangum, passed away early Wednesday morning, March 23, 2011, at Knox County Hospital, in Knox City, Texas.

Mrs. Weaver was born on June 22, 1926, in Hannah, Oklahoma to Henry and Mary Jane (Sorrels) Harris. At an early age, the family moved to Southwest Oklahoma near the Gould area where they lived for several years. On May 24, 1945, she married the love of her life, William L. (Bud) Weaver and they were married sixty-one wonderful years before his death on January 31, 2007. After their marriage, they lived in Southwest Oklahoma, near Mangum, for many years. In 2004, they moved to Knox City, to be near their family.

Betty was an excellent cook who prepared delicious food for her family, in cafes, day care and elder care centers most of her working life.

Preceded in death by her parents; her husband; one daughter, Dolly Schoolcraft; one son, Timmy Weaver, five brothers and five sisters, she is survived by three sons, Dale Weaver and wife LaWana of Smithville, Texas; Floyd Weaver and wife Darlene of Weatherford, Texas and Cecil Weaver and wife Tammy of Knox City, Texas; seven grandchildren; ten great grandchildren, four great-great grandchildren along with many other relatives and friends.

Funeral services for Betty Weaver will be at 3 p.m., Saturday, March 26, 2011, at Greer Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. James Callins

officiating. Interment will follow at Riverside Cemetery under the direction of Greer Funeral Home of Mangum.

The family will greet friends at Greer Funeral Home on Friday, March 25, 2011, from 6 until 7 p.m.

Online tributes may be made to the family at www.GreerFuneral.com

PATSY LANKFORD

Patsy Ruth Lankford, 78, passed away April 2, 2011 in Wichita Falls, Texas. A graveside service will be held Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 10am at the Knox City Cemetery under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Homes, Knox City. Patsy was born July 13, 1932 in Munday, Texas to Ezra Pryor and Effie Yeager. She married Jackie Wayne Lankford December 24, 1952. She was retired from

the Knox City Department of Human Resources where she worked as a secretary. She was a longtime resident of Knox City. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and nephew Terry Hollar. Patsy is survived by a daughter, Janet Kay Herzog of Wichita Falls; 2 sons, Michael Wayne Lankford of Round Mountain, and David Lynn Lankford of Knox City; 1 sister, Marjorie Hollar of Burleson; 5 grandchildren, Jill King of Wichita Falls, Emily Herzog of Wichita Falls, Douglas Pierce of Norfolk, VA, Audrey Lankford of San Angelo, Sondra Lankford of Lubbock; and 1 great grandson, Chaz King of Wichita Falls. Memorials can be given to Hospice of Wichita Falls, Texas and the Wichita Falls Humane Society.

Pre-K Round Up 2011 to be held April 12 - 14

Pre-Kindergarten Round-Up is slated for April 12th, 13th, or 14th at Knox City Elementary. Mrs. Munoz, Pre-Kindergarten teacher, is inviting all students who will be four years old before September 1, 2011 to visit the Pre-K classroom on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday morning. The children may come to school at 9:15 A.M. when they will join this year's Pre-Kindergarteners in the classroom for the regular Pre-K schedule. The children will participate in music and movement; hear a story, and complete a project to take home. They will play on the playground before going to the lunchroom to eat. Cost of the

meal is \$2.00. Children will be dismissed from the Pre-K room at 12:00 P.M.

To enroll for the 2011-12 school year, you will need to bring with you, your child's original Social Security Card (not a copy), current

Immunization Record and Birth Certificate. Please bring these to the Elementary Office after you have dropped off your child at school.

Mrs. Munoz is requesting that parents call the elementary office at 657-3147 to make a

reservation for your child to visit on either April 12th, 13th, or 14th.

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Thanks for reading!

Special thanks to the Munday Nursing Home for the special care they took of our mother and the Knox County Hospital, Dr. Duke and the staff for their compassionate care. A very special thanks to our daughter, Amanda Weaver Lindsay, for all the you have done. We don't know what we would do without you.

The Cecil Weaver family

SALE
 Mini Mall
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 New Merchandise!
 Spring Dresses \$24.⁹⁹ Summer Shirts \$19.⁹⁹
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- Managing Your Mortgage
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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.

FOUR SQUARE 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

THE CHURCH DIRECTORY IS BROUGHT TO YOU EACH WEEK BY THESE GENEROUS SPONSORS:

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SAMMIE'S KNOX CITY CORNER AND FINAL THOUGHTS

Sammie Offield

The news about Lewis Lyles death was a surprise to me. I really enjoyed him when I was working at the cleaners, and of course, I love Betty. It was sad to see that he had passed away. He will surely be missed by everyone in the community and in Benjamin too.

Homer Rolston is recovering from a minor foot surgery. Hopes he gets to play golf soon, because it is really eating his lunch not to be able to be out with the guys on their

Wednesday play day. I'm sure Jan is also ready for him to go back to work. (Ha Ha)

I also got a visit with Ronnie Lawson and his brother. They have been in Knox City taking care of some of their parents things, properties and such. I would like for them to know that if there is anything we can do to help this process, we are right around the corner.

Kristi K's Salon downtown has really been busy lately; especially the tanning beds. Some of the local young girls

are trying to begin their beautiful summer tans; while some of us older folks are just trying for ten minutes of comfort and warmth for our bones and muscles. Tanning is a great idea if you suffer from arthritis. It sure helps me.

I see they are making great progress in the new Variety Store downtown. I can't wait for them to get it all done and have that feature in our downtown scene again.

Alfredo Abila is having to take more chemo for his recovery, so

hopefully with these treatments, they will be able to get his blood count to normal

Danny Reece is also doing very well and taking his last rounds of chemo lined up. His spirits have been wonderful and so has God, who has been with him always.

It was wonderful to see a little moisture on the ground. I just wish we had a little bit more, but we will take what we can get.

Dorothy Dykes celebrated her 75th birthday. I sure had a

great time at her party. I must say again, Happy Birthday Dorothy and may God continue to send blessings your way.

Peggy Grindstaff is doing good as there are continued improvements in her heart stints that were put in place to replace her arteries. She feels better and better each day.

I understand that our Methodist preacher, Tim

Trimble, will be leaving our community and transfer to another church at Fort Davis. He will be greatly missed and will always be appreciated for the love and hard work he and his family has done while in Knox City. May God bless them in their life's travels

See SAMMIE on page 11

Knox County Aging Services

Menus For April 11th To April 15th

Monday April 11th
Hamburger Steak/Gravy
Mixed Vegetables
Buttered Noodles
Hot Rolls
Fruit Cup

Tuesday April 12th
Chef Salad
Baked Potato
Crackekrs
Cobbler

Wednesday April 13th
Chicken Strips/Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Biscuit
Fruit Salad

Thursday, April 14th
Lasagne
Salad
Carrots
Garlic Toast
COokies

Friday, April 15th
Chili Dogs/Cheese
Chips
Pork & Beans
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.

Knox County Market Place

Help Wanted

The Knox County Appraisal District & County Tax Assessor office is accepting applications for the position of deputy clerk, which will become available June 1st. Qualifications require high school graduation or equivalent and must pass a background check. This job consists of working with title registration and tag renewal registration, helping with voter registration, tax collection, delinquent tax collection and an other functions which arise in the office. Applicant must possess the following: Computer skills, organization skills, communicate effectively orally and in writing, work efficiently both independently and with others, and must be committed to provide exceptional public service. Applicants must have a RPC or be willing to register with the Texas Department of Licensing & Regulations and obtain certification within 3 years; Reliable transportation is a must to attend out of town classes that are required. Salary is contingent upon experience and qualifications. Applications may be picked up and returned to the Knox County Appraisal District office at 100 W Cedar St, Knox County Courthouse in Benjamin, Texas or mailed to PO Box 47, Attention: Mitzi Welch. Applications and resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. The Knox County Appraisal district is an (EOE) Equal Opportunity Employer.

Seeking FULL TIME LVN, and RN for PRN position. Competitive salary and benefits available for full time employees. EOE. For more information, please call 940-864-8537, or apply in person at Haskell Healthcare Center, 1504 No First street, Haskell

Experienced (pulling unit) workover rig operator and crew needed. Operator position pays \$23 per hour. After 90 days, benefits are available. Call 806-269-0076 and ask for Donny.

Gavilon Grain LLC is looking for seasonal help for the 2011 harvest at their grain

elevators in Knox City and Benjamin. This is an excellent 4-6 week seasonal opportunity for schoolteachers and college students. For more information call 1-877-322-1174 and ask for Ryan or Heather. EOE M/F/D/V

The City of Knox City will be taking applications for the position of swimming pool manager for the upcoming season until April 29, 2011. Information at City Hall. EOE

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

Seeking FULL TIME LVN and FULL TIME or PART TIME CNAS. Requires state license or Certification. Also seeking RN for PRN position. Competitive salary and benefits available for full time employees. EOE. For more information, please call 940-864-8537, or apply in person at Haskell Healthcare Center, 1504 No First Street, Haskell

For Rent

House for rent. Two bed, one bath. Big back yard. Garage. 308 S. 3rd Street, Knox City. Call Dessie for details. 806-543-3131.

House for Sale

3 bed, 1 bath House for sale. 309 S. Ave H. Knox City. 2 car garage, Big front and back yards. Central Heat and air. Freshly painted and renovated. Stove and dishwasher included. \$50,000. Call 940-658-1257 for more details.

Garage Sales

Garage sale. Saturday, April 9, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., two miles east of Knox City on HWY 222., Casillas Residence. Kids, women's, men's clothes. Twin beds. Baby furniture and accessories. Kids toys and lots more.

Big garage sale at Jimmie and Frances Bowen's home. 1789 FM 2407; Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, April 7-9, 8 a.m. until when we are through! Treadmill, Gas blower, lots of glass, four used tires, and lots more.

4 Family Garage Sale Friday & Saturday, April 8-9; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Lots of goodies-little bit everything, come find your treasure. 705 E. Main, Knox City

Public Notice

City of Benjamin
FAIR HOUSING PROCLAMATION
The City of Benjamin has proclaimed the month of April as "Fair Housing Month." The City of Benjamin endorses and supports the principle of fair housing and encourages all citizens to support the law of the land in regard to the right of every person to have access to adequate housing of his choice. Copies of the City's Proclamation are available free of charge to any interested person or groups at City Hall.

For Sale

WacoPetro- Buying Knox & Haskell counties oil production, royalties, working interest, stripper wells, abandoned wells. 940-657-5526. 117 N. central, Knox City.

Buying Live WILD HOGS



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Munday location of our 40 year drug free, smoke free established 51 store stable restaurant chain hiring management with a yearly base pay of \$30,000 plus bonus potential and up to \$10.00 hourly for restaurant experienced cooks and team members. Call Lisa at home office for a pre-screen interview: **940-549-5041**

CNAS

FULL TIME & PRN openings for individuals with State Certification. We offer a competitive salary and benefits available for full time employees. EOE For more information place call (940) 864-8537, or apply in person.

HASKELL HEALTH CARE CENTER
1504 No First St
Haskell



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

2009 Weekly Weather Report

Date	Temperature (F) Low / High	Rainfall inches	Snow inches
03/28	35/58		
03/29	34/51		
03/30	28/60	0.01	
03/31	32/82		
04/01	38/86		
04/02	42/94		
04/03	68/100		
Total Rainfall for month		0.02	
2011 Rainfall (ytd)		0.95	

Consumer Alert: Phoner Toner Scams

Texas businesses should be alert that an old office supply scam – the “phoner toner” scam – has resurfaced in recent weeks. Several Texas Attorney General’s Office employees have reported that they received unsolicited telephone calls at work from office supply scam artists.

The “phoner toner” scam usually involves several phone calls. In the first call, the scam artist hopes to find a new or temporary employee who will freely provide information. Posing as the company’s approved vendor or even as a survey taker, the scam artist asks the employee to provide the make and model number off the nearest office printer. Faced with the seemingly harmless request, the employee unwittingly complies.

In the second call, the scam artist – who now knows the make and model of the targeted business’ office equipment – contacts a different employee under the auspices of confirming the equipment’s make and model number. During this call, solicitors make it a point to ask for the employee’s name and a street address for the business. In some cases, the solicitor may also ask the person if he or she needs toner or paper.

Sometime after that second call, toner or paper is delivered to the business address. The delivered goods usually are not of high quality nor are they name brand supplies. Then, the scam artist sends a fraudulent billing invoice – hoping that the business’ accounting department will simply pay the bill. Businesses that attempt to question the

invoices are often met with vague statements claiming that “someone” at the company ordered the supplies. Other times, the scam artists give an employee’s name as well as the make and model number of the office equipment in an attempt to confirm the fraudulent order.

Educating employees is a business’ best first line of defense to these scams. Businesses should consider alerting all employees about office supply scams – not just those who work in accounting and billing departments. Business owners should also consider training employees not to authorize the ordering of any office supplies and not to schedule equipment maintenance or support services. New employees should be taught which departments or individuals are

authorized to make purchases and know that they should avoid revealing any information about the company’s office equipment – even if the caller seems to be familiar with the company or other employees.

Texas businesses that receive bills for goods or services that they did not order are not obligated to pay – even if the product was delivered. Generally, these items can be considered a gift. Businesses that receive fraudulent invoices and supplies that were not ordered, or are subjected to bogus collection threats should file a complaint with the Texas Attorney General’s Office at (800) 252-8011 or online at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov. Businesses may also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission or the Better Business Bureau.

Free trade agreements mean big dollars for Texas economy

As demand for U.S. agricultural products increases worldwide, so does the need for sound trade policies and agreements that will benefit farmers and ranchers in Childress County and across the nation, said David Davidson, Childress County Farm Bureau president.

“The pending free trade agreements with Columbia, Panama and South Korea will lead to billions of dollars in future agricultural exports,” Davidson said. “It’s time to move beyond

the politics and pass these agreements.”

Regaining broader access to markets in South Korea, Colombia and Panama will increase exports for U.S. and Texas farmers and ranchers by nearly \$3 billion, for a total of \$9.2 billion in agricultural export opportunities, Davidson said.

According to the U.S. National Trade Commission, the implementation of the pending trade agreements would increase all U.S. exports to these three countries by at least \$1.3

billion and add \$10 billion to the U.S. Gross Domestic Product.

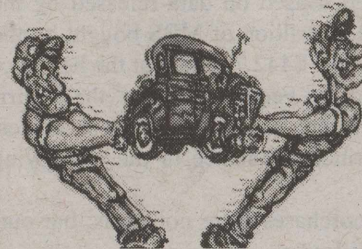
While a domestic debate rages with Americans and the three agreements remain in limbo, U.S. competitors are aggressively moving to lock up trade agreements.

“U.S. failure to match

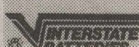
those efforts is not only about giving up these potential gains in export market share, but in losing the markets that we have now,” David Davidson says.

The hope is for all three agreements approved by Congress this year.

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Campaign Spending Limits are Dead

By RICK MANNING

Imagine the uproar if one candidate for president refused to accept the campaign spending limits that he voted for, and proceeded to outspend his opponent by more than a 3 to 1 margin.

I'm sure you heard the repeated cries of outrage from Common Cause and other "reformers" from the left.

What? You didn't know that Barack Obama spent more on his campaign in 2008 than George W. Bush and John Kerry combined in the previous presidential election?

You didn't know that John McCain, constrained by campaign finance limitations, and his own crusading in favor of them, spent \$227 million to Obama's \$740 million?

Why is this old news important or timely?

Obama has announced that he is ramping up for another term, with fundraising expectations that dwarf previous campaigns. The difference is that no Republican challenger in his or her right mind will hamstring their campaigns by taking matching funds and consigning their campaign to watching Obama dominate the paid airwaves when they are pinching

pennies for a push in the last couple of weeks.

The great campaign spending limitation experiment is dead, and it died without a whimper from those who have spent lifetimes decrying monies influence on politics — all because their favored candidate wielded the knife.

In Wisconsin, Republicans are re-learning this lesson as incumbent Supreme Court Justice David Prosser is facing a public employee union-fueled challenge from the left in an attempt to take control of the state's Supreme Court. Wisconsin, the original good government state, has rigid campaign finance spending rules.

In the aftermath of the passage of collective bargaining laws, Justice Prosser is facing a \$3 million public employee union spending onslaught through the Greater Wisconsin Committee featuring a commercial that falsely accuses him of shielding a child molesting priest as a prosecutor. Even the left-leaning Politifact has given the ad a low rating on its Truth O Meter.

Once again, because Justice Prosser is trapped conforming to campaign spending limitations, these false ads are going largely unchallenged as he struggles to tell his story.

At one time, campaign reformers could argue that campaign spending limits benefit the electorate with a straight-face. Today, in the wake of Obama's 2008 and promised 2012 campaigns, and the Wisconsin Justice race that will determine the future of the state's collective bargaining laws, no one can pretend any longer that campaign spending limitations do anything except put those that accept them at a strong disadvantage.

It is time, to level the playing field and get rid of political spending limits, taxpayer-funded matching funds and stop the charade. Although it is not hard to predict that when the right decides to play by the same financing rules that Obama and his cronies are using, the nation will be subjected to a chorus of condemnation in the New York Times from the formerly silent left.

Let's hope that Republican candidates for president are smart enough to reject matching funds and the limitations on spending that accompany them. We cannot afford to unilaterally disarm in this upcoming election by accepting campaign funding limits, when President Obama will be spending 3 to 4 times that amount.

The Fed Bails Out the World

By ROBERT ROMANO

The Federal Reserve is the world's central bank. There is simply no question now.

In 2008, while the financial crisis was at its peak, the Fed was lending at lightning speed to financial institutions all over the world. "The biggest borrowers from the 97-year-old discount window as the program reached its crisis-era peak were foreign banks, accounting for at least 70 percent of the \$110.7 billion borrowed during the week in October 2008 when use of the program surged to a record," Bloomberg News reports.

The foreign banks included the Bank of China, Arab Banking Corp., Commerzbank, Depfa, Landesbank Baden-Württemberg, Société Générale of France, Royal Bank of Scotland, Dexia, Erste Group, Norinchukin Bank, Credit Suisse and Deutsche Bank.

Bloomberg, along with FOX News, finally got the Fed to release the recipients of these loans through their Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, which had been kept under wraps until now. The Fed lost two court decisions fighting the FOIA requests, and then the Supreme Court denied certiorari in the case, leaving the lower court decisions in force.

"Our job is to provide liquidity to keep the American economy going," Dallas Fed head Richard Fisher said, justifying the Fed's loan program, despite the participation in the program by foreign firms.

Of course, it turns out that the 2008 credit lines to foreign firms would not be the last.

As reported by the Wall Street Journal, the Fed has helped bail out Europe during its ongoing sovereign debt crisis. According to the report, "the U.S. Federal Reserve said Sunday that it would revive an emergency lending program used dur-

ing the financial crisis. The Fed will ship billions of dollars overseas through foreign central banks, including the ECB, so they can, in turn, lend the money out to banks in their home countries in need of dollar funding."

That was ironic, of course, because on February 24th, 2010, when asked if the Federal Reserve was planning to bail out Greece, Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke testified to the House Financial Services Committee, "we have no plans whatsoever to be involved in any foreign bailouts or anything of that sort." Yeah right.

Of course, even these loan programs pale in comparison to the Fed's program to purchase mortgage-backed securities (MBS) from financial institutions left holding the bag after the housing bubble popped. Based on data released by the Federal Reserve, of the \$1.25 trillion of MBS bought by the Fed, foreign entities sold some \$442.7 billion at the height of the program. According to the Federal Reserve, the securities were purchased at "Current face value of the securities, which is the remaining principal balance of the underlying mortgages."

Importantly, the MBS purchases were not loans, but outright purchases. That's a bailout.

That included \$127.5 billion given to MBS Credit Suisse for the junky securities, \$117.8 billion to Deutsche Bank, \$63.1 billion to Barclays Capital, \$55.5 billion to UBS Securities, \$27 billion to BNP Paribas, \$24.4 billion to the Royal Bank of Scotland, and \$22.2 billion to Nomura Securities. Another \$4.2 billion was given to the Royal Bank of Canada, and \$917 million to Mizuho Securities.

According to the New York Fed's website, the purpose of the program was to "foster improved conditions in financial markets". Even those in foreign countries, apparently.

Perhaps the reason for all this assistance is because many

of these foreign financial institutions also happen to be primary dealers, those banks that are responsible for lending money to the government via purchases of U.S. treasuries at government auctions.

That's what Senator Jim DeMint thought when he was asked about the financial bailouts in 2008. On Oct. 1 of that year, Senator DeMint hypothesized that one of the principal causes of the federal government's plan to purchase toxic mortgage-backed securities as part of the \$700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) was to bail out foreign entities.

On "The Mark Levin Show," he said, "I think China and Saudi Arabia are holding a lot of these securitized mortgages. And I think they've basically said they're not going to loan us any more money until we buy them back. And if they don't give us loans every day, we default on our loans [because] we have so much debt as a nation. So, we're going to borrow more money to try to make this situation right. There's nothing else for me, Mark, that explains the urgency in using a sledgehammer to fix something that most of us know a few screwdrivers could fix."

Of course, TARP was rapidly turned into a bank recapitalization program by then-Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson. But clearly, foreign institutions got all the assistance they needed — from the Fed.

And they did not even have to bother with going to Congress since none of the Fed's loans or outright bailout purchases of MBS require any congressional approval. All of these actions were authorized by Section 14 of the Federal Reserve Act — in 1913. Perhaps it's time that Congress revisited that Act, and ask the question: Does the nation's central bank have too much power?

JUST JEFF

Guess what? There is gonna be a wedding, a royal wedding. Whoopee. Who really cares? Why is it such big news? She is a good looking lady, he is heir to the throne, and has more money than Jerry Jones. But really who cares? I just do not get the big deal with a future King. I mean, heck, he cannot even have anyone's head removed, which is way cheaper than a divorce. Prince William did have a great looking mom (Princess Diana), but his dad is a wimp with horrible taste in second wives. I mean, really. Camilla Parker Bowles is a real looker. You talk about trading down. I just believe in today's world there is a whole lot more to keep up with than the royal wedding. Jerry Springer reruns are more entertaining, and it is the same drama with poorer people. Let's look at the whole 1st royal wedding of my life: an old, dried up

Charles marries a hot, young 3rd or 4th cousin. Doesn't that sound more like Arkansas than London? In Charles' first wedding to Diana, they had horse drawn carriages, 100-year-old wine that was brewed in Charles's parent's basement, and lots of people that most of y'all and I would find very offensive. That doesn't seem much different than a good ol' hillbilly throwdown. They have horses, homemade wine, and lots of people that most of us would not want to be around. It is amazing how a little money changes everyone's outlook on a "throwdown"... or "wedding"... whatever.

On another note, gas prices are sky high, southwest airlines planes are falling apart and the NFL is going to have lockout and maybe no football this year. The NFL makes me really mad. It's come to be a bunch of over priced owners and players

fighting over millions of dollars. The sad part is all the workers, food vendors, parking lot guys, sports bars and hotels who lose out on their jobs cannot bargain for any kind of raise in pay or the loss of business. Shame on them, in today's economy, they are sure picking the wrong time to be greedy.

Oh yes, my favorite subject, Obama. He has officially announced his re-election. Man, that makes me just wanna do backflips. April is off to a great start: first we have the "Vacation Prince" signing back up for his position; and then on the 15th we have to all pay his salary. Obama, Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid all together at one time. Man! God does have a great sense of humor!

Around Knox City, we are in the middle of bad dry spell. It is so dry that the dirt is combustible. The bright side is that it will rain. But

the question is when. We can only wait until God decides we really need it. I hope God is ready, because boy we sure are. Cody Wainscott is on his way home to Danny, Sharon and Cassie's. I sure am glad he is safe and at

home. Cody, I am very proud of you. Thank you for fighting for my freedom and my boys' freedom. God Bless you and all the troops. Sometimes we forget about who has sacrificed so we can live the life that we do. We

are so fortunate to live in the United State of America. I just pray that my kids will be able to have the same rights and freedoms that we have had.

God Bless
Jeff Stanfield

Knox County Showers place in Houston and Austin

The Houston & Star of Texas Livestock Shows were the two final shows of the 2011 season. Even though the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo was right in the middle of Spring Break for these individuals, I don't think there was any other place that they would rather be. Those competing in the swine show at the Houston Livestock Show this year were Kendall Thompson, Madison Thompson, Tori Thompson, Shannon Reeves, Kolbey Brown, Katelynn Brown, Jade Brown, Ryder Dillard, Christian Abila, Cody Propps, Kristen Kuehler, and Zachary Shaver. In the Crossbred division Kendall Thompson received a 2nd place while Shannon Reeves received a 10th place in the Chester

division. For the Hampshire Division, Knox County had quite a few place in their respected classes. Katelynn Brown had a 2nd place, Jade Brown had a 3rd place, Ryder Dillard had a 5th place, and Cody Propps had a 6th place. Kristen Kuehler had a 1st place with her Spotted Poland China in which she also received Reserve Breed Champion honors with it as well.

At the Star of Texas in Austin there were only two entries in the swine show and they were Kristen Kuehler and Cody Propps. Kristen Kuehler once again received a 1st place with her Spotted Poland China and a Reserve Breed Champion. All of these individuals and their families had a terrific and successful year due to

their dedication, hard work and preparation with their projects. Congratulations to all of these exhibitors for a job well done in Houston and Austin and for another great year. Good luck to those who plan on jack potting and showing at the State Fair later on this year.

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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Risk factor for cardiovascular disease in African-Americans indentified

HOUSTON – Elevated levels of a type of cholesterol known as Lipoprotein(a) should be considered to be associated with increased risk of cardiovascular disease in African-Americans, reported researchers at Baylor College of Medicine (www.bcm.edu) in a presentation at the American Heart Association, Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Prevention 2011 Scientific Sessions in Atlanta.

“The current cholesterol treatment guidelines do not consider this type of cholesterol to be associated with heart disease and strokes in African-Americans despite higher

levels of this particular type of cholesterol in African Americans compared with Caucasians,” said Dr. Salim S. Virani, a Staff Cardiologist at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center and an Assistant Professor of medicine at BCM and (www.houston.va.gov/). “It is because there has not been enough representation of the African -American community in research studies to show otherwise.”

Virani and his colleagues studied participants who were already taking part in the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) study, a large-scale bi-racial study designed to investigate the

etiology and natural history of atherosclerosis.

“The ARIC study has a diverse group of participants who have been followed for the past 20 years,” said Virani. “We were able to see that indeed this type of cholesterol is associated with a higher risk of heart disease and stroke in African-Americans and the magnitude of risk associated with lipoprotein (a) was at least as strong as in Caucasians”

For more information on study or to talk to Dr. Salim Virani please contact the Office of Communications at Baylor College of Medicine at 713-798-4710.

‘Re-born to the Land’ conference slated for May 18 in Amarillo

AMARILLO – Essential natural resource knowledge for new West Texas landowners and managers will be the focus of an educational series to be conducted by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service on different dates in May at different locations.

Re-Born to the Land conferences will be held from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. in:

- Alpine on May 12 at the Espino Conference Center located on the Sul Ross State University campus.
- Amarillo on May 18 at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center.
- Odessa on May 20 at the MCM Grande Hotel.

“The Re-Born to the Land conferences are aimed at helping new landowners and managers be good stewards of their property,” said Ken Cearley, AgriLife Extension wildlife specialist in Amarillo. “All three program agendas will be the same, but the

speakers and their topics will be tailored specifically for that particular region.”

Cearley said participants will learn a broad array of land management concepts and strategies that will enhance their skills and ensure the future integrity of the land they own or manage.

He said the programs will start with a presentation defining and characterizing the Re-Born to the Land demographic phenomenon.

Cearley said these landowners have little or no agricultural background, but do have a love for the land. Most had some connection to country life previously in their lifetime and now have the opportunity to return to the land.

Additional topics will include region-relevant presentations on managing wildlife, range and livestock; real-world economics and ranching; current and emerging GIS technology for land management; ranching diversification for habitat, rangeland improvement and ranch profitability; and various assistance

resources available to land managers.

Two Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units will be available, one in the integrated pest management category and one in the laws and regulations category.

Register online at <https://agrilifevents.tamu.edu> and click on keyword search “Landowner,” or call Conference Services at 806-845-2604. Individual registration is \$75 until May 6 and \$90 thereafter.

For more information contact Cearley at 806-677-5600.

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Benjamin News *By Gladene Green*

It's Tuesday morning and I rushing to get a little news written before the deadline. Almost forgot this week as so much has been going on to keep me preoccupied! The wind and sand yesterday (Monday) almost drove me out of my mind. It was just so strong and sort of risky when you were going to be able to stay on your feet! However, today (so far) is

calm and that is good.

Sympathy to the family of Pat Lankford. Pat was my cousin. She passed away on Saturday night after several years of failing health. Her funeral (graveside rites) will be tomorrow (Wednesday at Knox City Cemetery.

Milson Memory Honored
Last weekend the gymnasium at Cedar Hill High School was

renamed the David Milson gymnasium in the honor of David Milson who had been the coach there for 23 years. Davis passed away recently after battling cancer off and on for several years. His mom, Bo and siblings, Shane, Kathy and Kelly as well as several other family members were in Cedar Hill for the event. David was "one of

ours", and we along with his family, were humbled by this honor. David loved sports, basketball was his No.1, and he was good at it; both playing and coaching, and the memory of his days at Cedar Hill will not be forgotten.

Here N There

Jan Carver and Tammy Lyles were in Abilene on Tuesday to have for medical

test. Most of them were o.k. Still awaiting the result on one, and hopefully that will be good news too!

Mike and Debbie Moorhouse were in Snyder for Debbie to attend a baby shower for daughter, Lynn Rogers. Lynn received a nice "bunch" of little girl things, which will be very useful when the new addition gets here in May.

The Navarez family, who has been living in the mobile home (formerly Pat Benson's) for several months, moved into the house where the Bolonas family lived for many years. Bertha said the trailer house was too small for her and her husband and 2 sons. She said they were always running into each other so they will enjoy more space.

State Fair of Texas/Steer Tag order deadline

For those individuals interested, time is fast approaching on making a decision on how many lamb, goat, or swine ear tags you will need for the 2011 State Fair of Texas, as well as Steer tags for the 2011/2012 stock show season. **Tag orders are being accepted at the Knox County Extension Office until Monday, April 12, 2011.** If you are interested in participating at the State Fair of Texas please call the extension office at 940-459-2651 or come by the office and place a tag

order. Validation tags will cost **\$10.00 each** and **\$20.00 each** if ordered after the deadline. 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.

Knox County represented at Network Luncheon

Knox County was represented at a network luncheon in Stamford on March 30th. Attendees include Munday Mayor Buddy Norville, Munday City Manager Dwayne Bearden, Munday City Councilman Adrin Fletcher, Knox City Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Emily Nelson, City Manager for Knox City Chad Roberts and retiring manager Barbara Rector and Knox County Visioning Group Executive Jimi Coplen.

Stamford community

leaders hosted one of five network luncheons sponsored by Texas Midwest Community Network this spring. Approximately 45 community representatives attended the luncheon held at the FCCLA class room. Immediately following lunch, discussion focused on "Effective Local Efforts".

Local leaders from neighboring cities offered comments on projects that create community-wide involvement; how to engage youth in community projects; and growing local

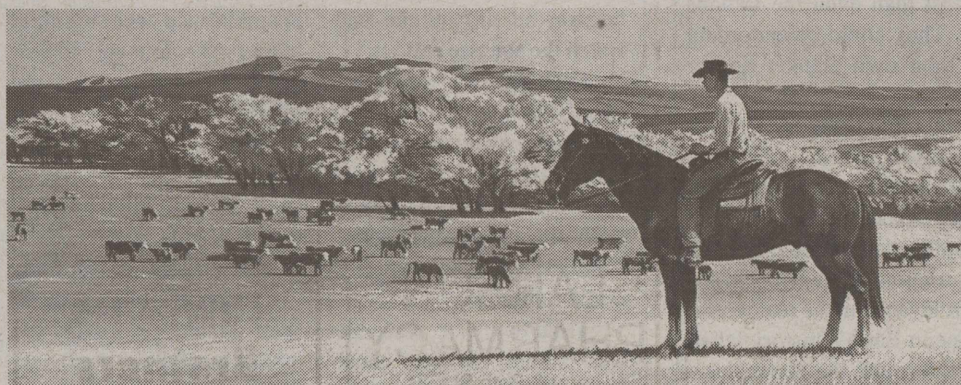
leaders. The group also received an overview of the Texas Midwest Community Network organization.

Cities represented at the luncheon included Stamford, Albany, Anson, Aspermont, De Leon, Hamlin, Haskell, Knox City and Munday. The meal was catered by an FCCLA class under the supervision of Tanya Holloway.

Texas Midwest Community Network is a one-of-a-kind regional

organization founded in 1994 for economic development, tourism development, regional awareness & promotion, and legislative awareness. It is an organization of "communities working together to accomplish what one community cannot do alone." For more information about TMCN call 325-795-8626 or 800-845-3563 or visit www.texasmidwest.org.

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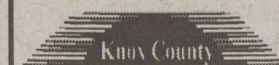
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Would your child's car seat pass inspection

Securing your children properly in age- and size-appropriate child safety seats — in the back seat of your vehicle — is the most effective thing you can do to protect them in the event of a crash. In fact, in motor vehicle crashes, child safety seats reduce the risk of fatal injury by 71 percent for infants and by 54 percent for toddlers.

That's why Texas AgriLife Extension agent, Lorrie Coop, is urging all parents and caregivers to attend the child safety seat checkup event on Tuesday, April 12, 2011. Certified technicians will be available to provide on-site child safety seat inspections and education from 1:30 – 4:30 PM at 701 South East 5th street, Knox City, Texas. The event will take place in front of the Knox County Hospital. Follow the signs provided to get in line. Please bring your child and be able to provide their height and weight information to checkers.

Among child passengers under age 5, child restraints saved the lives of an estimated 309 children in 2009 alone. Over the period 1975 through 2009 an estimated 9,310 lives were saved by child

restraints (child safety seats or adult seat belts). Because child safety seats do save lives, every state requires their use. Even so, motor vehicle traffic crashes remain the leading cause of death for children age 3 and older.

Even though the majority of parents buckle up their children in child safety seats, booster seats, or seat belts, most do not use them

correctly. In fact, studies show that the majority of child safety seats are not being used correctly, which is a grave risk when traveling.

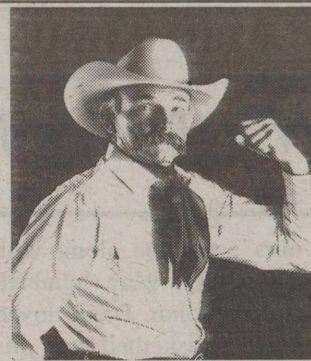
For a child safety seat to do its job right, it has to be: Appropriate for your child's age and size; Adjusted to fit your child securely; and Installed properly in your vehicle.

If you're a parent or caregiver, don't miss this opportunity to have a free child safety seat inspection by a certified child passenger safety technician. Technicians can provide hands-on advice and instruction. Make sure your children are safe and you are in compliance with the current child safety seat law in Texas. The law, which took effect on September 1, 2009, requires all children under 8, unless taller than 4'9", to be in a child safety seat system which includes traditional child safety seats with harnesses and booster seats.

Remember: All child passengers under age 13 should ride securely restrained in the back seat, where they are safest -- every trip, every time. To locate a certified child passenger safety technician in Texas visit <http://buckleup.tamu.edu>.

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

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating



ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

by Baxter Black, DVM

FOOD AND FIBER

I was pondering on the seemingly frivolous tendency of humans to disregard some of the basic accomplishments that brought mankind to our esteemed place on the planet Earth in the 21st Century. For example, in order to move beyond the gathering roots and berries phase, they discovered the life-giving dense protein, meat.

In the progression of civilization they learned how to hunt. The benefits of adding meat to their diet were stupendous! In addition to the gift of time saved, the carcass provided leather and fur. Then came shoes, belts, slingshots, saddles, robes, blankets, and mammoth jerky! Not to mention insulin, ice cream and Jello!

The basic necessities of life; food, clothing and shelter, must be achieved before opera, texting and Monday Night Football. But in the midst of our progress, out steps our own version of Kim Jong Il...the bumbling animal rights group PETA! They stamp their feet and make outrageous threats; "Don't wear fur or we'll pour paint on you! Don't use lab animals for research or we'll...maybe somebody else, will burn down your laboratory! Don't breed purebred dogs or we'll get Big Sister HSUS to throw darts at you!"

But their stories grow tedious. I notice the wearing of fur is coming back into fashion. Of course, people "up north" never quit wearing fur. They still have that connection to the millions of ancestors who wore fur down through the ages.

I'm guessing the anti-fur advocates have been quietly buying stock in Chevron and BP. These advocates prefer that the Earth deplete itself of fossil fuels to make synthetic clothes before we should consider wearing coyote coats, mink collars or fox muckluks. I should ask PETA why they have not encouraged people to go into the sheep business. Wool is nature's greatest insulator. You can shear them every year, then eat them and use their parts. Modern animal science gets more out of the complete beast than even the Indians did! But nary a word from PETA. They could be endorsing Pendleton or the Navajos! Have their own blanket line or puppy vest.

Wool and fur are in the same venerable category as trees and water. They are practical, proven, Earth conscious, environmentally sound, globally useful, recyclable, all natural, first choice for covering our naked bodies.

In typical deference, decent people have tolerated PETA's verbal abuse and lunacy like we tolerate a spoiled child's tantrums. I am glad they are losing relevance in the real world. Their kind could only exist at a time in Earth's history when virtual reality, the next American Idol, and the Kardashian sisters dominate our culture.

Well, enough of that. Now where did I put my mastodon slippers, I need to go check my traps.



Be careful when you give a child a toy. Toys shape lives.

Map puzzles are a case in point. Did you have one?

My wooden puzzle map of the United States still has a hold on me. My mother always blamed herself for letting me play with it at my desk, which faced south. My brain is off 180 degrees.

The little states in New England were so small their names had to be written in the Atlantic Ocean, which didn't seem right. I never bothered to match the names to the pieces. I still don't know one from the other.

The term "Wide Open Spaces" puzzled me when I first heard it, circa 1952. Mother showed me the vast expanse of western states. I jiggled them in their places. Sure enough, the cracks between them were indeed wider than the spaces between those jammed up little New England pieces. Texas didn't move as much as some of the others, probably because Texas was up against the puzzle frame and its southernmost tip was hooked in somewhat securely. So I decided Texas wasn't a Wide Open Spaces state. Never mind that I could see the horizon all around me and watch the sun rise and set.

Each state was a different color. In my mind's eye, they still are. Texas is green, Oklahoma is yellow, Kansas is brown, and so is Arkansas. I felt sorry for brown states. Colorado got lucky with red, as did California.

Yesterday someone was talking to me about Pennsylvania. I saw it in a flash, very blue and big enough for its name. It takes

me somewhat longer to point its direction.

Back to the Wide Open Spaces, where directions matter. In the flat farmed Wide Open Spaces, the grid system predominates, defining towns with east-west and north-south streets and crisscrossing everywhere else with roads that follow square-mile section lines. As long as I think of the sun instead of my puzzle map, I'm fine.

If you grow up somewhere like San Antonio, it's different. I remember a time when even my savvy father was barely navigating San Antonio. Someone in the car mentioned the town was laid out along cow trails. I was about 6 – old enough to know cows make crooked trails. Anyway, if San Antonians don't know their directions, they've got the cow trail excuse and a winding river to boot.

But if you grow up in West Texas and don't know your directions, you are suspect.

Is that too harsh a judgment? Maybe.

Now a days, when any well-intentioned grandparent gives a child a map puzzle and a globe, both objects pale into insignificance once said child masters the Internet, like at age 5. I exaggerate, but not much.

Moreover, paper maps are rapidly losing ground to smart phones with map apps. North? Ask the phone.

OK. It's confession time. Yesterday, I, quintessential West Texan, got lost in the mother of all grids – Lubbock, Texas.

I was following the blue dot on my iPhone.

FLORIST continued from Page 1



Flower shop and tell the elder Barbara, who he dubbed as "B1" to tell the younger Barbara, "B2", that her flowers were ready.

The business has always prospered, even with the constant ebb and flow of the economy, the rise and decline of the oil field, the downfall and regeneration of the downtown area in Knox City. The biggest change the duo has seen in their tenure as owners of the Knox City Florist? According to them, two words: "the internet" (and with it, a boom in online flower ordering). Yet, they also can explain why buying at the local flower

shop is still the best way to go. If you buy locally, your flowers don't come in a box, but are already arranged, and it's cheaper. Local flower shops don't charge a customer out the nose for delivery costs.

Not just anyone can do the florist job. To be able to work with flowers, one must have an eye for design. In the years, the Bernard's have found several people that have worked with them that have such a talent, Barbara Barnard (B1), Dianne Roberts, Birdie Helton, Bettye Hord, and Sequoyah Reynolds, to name a few. Yet, those employees aren't

the only laborers in the Knox City Florist. Barbara (B2) is seemingly always at the shop, and Joe finds it common practice to come into the shop after working a long day as an electrician to help out.

On an editors note: I look forward to my anniversary and birthday every year. My husband is on the up and up, and has graced me with several bouquets from the Knox City Florist. There is always something extra special on the flowers that no only make getting the delivery wonderful, but knowing that it was made especially with you in mind adds an extra special something to the gift. I don't know what the secret is to their flowers, but they seem to last a little longer than any flowers I have received in the past.

If you would like to order flowers from the Knox City Florist, visit them in person at 106 N. Central in Downtown Knox City; call them at 940-657-3581, or go to their website at KnoxCityFlorist.com.

SAMMIE continued from Page 4

Friday, I drove my mother, Sandy Rodriguez, to San Angelo to spend the day with her brother, Jesse. He was in the Shannon Hospital. She had a great visit with him, but she is having a hard time going anywhere without getting really tired or sick for about 2 days after she gets home.

On Saturday, I got reports that Pat Lankford has passed away and funeral arrangements are set for Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the graveside. She will be greatly missed, the kids all thought of her as a great lady, and our heart will have an empty space without her.

Sunday, Sue Clayton had

a car wreck with Sister Byrd. Hopefully, their continued follow-up with their doctors will ensure that their health will not be compromised after the wreck.

I leave you for this week hoping you enjoyed another week of Sammie's Corner.

May God bless us and our troops.

GOD'S PROMISES continued from Page 2

of Passover. When this celebration was over the women went out early Sunday morning, still in shock, to the tomb to more properly bury Him with spices.

What did they discover? Jesus had performed the "Great Escape"! *"But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."* Matthew 28:5-6 NIV

Jesus paid the penalty for those who will accept Him as their Lord and Savior. He can

only be Savior (Saving you from eternal death) to those who accept Him as Lord. Jesus said in John chapter 3 that in order to escape the kingdom of death and enter the Kingdom of God we must be born again. And later in verses 17-18 He came *"that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is already condemned..."*

Simply put, for Jesus to be Lord you completely turn the reins of your life over to Him! The choice is yours! Will you accept His gift of eternal life...His life for yours? Do

you want to escape??? Just ask Him to help you, by: 1. Admitting you're a sinner. 2. Asking for forgiveness from sin. 3. Believing Jesus died in your place. 4. Receive Jesus into your heart by prayer! If you need some help ask a pastor or Christian friend.

This Easter season I pray that you will have an amazing spiritual encounter with the Living Christ who loved you enough to die for you. The One who will help you to perform "The Great Escape" from the death sentence and live life to the fullest here and for eternity! Happy Resurrection Day!

VARIETY STORE continued from Page 1

\$75,000 was given as a match to the \$75,000 put up by the dreamers of the needed commodity in town. Also, the building, owned by the CDC Type B Board, was contracted to the soon-to-be variety store under a rental contract that leased the building for two years, rent free; as well as paying up to \$25,000 in building repairs (floors, etc). The final step in the bureaucratic process: a Town Hall meeting where taxpayers could voice their opinions on the proposed grant and building usage. The meeting was held, and no massive objections came forward. Sixty days after the meeting- it was official. Contracts were drawn up, papers were signed and the KC Hometown Variety Store, funding in place will soon be a reality.

The physical manifestation of

this dream is beginning to be seen from the streets to any passerby, and has become the "buzz" about town. Over their morning coffee at Bud's Café, folks can be found talking about how the addition to the local community is "wonderful" and "great". Gary Conn made the statement on Tuesday morning that "the Variety store will help prevent making a ghost town of this place."

Billy Ray Morrow, of O'Brien, has examined the financial aspect of the store. He had noticed "gas had gone up another dime over night, so now we don't have to drive to get our needs meet anymore."

In one of Sammie Offield's morning chats, she referred to the help that this addition makes to the Knox County citizenry. With an older community, Sammie

"think[s] that it will especially benefit those who are homebound and can't get around. And, it neve fails that you go to Abilene to the store, and you will remember something you forgot halfway home."

Young mothers are heard to talk about the glory of having diaper and baby soap at their disposal where other young ladies are excited about the prospect of make up and hair products. Remote controls, cleaning products, fixers plungers, lightbulbs... one can only imagine and hope that the variety store will carry what they hope to have locally.

While the store has not disclosed how many people they plan to employ, the application process is now closed, and the interview process has begun.

The projected open date of the store has not been announced.

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MUNDAY - HASKELL - STAMFORD



Knox City 2nd Graders Tour USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center

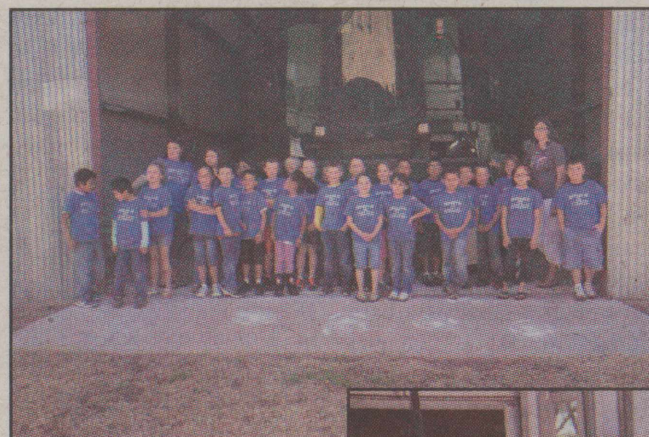
**Brandon Carr
Soil Conservationist**

On April 1st, twenty-seven students and four staff members from the Knox City 2nd grade class took a field trip to the James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center. Students learned about the history and purpose of plant materials centers to provide products and information to meet the conservation needs of farmers and ranchers. The group was able to get their hands dirty, exploring plant samples from the root system all the way

up to the seed head. They learned many different ways plants are used from conservation to food to alternate energy. The students also had the opportunity to tour some of the equipment that is used for seed production including the seed cleaner and production combine. The group also explored the greenhouse, which has over 10,000 plants growing that will be evaluated beginning this spring.

There are 27 Plant Materials Centers in the United States; three in Texas. The

other two Texas locations are in Nacogdoches and Kingsville. The James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center is responsible for developing conservation plants and cultural techniques for use within targeted Major Land Resource areas including Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Colorado. Staff is available Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or by phone at 940-658-3922 ext. 5. The USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



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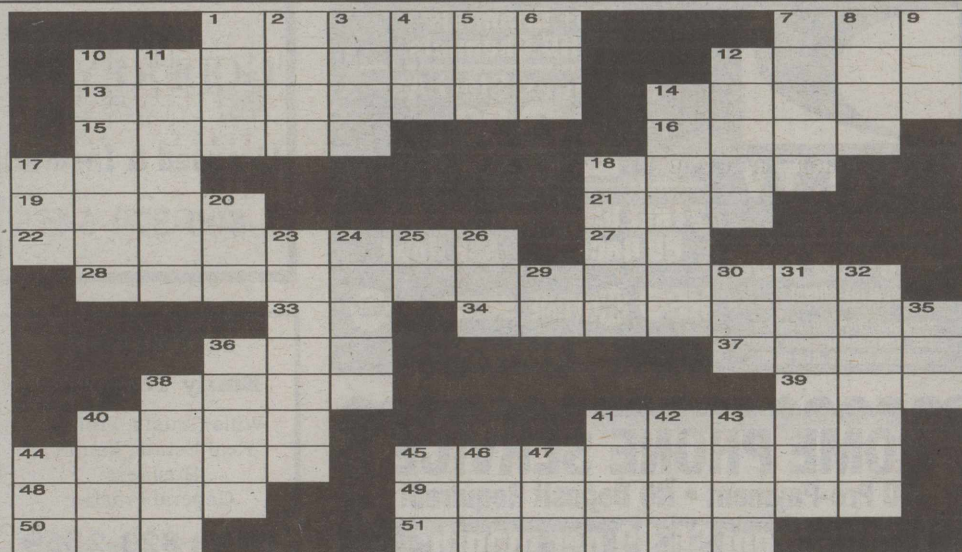
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CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Steady | 33. Bleak House author's initials |
| 7. Rural Free Delivery (abbr.) | 34. Idol worshiper |
| 10. Intended to assist memory | 36. 21st Greek letter |
| 12. Indian frock | 37. Mama's partner |
| 13. Salt treatment | 38. Most important |
| 14. Clear wrap | 39. Jar cover |
| 15. Pop singer Springfield | 40. Comportment |
| 16. Horse fly | 41. Drop behind |
| 17. Rock TV channel | 44. Russian prison camp |
| 18. Picasso's mistress | 45. Betrothal |
| 19. Ooze out | 48. Actor Ladd |
| 21. The last part of anything | 49. Pasta flour |
| 22. Exchange | 50. Big London clock |
| 27. 39th state | 51. Fingerless glove |
| 28. Word of many parts | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Bunks | 25. Foreign Service |
| 2. Utter sounds | 26. So you know (abbr.) |
| 3. Teapot warmer | 29. Libyan dinar |
| 4. Black tropical Am. cuckoo | 30. Not good |
| 5. Memorial architect Maya | 31. A citizen of Italy |
| 6. Microgram | 32. Diacritical mark |
| 7. More uncommon | 35. Radioactivity unit |
| 8. Hand grenade | 36. Encomium |
| 9. Blare | 38. Lombardy capital |
| 10. Non-presidential elections | 40. Backless slipper |
| 11. New (French) | 41. Honk |
| 12. Dish of raw vegetables | 42. What a monarch does |
| 14. A disgraceful event | 43. 7th Hindu month |
| 17. 7th zone W. of Greenwich | 44. Talk |
| 18. _____ Park: 94025 | 45. Energy Saving Module (abbr.) |
| 20. Poundal (abbr.) | 46. Type of whale |
| 23. Print made from an engraving | 47. Payment (abbr.) |
| 24. Av _____ g: shunning | |

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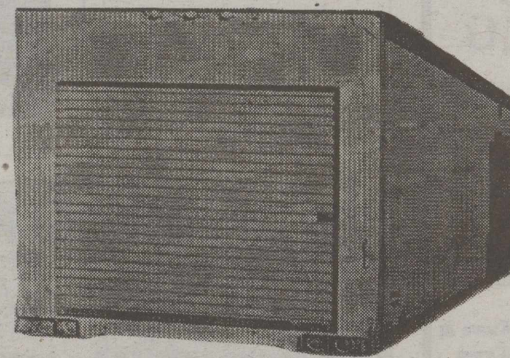
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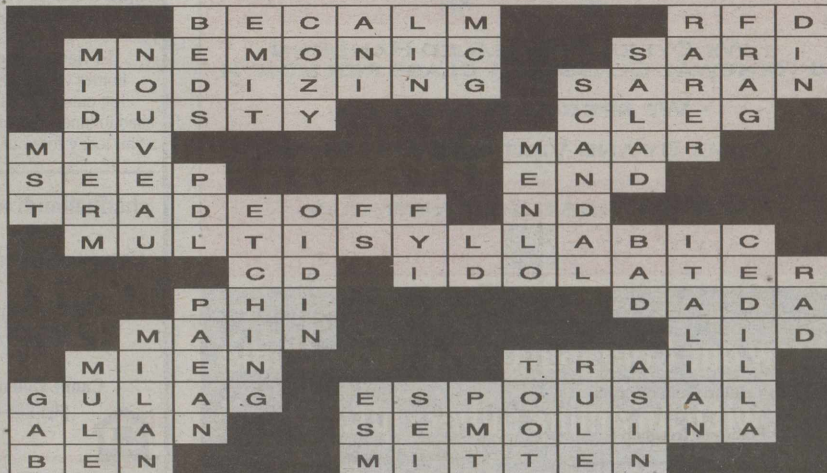
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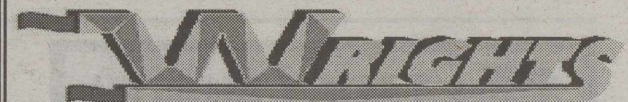
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