

# KNOX COUNTY NEWS

**VOL. XXIX NO. 72** 

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2011

75 CENTS

MARY JAME YOUNG
PO BOX 95
PO BOX 95

# Epic Fire destroys over 100,000 acres

Tamara Smart

On Wednesday evening, as the local Knox County shops began closing down for the night, an eerie haze crept up in the sky. The stench of burning foliage was pungent and the shrieking whine of Fire Trucks pierced the air. It had begun.

Now being hailed as "the biggest fire in the United States to date in the 2011

calendar", the Swenson Fire made national news for the five days that it has raged through Knox, King, and Stonewall Counties. On Sunday, Alan Craft, a TFS official spokesperson, told the Abilene Reporter News: "the folks at the TFS headquarters at A&M are considering this the worst fire

See FIRE on page 15



On Friday, the smoke from the Swenson Fire hung over Knox and Haskell Counties. Here, a picture of a pulling unit set up on the Kinder Morgan Katz Feild is slowly overcome by the smoke. For more pictures of the Swenson Fire

**Photo by Jason Smart** 

# KCPD in Limbo

**Tamara Smart** 

After a special city council meeting called at Knox City City Hall last Tuesday, the decision was made to terminate the current Knox City Chief of Police, Harry Steen, citing a "lack of performance" during the recent part of Steen's tenure for the City. During the meeting, the council dealt with their monthly business, leaving the issue of the Chief of Police as the last on the agenda.

Now, the police department is reduced to employ only Heath Turner, who has been a Reserve

See KCPD on page 15

## Fire Brings Together Communities, Shows The Heart of a Volunteer

**Tamara Smart** 

With a blaze eating the horizon of Knox, Stonewall and King Counties, the fire ignited somewhere else too; in the hearts of citizens near and far. Seventeen fire departments and local ranches rolled their fire fighting equipment to the site. Knox City, Munday

Benjamin, Crowell, Guthrie, Rule, Paducah, Montley County, Childress, Seymour, Woodson, Goree, Weinert, and Haskell fire departments responded, as did 246 Ranch, 6666 ranch, and the Pitchfork Ranch. private entities provided the services

See COMMUNITY on page 15

NITY see page 5.



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#### Commissioner Court Minutes

County Knox Judge Travis Floyd, called the Regular Meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. all members were present. Also attending were County Attorney Megan Suarez, County Tax Assessor/Chief Appraiser Mitzi Welch, County Sheriff Dean Homstad, County Offutt, Annette County Treasurer Rosie Ake,

County Court Coordinator Michelle Esquivel, County Extension Agent Lorrie Coop, 911 Director Pam Reed, Aging Services Director Cheryl Daniel, and County Community Development Director Jimi Coplen, Domingo Garcia Knox City VFD and Gene Ward TXDOT. The Court considered the following

matters as posted and filed for Record in the office of the County Clerk March 10, 2011.

Mingo Garcia from the Knox City Volunteer fire Department discussed the issue concerning the Burn Ban; there are a lot of people that question him about the fact that some people are allowed to burn when others

can't; he was informed to instruct people to call their precinct commissioner to get instructions on conducting a controlled burn and their liabilities for damages.

Commissioner Birkenfeld made the motion seconded by Commissioner Griffith to approve the minutes of the Regular Session held February, 14 2011. The motion passed five to zero.

The Court reviewed the Jail Standards Report and commended Sheriff Homstad and his office for the excellent report that they received.

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Upon review of the Constable Racial Profiling Report there was no action required.

Commissioner Birkenfeld made the motion seconded by Commissioner Griffith to table the issue of the bids for the annual audit, all agreed.

There was no action taken on the Resolution authorizing transfer of property that has been in trust with the Appraisal District.

Commissioner McCown made the motion to extend the Burn Ban for 90 Days; Commissioner Griffith seconded, The motion passed

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five to zero.

Commissioner Griffith made the motion seconded by Commissioner McCown to pursue and alternative to TAC for the insurance policy on county property.

The Court discussed the Legislative Updates and the impact that they will have on county government and budgets.

The Extension Activity Report, Aging Services Report, 911 Report, Knox County Visioning Team, and Road and Bridge Report required no activity.

Commissioner Griffith made the motion to approve Financials, Budget and pay the bills for February, 2011; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Birkenfeld, the motion passed five to zero

There being no further business to come before the Court Commissioner Urbanczyk made the motion to adjourn seconded by Commissioner McCown, all agreed. The meeting of the Court was ADJOURNED.

**APPROVED** this the 11<sup>th</sup> of April, 2011

## The Knox County News

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

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

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

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

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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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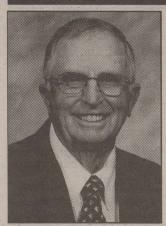
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#### **Obituaries**



#### **DON RAILSBACK**

Don Railsback was born May 7, 1930 in Goree, Texas to Charlie Wyatt and Edna Blanche (Trimble) Railsback. He attended schools in Knox and Baylor Counties. Don managed a service station before Faye Nelda marrying McGaughey, July 21, 1950 in Vera, Texas.

Don joined the Methodist Church shortly marrying Faye and became active in the church, community, and Methodist Men. He was also a member of the Lions Club.

Don began working for M Systems Supermarkets in Seymour in July of 1952. He came to Knox City with his family in August of 1957 and was the meat market manager of the Knox City store. In January of 1981 he became store manager. Shortly after, he was named "Manager of the Year" by owner J.C. Pace and Company. Not long after receiving this honor, he was promoted to supervisor for the Knox City, Munday, Haskell, Seymour, Anson, Alpine and Sweetwater stores, where he served the remainder of his grocery store career. Don retired in

He was preceded in death by his mother, father, and brother, Charles.

Don is survived by his wife, Faye, daughter Donna of Knox City, son and daughter-in-law Brent and Crystal of Dallas, son and daughter-in-law Bruce and Sandy of Knox City, granddaughter Katelyn of Vernon, Craig, Becky, and Hanna Weatherly of

Bronte, John and Lisa Weatherly of Amarillo, Robert and Virginia Weatherly of Amarillo, 9 great grandchildren, 3 great, great grandchildren, sisters Louise Collier of Graham, Norma Ram of Waxahachie,

and numerous nieces and

nephews.

A memorial service will be held 11:00am, Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at the First United Methodist Church, Knox City, with Rev. Tim Trimble and Rev. Ernie McGaughey officiating. A visitation will be held Monday evening from 6:00-7:00pm at the church. Services are under the direction of Smith Family

Funeral Homes, Knox City...

## Head start to begin application process

Development Center located at 502 N. 2nd will be taking applications for the enrollment of children for the Head Start program that will begin in the fall.

The Head Start program serves three and four year old children. It is designed to meet the needs of children by providing an environment which will help them develop socially, physically, intellectually, and emotionally in a manner appropriate to their age and stage of development toward the overall goal of school readiness and social competence. Children with disabilities welcome in Head Start and are offered the full range of developmental services that children without disabilities receive. The program works closely with other community agencies to provide

Child 'services to meet the special needs of all children enrolled. The guidelines for participation in Head Start are established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

> To make application for the program, parents must bring the following documents: child's birth certificate, immunization record, and proof of income for the past 12 months, or 2010 1040 tax return. TANF recipients are categorically eligible for the program; however they must provide documentation of current benefits such as a letter from caseworker. case numbers, etc. information is considered confidential and will be used only for the purpose of establishing eligibility and defining the needs of the family and child.

> While applications can be taken any time throughout

the year, we encourage on April 20th from 9:00 am parents wanting their child in Head Start this fall to Child Development Center. make an application as soon as possible. Knox City Child Development is hosting its Round up day

- 4:00 pm at the Knox City If you need additional information, contact Sherry Ellis, center director, at 658-3770.

#### Thanks for reading!

#### 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

No Sunday Evening Service

ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP -

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 Gorantia • 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

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.

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

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#### SAMMIE'S KNOX CITY CORNER AND FINAL THOUGHTS

#### Sammie Offield

Our week has started off with lots of misfortunes because of the dry weather. Lots of fires and sometimes not enough manpower to keep them under control. Please be very careful when using any equipment that could cause a fire hazard. It would be awful to start another wildfire because of carelessness.

As the fires continue to burn, I wonder about the

cattle and lots of destroyed acres of land; oilfield, farm, ranch, etc. Thank God that there are no reports of people that have been injured by this fire.

You may have seen some

of the Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary collecting donations for their golf tournament coming up soon. By supporting the tournament, you are supporting the Knox City Volunteer Fire Department. We do have one of the best in the area and they do it with your support as well as with God's blessing.

I understand that the Relay For Life at Haskell to support the American Cancer Society was a huge success. Thanks to those who worked so hard. Job well done. Our hats off to each and every one involved.

Diana Casillas had a good garage sale. Justin

and his whole family were in and I'm sure that they had a great time for the weekend.

Tabitha Golden, daughter of Dawn, who most people know as the morning waitress at Bud's, was given orders to leave for Afghanistan in August. Please keep her and all our other troops who are fighting for our country in your prayers. I can only imagine what goes through

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Because this was prom weekend, Kristi K's Salon was really busy. Kristi helped making all the girls look their prettiest. I hope the kids had a great time.

Today is Monday morning and the news that Don Railsback has passed away has made it to me.

Monday April 18th

Spaghetti

Carrots

Salad

I know it's hard for the family, but I have always said God knows what he is doing. God bless this family in their time of mourning.

Not much this week. Please take care of yourself ad your neighbor.

God Bless our Troops and each of us.

#### 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

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.

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#### **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.

#### For Sale

SALE!!! Friday and Saturday, April 22 and 23 from 8 a.m. until ? –Steel office desk, pedestal lavatory, commodes, furniture, linens, dishes, etc. Too much to list. 1109 SE 5th Street, Knox City.

#### **Legal Notice**

Knox City EDC-A and the City of Knox City are accepting sealed bids for the removal by demolish, tear down, or move the pre-existing structure located at 208 and 212 SE 3rd St. this city. For more information and specifications contact City Hall. Deadline for bids is Friday May 13, 2011.



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Topping

Wednesday April 20th Sliced Ham Blackeyed Peas Okra/Tomatoes Cornbread Fruit Crunch

Thursday, April 21st
German Sausage/Cabbage
Spoon Tomato Salad
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Friday, April 22nd Closed-Good Friday New serving time is 12 noon (in Knox City only). Alternate desserts for diabetics.

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Menus For April 18th To April 22nd

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Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Rainfall	Snow
inches	inches
0.01	
0.02	
	0.02

2011 Rainfall (ytd)



An estimated 53,000 gallons of fire retardant were dropped on the continuously blazing inferno.

Courtesy photo



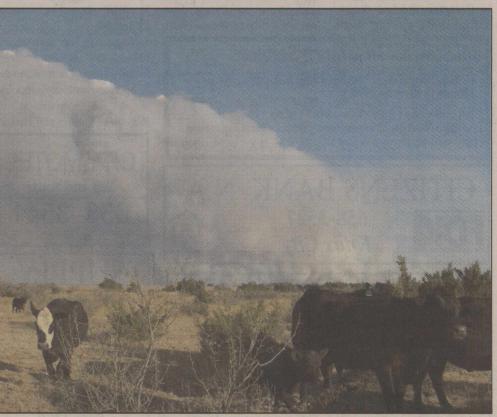
An estimated 53,000 gallons of fire retardant were Friday at sunset, the view of the fire was very prevalent from the Knox City Cemetery.

**Photo by Pam Mongrain** 



A grain elevator sits on the safe side of the fire... for now. The gusting winds have been the deciding factor when fighting the fire.

**Photo by Daveine Clark** 



A ranch in King County, just 7 miles west of the Ranchhouse Liquor Store, moves quickly to get their cattle to safety from the imminent fire.

**Photo by Pam Mongrain** 

# Knox City Mason's plan "Family Fun Day"

lodge will hold a Masonic the ride, at the Knox City Family Fun Day of Saturday, Park- the KC Masons are May 14 with a short family calling all chili cooks to bicycle ride beginning with come look for "bragging registration at 8:30 a.m. at rights" to the Rolling

Horseshoe tournament, egg toss featuring defending champion, Dr. Zeke Duke taking on all comers. Free

The Knox City Mason is the Knox City Park. After Plains. Other events are a face painting for everyone. Raffle for an over/under 20-gauge shotgun will be held. Proceeds go to fund four \$1000 college Train rides fro kids, free scholarships to a deserving

high school senior in Knox be held. Hamburgers and City, Haskell, Munday or Benjamin. Proceeds will also go to an enclosed trailer for the Angel food Ministries. An auction will

hot dog will be available. For more information call Toby at 940-889-6749 or Jim at 940-989-3153.

### Gardening made easy with free, new online publications

COLLEGE STATION — Cilantro and eggplant. Maybe they weren't in grandma's garden, but today's vegetable fancier can grow them with ease thanks to a new "Easy Gardening" series by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

The Easy Gardening series, available free online at https:// agrilifebookstore.org/, still offers garden favorites such as tomatoes and cucumbers but has been updated to include less familiar plants and gardening practices such as organic production, according to Dr. Joe Masabni, AgriLife Extension vegetable specialist.

"With the resurgence of home gardening, whether it's because of the economy or Mrs. Obama talking about gardening or just because people are getting back to gardening, the fact is these type of publications have always been popular," Masabni said, noting that AgriLife Extension has offered Easy Gardening publications for decades.

Cilantro and eggplant were added, Masabni explained, to reflect questions he gets from people who are consuming a wider selection of ethnic foods.

"There is also interest in local produce," he said, "so I updated them to reflect the new varieties that are available and added information about organic production for all of the vegetables, then added some of the new crops."

The series offers 24 publications on individual vegetables or gardening techniques. Masabni said they are "easy" because they can be read in about 5 minutes to provide information needed to get someone started.

"This will not make you an expert, but will give you basic information on how to grow the crop from soil fertility to planting to harvest," he added.

# Texas Game Warden arrests murder suspect

LITTLEFIELD – A Texas of his wife of 45 years. Parks and Wildlife Department game warden has arrested a 71-year-old man wanted in Colorado for first degree murder in the shooting death

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**Knox City** 

Game Warden Lance May was on his way to a meeting with a group of Bailey County land owners to discuss deer hunting issues about 1:30

p.m. Tuesday when he saw a west-bound late model car swerving from lane to lane on U.S. Highway 84 and Loop 430 about a mile east of Littlefield.

Suspecting an intoxicated driver, the warden briefly followed the car as it continued to operate erratically, stopping it at the intersection of Wayland Jennings and Badger

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Streets in Littlefield. May routinely radioed in the plate number of the vehicle to obtain registration information and soon learned the driver was wanted on an assault warrant issued in Mecklenburg County, N.C. and arrested him.

The man was identified as Richard Paul Stewart of Independence, MO.

While talking with Stewart,



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who seemed to be confused and having difficulty remaining conscious, May became concerned for the man's health and called for an ambulance. The man was taken to Lamb County Health Care Center in Littlefield. About midnight, he was transferred to the intensive care unit at University Medical Center in Lubbock.

About the same time, May received notification that an arrest warrant for first degree murder and domestic violence had been issued for Stewart in connection with the fatal shooting of Norma Stewart,



LARSON Larry & Beth Staggs 657-3210

71, about 7 a.m. Monday in Westminster, CO.

Game Warden Maj. Rick Gully of Lubbock said Stewart remains under guard Wednesday at the Lubbock hospital.

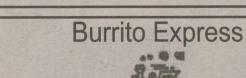
May, originally Lubbock, has been stationed in Lamb County since his graduation from the TPWD game warden academy four years ago.

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**Knox City** 940-658-3715

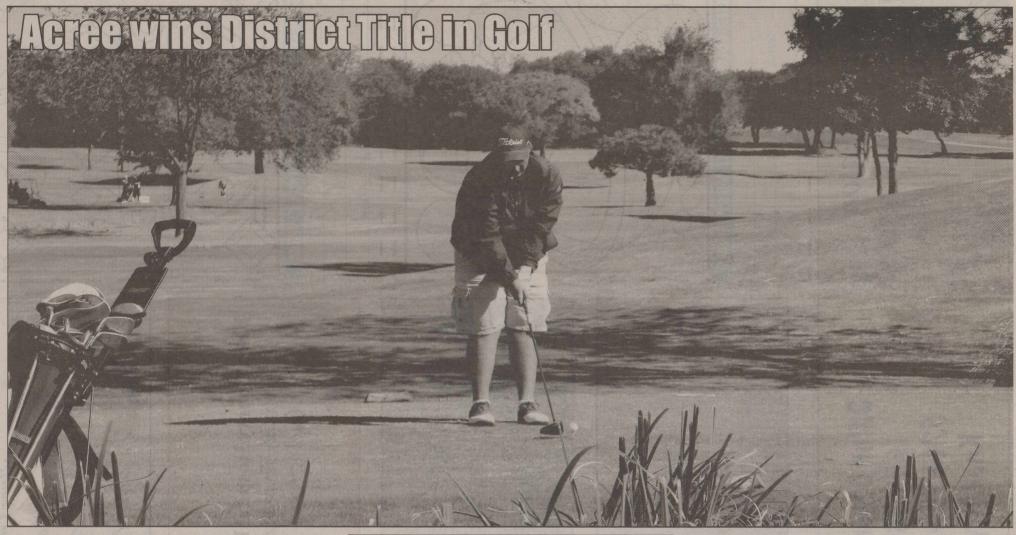


657-4323



**Knox County Hospital** Knox City Clinic • Munday Clinic Knox County Home Health Knox County EMS

Your hometown healthcare team.



Last weekend, Matthew Acree, a sophomore at Benjamin School, yet again took another title in his high school golf career. Matthew beat out 65 other boys from Rule, Paint Creek, Harrold, Knox City, Vernon Northside, and Crowell at the Shady Oaks Course in Baird to officially win the District title for golf. On a course that is labeled as a par 72, Matthew was able to complete the course in only 84 strokes; getting par on 4 of the last 5 holes. Matthew also shot three birdies during the tournament. Monday and Tuesday of this upcoming week, Matthew will yet again hit the Shady Oaks course as he competes to become the Area champion.

**Photo by Tamara Smart** 

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# EASTER COLORING

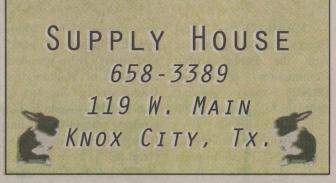
CONTEST

One winner per age group

Grand Prize

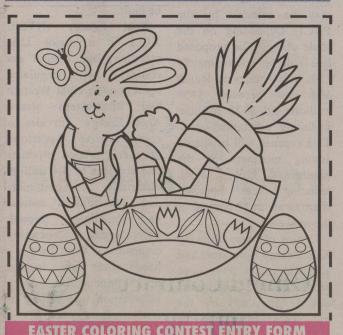
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SEE CONTEST RULES ON PAGES 8 & 9



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# EASTER COLORING

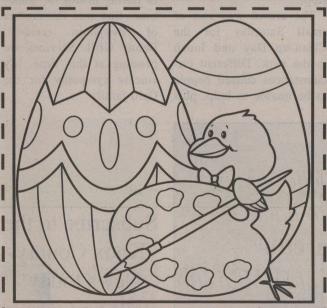
CONTEST

One winner per age group

Grand Prize

Help decorate for Easter by coloring these pictures! Then send us your favorite for your chance to win a prize!

SEE CONTEST RULES ON PAGES 8 & 9



EASTER COLORING CONTEST ENTRY FORM

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#### **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 KCVFD will host the Knox City Community Easter Egg Hunt at the Knox City Park on April 23 at 2:00 p.m. For donations of eggs or candy (no chocolate please) to be hidden for the hunt, please leave them with any fireman or at the Knox City Fire Hall located at 102 Central Ave.

Subscribe Today!

## April is Wildfire Awareness Month

More than 983,000 acres of Texas land have burned so far this year, a result of dangerous, rapidly spreading wildfire.

April is Wildfire Awareness Month, and Texas Forest Service's prevention and mitigation staff is spreading the word that Texas is susceptible to wildfire. It can be a force of nature, taking lives, homes and property.

Texas Forest Service has identified more than 14,000 communities as being at risk for wild land fire. So far this year, the agency has saved more than 3,300 homes and buildings – but 231 structures have been lost, and one fire-related fatality occurred in February.

Families should teach their children about fire safety, post fire emergency telephone numbers and avoid outdoor activities that could cause a spark when the state is under severe drought conditions, as it is now.

"Your home and your yard can be your first line of defense in the event of a fire," said Wildland Urban Interface and Prevention Program Coordinator Justice Jones. "Create an area around your home that is free of flammable plants and other items."

Families should have a fire action plan detailing how best to exit the home and where to meet if a fire occurs. Residents can download information about "Firewise" safety principles— simple measures you can take to protect your home and family.

Learn more about how to protect your family and home by visiting the <u>Texas Forest Service website</u>. More disaster preparedness information also can be accessed through the <u>Texas Department of Emergency Management</u>.

#### Just Jeff

This week the article by Jeff Stanfield is waylaid until next week. Jeff is currently at Judge's School in order to be a more proficient City Judge in his service to Knox City. His article will return next week.

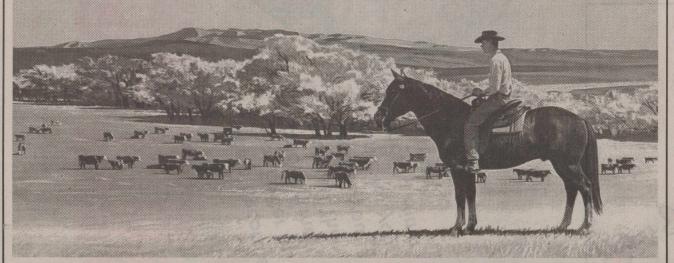


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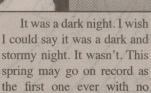
Do Your Part, Don't Let A Wild Fire Start.



T E X A S FOREST SERVICE 2

## The 501

by Hanaba Munn Welch



storms, except dust storms.

I digress.

I was driving respectfully through a small Texas town, talking on my cell phone but staying admirably on course. Lights atop the policeman's car came on suddenly, as is the nature of such lights.

Knowing the routine, I pulled over immediately, yea, even into a parking lot so as not to hinder the traffic flow. I unsnapped my purse-like cell phone holder to extract my driver's license and lowered my window, hoping nothing relative to me had expired.

I handed the officer my credit card.

Oops.

Maybe in some other country that would have worked. Do they take plastic in Mexico? I once contemplated driving from the border down to Morelia and even memorized the phrase in Spanish that you're supposed to say when you give them the bribe. It was something like "Vaya con Dios" but longer and rather complicated. In fact, it was so complicated I flew.

Back to Texas. The nice young officer didn't take my credit card. Good for him.

By the time I'd taken it back and given him my driver's license instead, he was doubtless expecting more senile behavior from me.

No need to disappoint.

He told me one of my headlights was out. I walked around to the front of the car and bemoaned not only the missing left low beam but also the state of today's headlights in general, criticizing in particular the protective plastic covers that don't age well and need professional polishing.

Headlights used to be plain old glass, I told him. What was wrong with glass? Now they outfit cars with this plastic stuff that gets all dull and cloudy. I'm not gonna pay somebody money to polish a bad invention.

He noted that my fog lights were on.

My surprise was genuine.

We agreed that it was good I at least had working fog lights. I could have remarked that they might as well be called "hog" lights in this part of the world, considering the scarcity of fog as opposed to hogs, especially as of late. Maybe next time.

He let me off with a warning and advised me to keep my lights on high beam so as to have both working as I drove on.

I thanked him for the advice, acting as if I couldn't have thought of that myself, which was true.

Slipping into senility may come hard for some people. Not me. I was born senile – always losing stuff and making superfluous remarks, like my comment on the history of headlights. It's a wonder I didn't also lament the demise of yellow headlights in France and complain about all the newfangled brighter-than-theyneed-to-be halogen ones blinding us all. Maybe next time.

Meanwhile, seems like I meant to take my car somewhere today for something. What was it?

# Washington's holiday gives taxpayers added time

have an extra weekend to file their federal income tax returns this year because of a District of Columbia holiday. The deadline for 2011 is Monday April 18, instead of April 15.

"Usually, 20 to 25 percent of all taxpayers file in the final two weeks of the tax season, and about 7 percent of taxpayers generally seek a six-month extension to file," said Clay Sanford, an IRS spokesman.

If you cannot meet the April

Form 4868, Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return. All taxpavers can use IRS Free File at IRS. gov to submit a Form 4868 for an automatic six-month extension. And, Free File will be available through the October 17 extension deadline for late filers.

"More than 230,000 Texans have used Free File so far this year--it's a great online resource," Sanford added.

Sanford said that if you just to receive it. (Use Schedule

DALLAS - Taxpayers 18 deadline, file an extension, haven't yet filed your return, doing some research at IRS. gov can pay off for some folks. For instance, if your income decreased because of a layoff or a cut in wages, you may be eligible for certain tax credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit.

> Numerous economic recovery tax credits are also still available. For some credits, such as the Making Work Pay Credit, individuals must claim the \$400 (\$800) for married couples) in order

M to calculate your Making total balance due, you should Work Pay credit.)

Most importantly, if you believe you may have trouble paying your taxes, contact the IRS immediately. There are steps that can be taken to help ease the burden.

"The IRS recognizes that some taxpayers may be going through tough financial times," Sanford said. "Unfortunate events such as job loss or tapping a retirement fund can obviously have an impact on taxes."

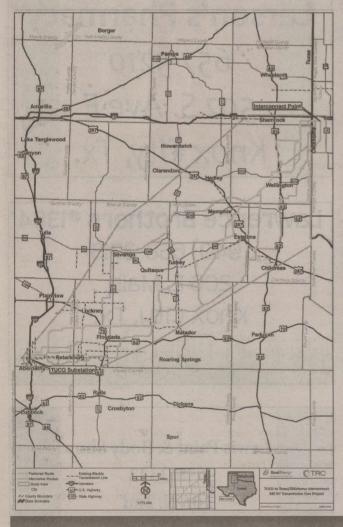
If you are unable to pay the

pay as much as possible and then contact the IRS about an installment plan. Even if you cannot pay the balance due, it is important to either file a return or request an extension to avoid the failure-to-file penalty.

Additionally, if you pay as much as you can by April 18, you can lessen the amount of interest owed. The late payment penalty is usually one-half of one percent of any tax (other than estimated tax) not paid by the regular due date. It is charged for each month or part of a month the tax is unpaid. The maximum penalty is 25 percent.

In addition to Free File, the IRS offers other free tax help services through volunteers at 12,000 sites nationwide. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites serve taxpayers whose 2010 incomes were \$49,000 or less. Tax Counseling for the Elderly sites serve taxpayers who are 60 and older. A list of sites is available on IRS.

# Approval sought for new transmission lines



AMARILLO - Xcel Energy filed an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) today seeking approval to construct a 200 mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line linking the company's TUCO Substation north of Lubbock, Texas to a new interchange in Beckham County, Okla. The line would disect Childress County.

The line is expected to move at least 500 megawatts of generating capacity - enough to power 375,000 typical homes in this region. Its purpose is to reduce congestion on the regional transmission system, improve reliability and improve import-export capability between regional power markets.

"We continue to see strong economic growth in this part of the southwestern United States, which is driving the demand for a more robust transmission grid," said Riley Hill, president and CEO of Southwestern Public Service Company, an Xcel Energy company. "The electric transmission line from the TUCO Substation to Oklahoma is a critical piece of a long-term transmission improvement plan. The line will enhance the area's economic competitiveness by improving reliability and opening new markets for electric power."

The line will start at Xcel Energy's TUCO Substation, located in Hale County, Texas north of Lubbock, and continue to a point of interconnection with a neighboring utility company, OG&E, three miles east of the Texas-Oklahoma state and approximately three miles southeast of Texola, Okla. The line will run through portions of Hale, Floyd, Motley, Cottle,

Briscoe, Hall, Childress, Donley, Collingsworth and Wheeler counties in northwest Texas.

Xcel Energy's filing lists a preferred route and nineteen alternate routes consisting of 110 segments. Any of the 20 proposed routes or combination of segments may be selected by the PUCT. Depending on the route chosen, the proposed line will be approximately 180 to 200 miles in length and cost between \$158 million and \$172 million, including substation costs. This expense will be shared among members of the Southwest Power Pool, reducing Xcel Energy's share to about 12 percent of the total cost.

Copies of maps showing Xcel Energy's preferred and alternate routes have been provided to landowners directly impacted by the line. These maps may be reviewed at Xcel Energy's office located at 600 S. Tyler St., Amarillo, Texas, by contacting Brad Sparks at (806) 378-2132. Persons wanting copies of the maps should contact James Bagley at (806) 378-2868. Information about the proposed project is also accessible powerfortheplains.com and at public libraries in the counties where the line will be built.

Xcel Energy (NYSE: XEL) is a major U.S. electricity and natural gas company with regulated operations in eight Western and Midwestern states. Xcel Energy provides a comprehensive portfolio of energy-related products and services to 3.4 million electricity customers and 1.9 million natural customers through regulated operating companies. Xcel Energy's headquarters are located in Minneapolis. More information is available at www.xcelenergy.com.

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# EASTER COLORING

CONTEST

**COLORING CONTEST RULES** 

1. Contest open to children 2-10. Relatives of newspaper employees of contest sponsors are not eliaible to win.

2. Contestants may use crayons, colored pencil:

assist in completing the contest entry form but not in coloring.

3. One winner from each age group will be chosen; 2-4, 5-7, and 8-10.

3. One winner from each age group wi Decision of judges is final.

4. All entries must be postmarked before April 21, 2011 to Knox County

5. Please mail in a photo of yourself with your entry for the winners page

One winner per age group

Help decorate
for Easter by
coloring these
pictures! Then
send us your
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chance to win a
prize!



FASTER COLORING CONTEST ENTRY FORM



EASTER COLORING CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_



EASTER COLORING CONTEST ENTRY FORM

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# Benjamin News By Gladene Green

Well, it goes without saying that the biggest news this past week has been the fire up west of us. So many acres have been burned and though, as I understand it, right now it maybe pretty well under control, we wonder with the high winds if the hot

We pray that doesn't happen. The lightning, a few claps of thunder and even a few sprinkles Sunday night teased us a little, and of course, we hoped for a waterspout, but no such luck. It would have been a blessing bit just didn't happen, the family of Don Rails-

spots may flare up again. but we still hope and pray. The families have been out constantly the past few days, working to keep us all out of harms way-When you see them (any or all) say a big thank you for their efforts.

Sympathy this week to

passed away last Saturday after several months of failing health. His funeral is Tuesday in Knox City.

It's that time of the year again when track and field (and tennis) competition begins and e are please to say we have one who qualified in both events and will be competing at the next level. Cody Propps, a senior, will be going on to the regional tennis meet on April 20 in Abilene after qualifying at the district track meet (at Throckmorton in the mile and 2 mile run He will be going to Trent on Tuesday (12th) for the area meet. We congratulate Cody on all his accomplishments.

**Juniors Honor Seniors** 

Instead of the ever-popular and looked forward to prom this year, the Junior clas of Benjamin High School honored their upper classmen with a trip to Abilene for dinner and an evening of fun at Prime Time. Because there are so few in each class, this seemed a fitting way to have an eve-

back of Knox City. Don ning of fun without all the preparation and work that is involved every year in getting things ready for the Prom. And the reports are that they all had a great time. Those making the trip on Saturday night were Seniors Cody Propps and Shelby Russell, and Juniors, Toni Brown, Tyler Kinnibrugh, and Andrew Chandler. Also guests Matthew Acree, Valerie Mendoza and Brianna. Sponsors for the evening were Susan Spake and her husband, Jim, and Melissa Everson and her husband, Kyle.

#### Here 'N There

I learned today of the death of Gary Ainsworth who lived in Mississippi. Gary was the son of (the late Tom and) Glenda Conner Ainsworth and had several relatives in Benjamin. Memorial services and burial will be in Mississippi.

The crowd was sort of small Saturday for the Clean-up Day and lunch in the park. Different circumstances caused people to be unable to help, plus

the short notice of when it was, also was a factor. Several stated they didn't really have time to gather up their disposable items. Maybe next time, it will be different. Of course, any day is a good day to tidy up around town. Just work when you feel like it! And those that did work on Saturday helped the looks of things a great deal.

Stasia Propps and her son, Cody, were in Stephenville last weekend for Cody to "look over" the campus at Tarleton State. He is strongly considering going there in the fall. He liked what he saw and said he sure liked the looks of the country in that part of our state. I agree- It's beautiful down that way (especially when they have had rain!)

I just learned this afternoon (Mon) of the death of Lorene Grill. She had been in failing health for sometime. She was the mother of Benjamin resident, Benny Grill. Services are pending at this time. My sincere sympathy for the Grill family.

How much do you know about your deregulated electric service? Take this short quiz to find out. Who restores power after a bad storm? AEP Texas has roots that run deep in south and west

- 1) Your Retail Flectric Provider
- 2) The company that generates electricity
- 3) AEP Texas
- 4) All of the above
- 5) None of the above

#### **AEP Texas**

- 1) Sells electricity
- 2) Delivers electricity
- 3) Generates electricity
- 4) All of the above
- 5) None of the above

#### Who is installing new Smart Meters?

- 2) Your Retail Electric Provider
- 3) The company that generates electricity
- 4) All of the above
- 5) None of the above

#### Who is known as "the wires company?"

- 1) Your Retail Electric Provider
- 2) The company that generates electricity
- 3) AEP Texas
- 4) All of the above
- 5) None of the above

If you answered 3, 2, 1, 3, congratulations! You made a 100%!

Texas. For nearly a century, we have partnered in the growth and progress of these regions by ensuring a safe and reliable supply of electricity. AEP Texas provides a reassuring presence and a friendly face, whether it's repairing power lines after a storm, electric metering, coaching a little league baseball team or participating in a local charity event. That's because we work here, and we live here. We are proud Texans who are connected to the communities where we live and work.

No matter which company you choose as your Retail Electric Provider (REP), AEP Texas delivers electricity to your home or business, and maintains the overall electric system...just as we've always done. AEP Texas is connected to more than 935,000 customers and nearly 300 cities, communities, and counties. Please remember to call your REP at the number listed on your electric bill if you have questions about that bill or your electric account.

Come see the chosen gift selections to honor "Baby Baretto" grandchild-to-be of Dr. Baretto ART STALL FRAME SHOP & CIFTS 658-3092 114 N CENTRAL AVE KNOX CITY, TX

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in Texas in 25 years." The fire was dubbed "The Swenson Fire" because for the ignition point in Aspermont, which was on the Swenson Ranch. By Friday night, the blaze was close enough to the City of Knox City that the flames were clearly visible from the cemetery just west of town. Firefighters from 17 townships and ranches scrambled to get to the site and put out the blaze. The Texas Forestry Department sent several departments from all over the United States to assist. Helicopters and planes circled the inferno, dropping an estimated 54,000 gallons of fire retardant into the flames. Of the seven available government air tankers, five were made available to fighting the Swenson fire.

In addition to the TFS resources, fire equipment and personnel from 60 fire departments across the state were been deployed to West Texas, adding 74 engines, 18 command vehicles and 160 firefighters to the arsenal of available resources. Equipment and personel from the Texas National Guard, Texas

#### FIRE continued from page 1

Department of Transportation and the Texas Department of Public Safety also was made available.

The fire continued to grow throughout the weekend, as excessive wind speeds, dry weather conditions and rough terrain made the battle of fire vs. man an epic war that will be remembered for years to come. The biggest fear was that the fire would jump Hwy 82 and continue burning all the way to Oklahoma. Yet, because of the efforts put in by the manpower present and a very timely change in the direction of the wind, the highway was never jumped, and the fire began to be contained as of Sunday. Some of the firefighters that were present at the blaze said about 4 a.m. Sunday morning they began to feel a sigh of

The fire not only took a toll on the landscape, but also did damage to the localities' gear they need in order to effectively respond to such situations. As for the local Knox City Volunteer fire department, the fire reaped havoc on their equipment. At

some point during the fire, the department reports that every piece of equipment used broke down. Monday's normal maintenance meeting was a long one. The volunteers stayed long into the night to fix their damaged equipment, preparing for their next battle. Alvie Overmeyer, Assistant Fire Chief, took off another day of work after the KCVFD trucks rolled back in to put in 14 hours straight on the repair process. Other members of the KCVFD as they have come and gone as they could. Financially, the battle devastated the VFD funds, requiring many repairs on vehicles. According to Wendal Elam, a Knox City volunteer, "All these departments took a financial blow, and they depend

The fire is thought to be started by a person using a cutting torch.

on community support."

As of the press time of this article, the fire has blazed for 7 days. The Texas Forestry Department says that the fire has claimed 103,384 acres, 160 homes were saved and is currently 90% contained.

#### **COMMUNITY continued from 1**

they had available: Jimmy Ray Albus showed up with a 6000 gallon water tank, Lonesome Dove brought in many tanks of water, and the Basic Pressure Pump trucks deployed to assist. TxDot, Department of Public Safety and the Game Wardens were also on site to lend whatever helping hand was needed.

Rehab stations were set up at different locations around the scene. KC EMS was present to lend a hand to those battling the blaze that may need medical attention, Pam Reed from the 911 call center constantly showed up with water and food, the KCVFD Ladies Auxiliary continually looked after the hard working volunteers,

helping provide them with necessities to "keep on keeping on". Allsups and Penmans donated a steady supply of food.

Not all the volunteer efforts can be accounted for. Many anonymous coolers filled with food, water, Gatorade, ice and other needed nourishment were dropped off. On Monday evening, there were stacks of unmarked coolers sitting empty at the KCVFD Fire Hall that had provided essential goods for the firemen

One of the most praised entities present though, was the Salvation Army out of Lubbock. The Salvation Army Disaster Response Vehicle set up came at one of the "rehab sites", providing not only hot meals (spaghetti and meatballs, chicken picatta, etc), but also provided the much need smile and recharge of energy and vigor into the exhausted firemen. The Salvation Army slept in their vehicles during the duration of the battle, being present for 24 hours a day.

Yet, the ones to be commended the most are the firemen themselves. Some men put in 24 hour days, breaking only for water and replenishment, fighting, strategizing, setting up communication points, COMMUNITY concluded on page 16

Officer for over a year. The position of KCPD Chief of Police was broadcast through a statewide service called TML, and there

has already been interest

KCPD continued from page 1 shown.

Until a new Chief can be hired, law enforcement in Knox City will be covered by the Knox County Sheriff's Department, as well as by

Reserve Officer Turner.

Another special meeting has been slated for next Monday at the KC City Hall to discuss future changes and plans for the City's future.

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THANKS FOR READING THE KNOX COUNTY NEWS

#### **COMMUNITY continued from page 15**

directing equipment, and literally being in the heat of the battle. The volunteers are just that: volunteers. They do it without monetary compensation. They take off work, thus a decline in their paycheck this next payday. They leave their families forfeit comfortable

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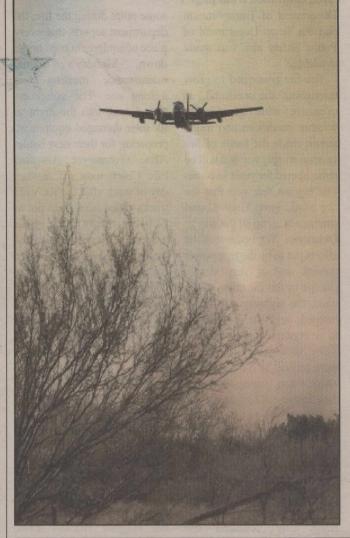
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beds. Knowingly, the men in our blood." and women actively put themselves in danger in order to save our communities.

Whydotheydoit?According to Alvie Overmeyer, Knox City fireman for 26 years and assistance chief of the KCVFD, "We do what we do. We aren't asked to do it. It's

Because of these efforts-not one life was lost, no serious human injuries occurred." No occupied structure was a victim of the fire.

Knox County News would like to thank these individuals for their continual service to our communities.



Out of the 7 available water tanker planes in the United States, 5 were deployed to help battle the Swenson fire.

**Courtesy Photo** 



First National Bank

FDIC MUNDAY - HASKELL - STAMFORD

it's their nature. You'll find them wherever

they are needed: The local hospital, church groups, service dubs or sometimes at the

end of a firehose. We've got a name for people like that... It's VOLUNTEER. They make our community a better place to live.



Taken from the back door of 901 SE 2nd Street in Knox City on Friday night. The sky is hardly visible through the smoke.

**Photo by Pam Mongrain** 

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FLOYDADA - CEMENT WORK--Need a new driveway, sidewalk, patio or flowerbed curb? Call Gary Bennett at 983-5120 (home) or 778-8549 (cell). (6-TFN)

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CHILDRESS - Nurses Unlimited Inc is seeking enthusiastic and outgoing caregivers to assist clients in the home with personal care, meal prep and light housekeeping. P-T. E.O.E. Call 1-888-859-0631. M -TH 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. F 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

CHILDRESS - Now hiring various shifts for LVNs & CNAs. Full or part time. State certification required. EOE. Apply in person and Childress Health Care Center, 1200 7th Street NW, Childress. (TFN)

CHILDRESS - NAPA AUTO CARE CENTER OF CHILDRESS is needing a mechanic experienced in auto and light truck repair. Good pay and benefits please see Kyle Mock for appointment. Must have your own tools. 940-937-2600. (TFN)

CHILDRESS - STANLEY DE-PENDABLE VEHICLES CHIL-DRESS is looking for a qualified sales associate. Must be good with people, energetic and self motivated. Great pay, good benefits. Call Larry Dickerson 937-0700. (TFN)

MEMPHIS -Accounts Receivable/ Payroll/Bookkeeper, No experience necessary. Salary commensurate, and take little of your time. Requirement: Should be computer literate, must be efficient and dedicated. Please send resume to: distributionspcomp@gmail.com. (5-4-11)

MEMPHIS - Help wanted pick up application at barlett Lumber. (806)259-3569. (4-6-11)

MEMPHIS - Hedley feedlot now hiring clerical personnel. Apply in person (806) 856-5441. (4-13-11)

MEMPHIS - Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores, Inc. is now hiring in Memphis, Texas! Retail General Manager Trainee and Retail Assistant Managers 2+ years of retail/ food management experience, outstanding communication & training skills, must be organized and able to multitask, must relocate for advancement opportunities. Please apply online at www.loves.com/jobs or fax resume to (40\_ 463-3679. (TFN)

CANADIAN - D&R Transports in Canadian Tx is now hiring CDL Driver. Offering competitive wages call 806-323-6161. (1-TFN)

HOLLIS - HELP WANTED--Full or part time LPN needed for 3/11 Charge Nurse position. Apply at Colonial Manor II, 120 West Versa. Hollis, OK (35-tfn)

WELLINGTON - Now hiring LVN all shifts and PRN with sign on bonus. Wellington Care Center. 806-447-2513. (04/28)

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492.....Paducah

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657.....Cone

684.....Kress 828/829......Slaton

856.....Hedley

867..Lakeview 888.....Estelline

983.....Floydada 495/990.....Post

537.....Kirkland 585.....CeeVee

663......Quanah

674.....Goodlett 684......Crowell

732.....Childress 937......Childress

657......Knox City

459.....Benjamin

454.....Benjamin

658......Knox City 422.....Munday 422.....Goree

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MEMPHIS - 96 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme 4 door, tan in color, V6, auto, good condidtion. Good tires. (806)930-9124. (4-27-11)

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#### House for Sale

CHILDRESS - House for Sale 706 Ave I SE Childress, Texas 4BR/2 bath brick with fireplace, wood floors, 1.5 city lots, 600sf shop, and a storage building. E-mail Russell Graves(russell@russellgraves.com) for more information. Seller is a licensed real estate agent. (TFN)

MEMPHIS - HOUSE FOR SALE, 1630 N. 18TH, 1943 sq. ft., Recently Remodeled. 3BD, 1 3/4BA, 2 garage, cellar. Details & pics: http://www.joetlovellrealestate.com. \$127,500. Call Linda (806)204-0005 (4-13-11)

MEMPHIS-1408 W. Montgomery St., 2 BD, 1BA house for sale. Newly remodeled, all appliances included, fenced backyard. Call to see (940)585-1000. (4-13-11)

MEMPHIS -House For Sale, 3BR, 2BA, Living, Kitchen, Den, 1500sqft., nice landscape, good neighborhood, Priced to sell, Priced to sell, 825 S. 9th, (806)259-3759.

MEMPHIS-House For Sale, 1421 N. 16th, 3 BD, 2 BA, CH&A, carport, fenced yard. Pecan & Apricot trees. Great Neighborhood. Call 806-204-0040 for appointment (4-20-11)

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WELLINGTON - Quaint 2-story home in the country, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 15790 FM 1981, space for a garden on an acre of land, owneragent, \$52,000, call 254-796-2233.

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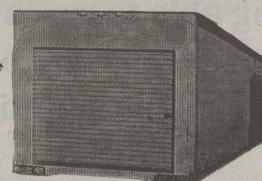
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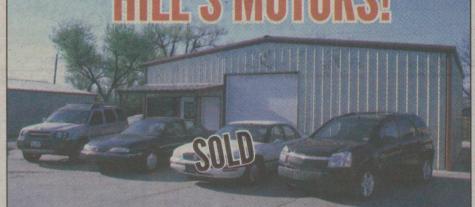
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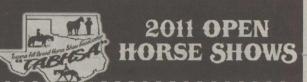
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Offer ends 05/17/11. Restrictions apply. Call for details.





April 16 Kick-Off Show, Vernon

May 7 Whispers of Hope Show, Wichita Falls

June 4

TABHSA Open Show, Vernon

June 18

Whispers of Hope Show, Wichita Falls

July 16

Versatility Show, Vernon

August 13

TABHSA Open Show, Wichita Falls

September 17 TX-OK Fair, Wichita Falls

October 16 (Sunday) Horse Expo Show, Wichita Falls

> Over 65 classes! Halter, Western, English, Trail, Reining, Driving

Register 8am / Show 9am Riding classes will not start before 11am

16 Awards at each show: Grand & Reserve Halter (Mare, Gelding, Stallion) **High Point and Reserve High Point:** 11 & under, 12-18, 19 & over, Novice, 1st Year Rider

All shows are single-judged shows.

\$50 ALL DAY FEE or \$6/class for TABHSA members

Non-members: \$60 ALL DAY FEE\* or \$7/class)

One horse/one individual combo \$6 or \$7 office fee + \$3 tie-out fee Current Negative COGGINS mandatory

Breed association point approval: APHA, PtHA, AHC, and others. Check with your association.

For showbills, email: ljones@childressisd.net or exa@srcaccess.net

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