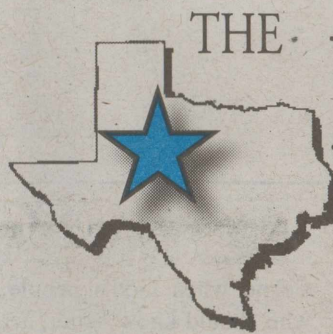


THE  **KNOX COUNTY NEWS**

VOL. XXX NO. 247

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2011

75CENTS

KC Hometown Variety Store Opens

Tamara Smart

"Hoo-rah" was the comment made by Steve Pepper as the blue paper that has donned the windows of the KC Variety Store was pulled down Monday morning.

After a long a grueling process, the KC Variety Store is in business. After Duckwall's was closed late last year, several members of the community recognized the need for a variety store in town. They got together, developed a business plan, and approached the City of Knox City with a proposal that they couldn't refuse. The group, who includes Steve Pepper, David Counts, Marla Hawkins, David Albus, JoAnne Albus, Tracy Carter, Dr. Ezekiel Duke, Ray Penman and Louis Baty, got together funds to begin the process, which then those funds were matched by the City of Knox City and given to the group in the form of a grant. The Knox City



With baited breath the community has been waiting for the KC Variety Store to open. About two weeks ago, the emergence of a sign bearing the KC Hometown Variety Store name appeared above the entrance to the building. Photo by Tamara Smart

EDC board, which owns the building where the new variety store occupies at 116 N. Central Ave in Knox City, allotted for a specific time of free rent.

After all the leaps, bounds and bureaucratic hoops that had to be finagled, the deal was done, the grant was granted, and the real work began.

Getting down to the nitty-gritty of it all, a staff was hired; mainly composed of ex-Duckwall's employees, including Julia Hardin and Josie Garcia, both who had worked for the previous variety store for more than 10 years. Ms. Hardin regained

**VARIETY STORE
continued on page 11**

O'Brien Baptist Church welcomes Kevin Nelson Family



The Kevin Nelson Family

Tamara Smart

When God opens the door for a blessing, he is not only blessing the person that the door is opened for, but also a blessing for those who are on the other side of that door.

Kevin and Lynn Nelson, along with their three daughters, Sarah, Hannah and Rachel, have spent the last 7 and a half years living in East Africa and spreading the message of God's love and salvation through Jesus Christ. They

helped in church planning for new believers and aided in leadership development in those churches. They acted as evangelical ministers to those who have never had been given the chance to learn about the glory of Jesus Christ.

Yet, the age of living abroad for this family seemed to be drawn to a close as Kevin needed to come back

**NELSON FAMILY
continued on page 11**

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GOD'S PROMISES

Seeking and Saving the Lost

By Kevin Nelson, O'Brien Baptist Church

I was trying to think of some lofty Bible lesson to type up for this article today, and searching for something great to talk about, when it

happened. A young man, whose name I will withhold, came to my office to see me. Broken, confused, and feeling lost, he wanted to know what to do about his messed up life. Folks, it doesn't get

any clearer than that. Jesus said, in Luke 19:10, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost."

In His day, Jesus took a lot of flak for His involve-

ment in the lives of sinners. Notice He didn't make a particular effort to be around the Pharisees, or the religious leadership during His earthly ministry. Instead He walked with sinners, ate with tax collectors, talked to those who were in bondage to the demonic, and even with those who had the worst cases of leprosy you could imagine! One day Jesus even talked to a woman known for her trashy lifestyle. Scandal of Scandals, not only was she an outcast of a woman, but a Samaritan woman at that!

As I poured Scripture after Scripture into this young man, pleading with him to give his life to Christ, I saw the struggle that was going on inside of him. He wasn't sure what to think about Jesus. After some time, it became clear that he was going to leave without giving his life to the only real hope he

has.

What about you? Are you feeling lost today? If so, are you at a place in your life where you are ready to make the most important decision that you will ever make? Will you stop trusting in yourself, others, or the whole host of things outside of Christ that can't offer you lasting peace regardless of how hard you try?

Where is your faith? The Bible clearly teaches that without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). Are you willing, at whatever cost you imagine it to be, to give up on the things you have tried to trust in, and give it all to Him? I know He is waiting for you today.

Some of you have been hurt by church members. Some of you have witnessed poor or even sinful choices from those who profess to be Christians. It is indeed a

shame when God's people, who should know better, act in a way that is unbecoming of our Lord. However, if you will, allow me to make an important observation about that. When it comes to your eternity, none of that matters. What does matter is this. Are you willing to stop making excuses for your life, and place your trust in Christ?

"Well Pastor", you may say, "You have not said anything that I haven't heard before." In that case...what are you waiting for? Truth, regardless of how old the news is, or who the one saying it is, is still truth. The verse I shared from Luke could read like this, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and save (insert your name here), who was lost."

If you're willing, and it is worth it I promise you, then you are just a simple step away from a monumental decision. What should you do? Please bear with me, this is important.

According to the Bible, you should first acknowledge that you (and me and everyone else on the planet) has sinned against God. It's true. Regardless of how good you have been, or how bad you have been, you have at some point in your life sinned against God. It may be something you consider big, or even small, but no one escapes it. We have all sinned. Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Second, you should understand God's penalty for sin. Then you should under-

See GOD'S PROMISES
on page 11

The Knox County News

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All others: \$30/Year

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TAMARA SMART
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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.

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

NOTICE

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

KCN OFFICE HOURS

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

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Cancer Survivorship: Living With, Through, and Beyond Cancer

ABILENE, Texas – Cancer Services Network (CSN) announces plans to broadcast CancerCare's Connect® Workshop Cancer Survivorship: Living With, Through, and Beyond Cancer. The Workshop will offer four sessions for cancer survivors and their loved ones. The information is primarily for cancer survivors who have recently completed their treatment, but you may find the information helpful even if you were treated a long time ago or are newly diagnosed. Cancer survivors, family members, and friends have a chance to learn about cancer-related issues with others experiencing a cancer diagnosis. The Brown Bag Lunch Series will be held in the Hinds Square Classroom located at 100 Chestnut, Suite 112, Abilene, Texas. Bring your lunch (drinks and dessert will be provided). Leading experts in oncology will provide the most up-to-date information in an audio format.

Thursday, June 23, 2011, Noon – 1:30 PM: Chemobrain: The Impact of Cancer Treatments on Memory, Thinking and Attention

Thursday, June 30, 2011, Noon – 1:30 PM: Weight Changes after Cancer Treatments: Why is it Happening and What Can I Do About It?

Thursday, July 7, 2011, Noon – 1:30 PM: Stress Management for Caregivers: Taking Care of Yourself Physically and Emotionally

Thursday, Jul 12, 2011, Noon - 1:30 PM: Fear of Recurrence and Late Effects: Living with Uncertainty

"Our goal of these edu-

cational sessions is to provide an opportunity for cancer survivors to meet others and to gain information on the four most requested educational topics by cancer patients," said Nancy Estes, Executive Director at Cancer Services.

There is no cost to attend but reservations are requested. You may call CSN office at (325) 672-0040 or send an email info@cancerservices-network.org. CSN provides post-diagnosis assistance to cancer patients, cancer survivors and their families and caregivers through direct financial, emotional, and educational programs. CSN, an agency of the United Way of Abilene, provides services in 19-counties of West Central Texas. Financial assistance is provided to cancer patients in active treatment and is based on a sliding scale. Emotional and social support programs are provided free of charge to anyone regardless of income.

Knox County Aging Services

Menus For June 13th To June 17th

Monday, June 13th
Hamburger Steak/Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Peas
Sliced Bread
Tapioca Pudding

Tuesday, June 14th
Ham/Potato Casserole
Carrots

7 Minute Cabbage
Garlic Toast
Cake/Strawberries

Wednesday, June 15th
Chicken Breast/Rice &
Vegetables
Salad

Wheat Roll
Cobbler

Thursday, June 16th
Chef Salad

Baked Potato
Crackers
Cinnamon Rolls
Friday, June 17th
Sub Sandwiches
Chips
Lettuce & Tomato
Dessert

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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
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No Sunday Evening Service

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Tex Cox, Pastor
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Classes 5:00 p.m. • Sunday Evening Worship 6:00
p.m. Wednesday Prayer Warriors 6:00 p.m.

FOURSQUARE CHURCH – Knox City

Gary A. Schnable, Pastor
Sunday Morning Worship at 10:50 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6:30 p.m.
Mens Prayer Breakfast 6:00 am. Wednesday Morning

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Father Charles Gorantla • Deacon Ben Vasquez
Sunday Mass at Noon

LIBERTY COMMUNITY C.O.G.I.C. – Knox City

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Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Services - 11 a.m.
Monday Evening Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

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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.
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Foard County Open Horse Show on June 11

The Foard County Open Horse Show will be held at the Foard County Horse Club Arena in Crowell, TX on June 11, 2011. The show

will begin at 8 a.m. All youth are encouraged to participate. We will have a Pee-Wee Division (8 & under or not entered the 3rd grade),

Junior Division (9-13 or in the 3rd grade) and Senior Division (14-18). Buckles will be awarded to the High Point contestant in each divi-

sion. Prizes will be awarded through 3rd place in each event and ribbons through 6th place.

Judged Events will in-

clude: Halter, Showmanship, Walk/Trot, Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship, Western Riding, Reining, Working Cow Horse, 3 yr old Stock Horse

Timed Events will include: Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, Stakes Race, Potato Race, Flag Race, Goat Hair Pulling, Team Roping, Breakaway Roping, and Calf Roping.

Note: Contestants should RSVP for cattle classes by June 6th. All classes have a \$5 fee or you can pay \$40 for all day. Cattle classes will have a \$5 fee assessed in addition to entry fees.

Please call Seth Manney at 940-839-8937 for more information. In the event of inclement weather please call to check the status of the show.

SAMMIE'S KNOX CITY CORNER AND FINAL THOUGHTS

By Sammie Offield

In lieu of writing a column this week, I would like to issue an apology for all the people I may have offended in the last few weeks. I did not take on this column with the aim to gossip or tell things that were not true. I want to write a column about what happens in Knox City. Yet, apparently,

I have stepped on a number of people's toes and have offended and angered several citizens without meaning to. Please know, I have the best intentions in my reporting, and have thought that my sources were very reliable. I have never meant to disclose anything that was spoken to me in confidence.

Because of the public reaction from

last week, I am considering stepping away from my column for a moment to regroup. The column may run again in a week, maybe in a month, I am not sure.

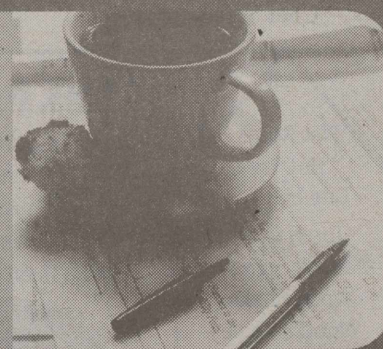
Please accept my most heartfelt apologies.

Until next time, God Bless our troops and all of us.

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2011 Weekly Weather Report

Date	Temperature (F) Low / High	Rainfall inches
05/30	74/100	
05/31	76/97	
06/01	79/99	
06/02	72/101	
06/03	65/101	
06/04	75/99	
06/05	70/101	

Total Rainfall for month
2011 Rainfall (ytd) 2.07

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I wish to preface this letter by saying that although I have never visited Knox City, Texas, I feel quite certain it is a community filled with kind, honest folks who work hard to make a living. That's the way life should be lived-kindly and honestly!

My parents had the opportunity to stop for a rest break in Knox City on Thursday, May 26, 2011 at one of your local convenience stores. Dad purchased a cup of coffee for himself and left his wallet on the counter when he left the store. They traveled on to Crowell to attend the graduation exercises for one of their great grandchildren. It was not until they arrived in Crowell that he discovered he did not have his wallet. He immediately called the store. The clerk/cashier knew nothing about the whereabouts of the wallet.

Recounting the events to the clerk/cashier, Dad reminded her that there was only one other person in the store at the time. Still, she knew nothing. She did, however, identify the other patron in the store as a "local". On their return trip, they once again stopped in Knox City at the same store. This time after speaking with her again, Dad went through all the garbage containers, including the bathroom. He had no luck. Oh yes, he didn't purchase a cup of coffee either. He had no wallet!!

Thankfully, he had very little cash with him and before the night was over all his credit cards were cancelled. He spent the next day visiting banks, replacing his driver's license and doing all those other things one has to do when a wallet or handbag is stolen or lost.

I'm quite certain what hap-

pened to my Dad is something many of your readers have experienced. The crime certainly is not unique to just our family. The amazing thing to me is the length that dishonest people will go to in order to get a five-dollar bill. Yes, that is the amount of cash in Dad's wallet. For the record, he is 85 years old and still works everyday to earn an honest five-dollar bill. He took off work the 26th to be with family. What a day!!

Since that day and after the long Memorial Day weekend, the wheels of justice have been put in motion. The corporate offices of the convenience store and the police department of Knox City have been very kind and helpful. Our family extends our gratitude to all, and especially to the citizens of Knox City who follow the law. We so appreciate folks like you!!

Linda Partain
Stephenville, Texas

LETTER TO THE READER


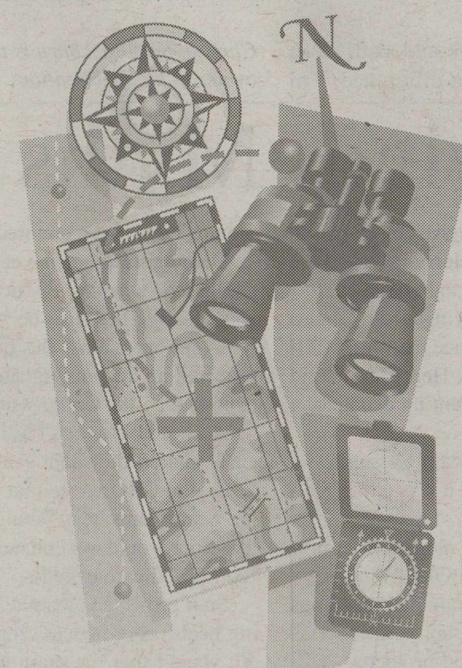
Dear readers,

I would like to take a moment to apologize to the readers of the Knox County News for any erroneous, misconstrued or false information that may have been published in last week's issue. It has come to my attention that in a local column, many readers were offended, exasperated or were left feeling violated at the subject matter which was covered in said column. I would like to take a moment to speak on behalf of the Knox County News to say it is never this publication's intention to report information that is incorrect nor is it our goal to divulge knowledge which is not supposed to

be a matter of public scrutiny. We will take all measures necessary to prevent this from happening again.

As always, your feedback on the Knox County News is welcome, be it through a letter to the editor, a visit, or even a quick phone call to the editor. The office door is always open for creative criticism. The phone number and address of the office are located in the grey Publisher's Information box on page 2.

Our sincerest apologies,
Tamara Smart, Editor

Knox County Adventure Days

June 17 & 18

Friday, June 17th

6 - 8 p.m. A Night at the Theater (Munday ISD Auditorium)
Dance Performance by the Movement Space, Cake Auction
Fundraiser for Fire Departments and 3Kord Band Performance

Saturday, June 18th

8:00 a.m. 5K Fun Run & Walk - Knox City COC (Knox City Golf Course)
9:00 a.m. Registration at Benjamin Courthouse
for the following events:

- **Photography Scavenger Hunt (Teams of 2-5) \$20 per team**
- **Amazing Grace Race (Teams of 2) \$20 per team**
- **Geocaching Adventure (Team of any size) Free**

9:00 a.m. Exhibitor Area Opens (Benjamin Courthouse)
10:00 a.m. Tour of Knox County - Bus leaves from Benjamin Courthouse
11:30 - 1:30 p.m. Fireman's Hamburger Lunch (FUNDRAISER)
Benjamin ISD Cafeteria - \$6.00

1:00 p.m. Tour of Knox County - Bus leaves from Benjamin Courthouse
3:00 p.m. Afternoon Awards Celebration (Benjamin ISD Cafeteria)
5:00 p.m. Doors Open for Go-Kart Races (Knox City Speedway)
6:00 p.m. Munday COC BBQ Supper - Munday Downtown Park
8:00 p.m. Texas Blues Runner Band - Free Concert Downtown Munday

*For more information or to register for events call 940-459-4121 or
facebook.com/kcvg.catch.the.vision.*

OPINION

The Paperboy



Bases loaded, two outs

By CHRIS BLACKBURN

Regardless of what happened, I was going to be positive and reinforce him. I was determined to bite my tongue should the worst occur. After all, it has happened to me and virtually every male reading this column and plenty of females as well.

Monday night was a true test. It was another of many "firsts" that help define what kind of parent we are and what kind of relationship a father and son are going to have when it comes to sports.

My son Jackson, 7, is playing machine-pitch baseball. It's the big leagues compared to t-ball and I coach first base and help in the outfield.

Jack came up to bat with the bases loaded and his team in desperate need of some runs.

In his first at bat, he had paid attention in the on deck circle and timed his swing up with the machine. He got a hit and drove in a run.

While on deck before this at bat, he was staring into space. I mean this kid was zoned in on something because he stood and stared across the diamond with a glazed look on his face and the bat never left his shoulder.

Here he is, two outs and all he needs to do is make contact and he's got a 75 percent chance of getting on and keeping the inning alive.

My child enters the batter's box and I yell, "Dig in Jack and give it a rip!"

He gives me his customary nod then proceeds to slap lazily at the ball that blazes by him. As I tensed up, I knew what was going to happen. Strike two was just like the first one. Strike three

was painful to watch as the ball cruised over his head. It was brutal.

Jack hustled in and got his glove and took the field. He was playing left field, and I strolled by him and said, "What did you do when you were in the on deck circle?"

Jack said, "Oh nothing. I just stood and watched Gavin (the batter before him) bat."

I said, "And what did you do at the plate?"

"I struck out."

In my mind, I wanted to yell at the top of my lungs, "PULL YOUR HEAD OUT! CAN'T YOU SEE THE BASES ARE LOADED! WE HAD A CHANCE TO GET BACK IN THIS THING AND YOU'RE STANDING AROUND WITH YOUR HEAD IN THE CLOUDS!"

Instead, I leaned over and said, "Jack, your teammates worked hard to get into position to score. The least you can do is pay attention and be ready when it comes your turn at bat so you are ready to do the best you can do."

Jack said, "Yes sir."

"Jackson," I said, "get your timing down when you're on deck. Got it?"

"Yes sir!" he said emphatically.

The next inning there are two outs and runners on first and third. This time on deck, he swung each time the machine delivered the ball to home plate. This time he had a clue.

Jackson foul-tipped the first pitch and then lined the next pitch to the shortstop who bobbled the ball. A run scored and Jackson was safe at first.

I walked over to him, patted him on the back and said, "You were focused and ready Jackson and it made a difference. I'm

very proud of you."

I got the big baby blues and he said "Thanks, Dad."

Here I go to slapping myself on the back thinking this fatherhood/coaching business is a snap. I'm like Dr. Phil and Tommy Lasorda wrapped up in one.

Jack's last at bat, he struck out in three pitches.

My ego quickly came back down to earth.

Back out in left field I asked, "What did you think about that?"

He said, "Not very good."

I laughed and said, "You know what? You batted four times, got on base twice, drove in two runs and scored a run. All in all, that's not a bad day at the park."

Jackson again flashed me the baby blues and said, "Dad, I love baseball."

I quickly thought about my reaction after that strikeout with the bases loaded. I made the right call by keeping my cool.

I wish I could say I make the right call all of the time. I think I do most of the time, but there are many times when I fail.

Parenthood is a constant challenge. It is also the most rewarding experience I've had.

There is no doubt I will mess up plenty of times as a Dad. Monday night I got one right and it made for a wonderful memory. At least for me...

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

Two Harry Reid Medicare Savings Myths

By VICTOR MORAWSKI

Responding recently to the Senate's rejection of the Paul Ryan Budget Plan, Sen. Harry Reid propounded two myths regarding ObamaCare Medicare savings when he said, "standing up [for] our seniors by keeping the promise to protect and strengthen Medicare as we did with our health care bill which we saved — waste, fraud and abuse — 500 billion dollars, extended the life of Medicare by more than twelve years."

The first myth is that all (or at least the lion's share) of the projected Medicare savings from ObamaCare over the next ten years will come from combating waste, fraud and abuse and not in reductions to seniors' services and benefits.

The reality is that this is so far from the truth that it deserves the title of a myth. According to the actuaries at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) who first projected the \$575 billion savings for Medicare over the next ten years, only a tiny fraction of these projected savings — \$4.9 billion — would be realized under

the category "Fight waste, fraud and abuse." To suggest otherwise is to perpetrate a myth but this seems to be one that Harry Reid and the rest of the Democrats that he speaks for want you to believe.

The second myth is that projected Medicare savings from ObamaCare will be used to shore up the Hospital Insurance trust fund (HI) and keep Medicare solvent for twelve more years. Here Harry Reid is hoping that you won't remember the double-counting debate of a year ago.

An excellent account of its ebb and flow by Adam Cassandra of CNSNews.com shows that, as in the former myth, it was CMS actuaries that first brought it to light.

What they charged, simply put, is that the same monies from projected ObamaCare Medicare savings were held by the Administration to be doing two completely different and incompatible things at the same time: shoring up the Medicare Trust Fund to protect its solvency until 2029 (twelve years beyond the then-projected 2017 insolvency date) and paying for ObamaCare's much-touted extension of health care coverage to 30 million uninsured — the same

monies were being counted twice.

Democrats seem never to have adequately responded to these charges of accounting trickery. HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius was clearly shown to be wrong when she tried to defend the Administration against the double-counting charge by saying that it reflected an accounting slant unique to the CMS but not shared or endorsed by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

As noted blogger Philip Klein of the American Spectator, the CBO shared the same sentiment when: "In a March letter to Paul Ryan, the CBO wrote that a majority of the Medicare savings from the health care law "would be used to pay for other spending and therefore would not enhance the ability of the government to pay for future Medicare benefits."

So if projected ObamaCare Medicare savings are to go for financing health care benefits for 30 million new recipients — And, after all, wasn't that the main reason for ObamaCare in the first place? — then it is a myth that those monies will also go toward extending Medicare's solvency, as Harry Reid has claimed.



17th Annual Wild Hog Classic June 4, 2011

Matt Mueth serves up some grillin' from his pit located on the course.



See More Wild Hog Classic photos on page 12



Shannon Mangis was the star of the day, tearing up the golf course with her extreme golf abilities. b/w

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Just Jeff

By Jeff Stanfield

This past week has been a hot one. It seem like it is 105 everyday. It has been so hot that "Big Head" Fred Ledesma has taken up spray tanning instead of lying out. This comes from his own mouth so I know this is all on the up and up. Fred said he liked the spray-on the best because he only has to wear a Speedo for short amount of time. I do apologize to anyone who was eating while reading this. I threw up in my mouth when he told me so I understand if you get a little sick. If you really want to feel sorry for someone, feel for Sara since she was the one who had to spray him.

My next question why does Fred need to tan?

Speaking of tanning, do you realize part of the stupid ObamaCare health screwing we are going to get has a tax on tanning? I think that is about as racist of a tax as you could put on someone. It only taxes white people and Fred. Can you imagine anything that effects only white people more????

How about we tax fat people? Put a tax on slim fast or diet pills. Would that be fair? Heck no, but for some reason tanning went through without much fuss.

On a serious note, we are having a battle with cancer everyday. Some of our local citizens are either still bat-

ting or are survivors. The Cancer Society needs all the help they can get. So, how about this for a fundraiser and awareness: Coach Steele has come up with a great idea. How about a special football game this fall? The September 26th game against Spur will be the "Bark for the Cure Game." The Hounds will be decked out in pink jerseys and there will be all kinds of cancer awareness fundraisers happening. It should be a great game with both teams being in the top 10. Can you imagine a football field in pink and white-checked end zone, a huge cancer symbol and cheerleaders with pink and football teams in pink jerseys? I think Coach Steele has come up with a great idea. I look forward to being on the 40 yard line to watch the Hounds put a big ol' whipping on the Bulldogs.....

New website puts rural Texas first

A group of young rural entrepreneurs from across West Texas began meeting almost a year ago to talk about issues facing their rural communities. The men gathered to socialize and share stories, but most of all, they wanted to take action on promoting development and progress in rural communities across Texas.

The Young Rural Professionals interests range from rural development, rural politics and leadership, and agriculture. As a result, they decided to take action in the form of a blog and information aggregator to provide rural citizens with an outlet for discussion. They appropriately named the blog Ruraltopia.com.

The blog is maintained by three primary authors: Trent McKnight of Throckmorton,

James Decker of Stamford, and Evan Autry of Coleman. Ruraltopia.com encourages others to comment, participate, and submit contributions about rural Texas issues.

"Ruraltopia.com serves as a webservice and discussion board for rural citizens. The blog's authors breathe, drink, and eat rural Texas, so the material is fresh, real, and useful," said blog co-founder and author Evan Autry from Coleman.

In light of the many changes facing rural Texas in the 82nd legislature, a discussion on rural Texas's future is more important now than ever. Trent McKnight of Throckmorton and Ruraltopia.com author, said, "If rural Texas is to remain relevant into the future, we must discuss ideas, shape policy, and share our stories with Texans

all over."

In the past, distance and communication barriers have prevented rural citizens from organizing effectively. However, with the expansion of the internet into rural communities, staying connected is easier than ever. James Decker of Stamford and Ruraltopia.com author believes, "Rural leaders have an unprecedented opportunity to utilize technology to connect across city and state boundaries, share ideas and solutions to common issues, and tell America the story of what rural communities have to offer."

If you are interested in rural Texas affairs, visit Ruraltopia.com to start or participate in discussions facing rural communities. Find them on Facebook or directly at Ruraltopia.com.

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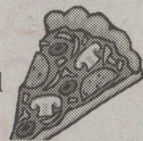
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KC Youth Baseball Undefeated Champions

By Tamara Smart

The Knox City Youth Baseball Team, also known

as the Knox City Thunder, showed their electric and booming power through this

season of baseball. Local 8 & 9-year-old boys made up this explosive team, which took the league in a storm of wins over any opponent brave enough to challenge them. Last weekend in Stamford, the KC Thunder took the field for one last time this season, punctuating their dominance with a final win... the 15th win in a row for the boys. The Thunder ended the season as undefeated league champions.



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Benjamin News By Gladene Green

I wish I could say that it is raining and cool here on the Knox Prairie, but that's not the case. It's hot, dry and dusty and just plain miserable. Oh, what a good rain (or even shower) would do for this parched land. Someday it will happen, I just know.

Hospitalized

E.O. Reed is a patient in a Haskell Memorial Hospital. He has an infection that made him very sick, but reports Sunday were that he was finally feeling better so maybe his stay will be a short one. We hope so.

The seniors of 2011 got back to Dallas early Saturday morning, tired but still full of pep. As one of them said, they "had a blast" and he enjoyed every minute of it. Said Hawaii is the place to go for a good time.

Here 'N There

Lorene Powers spent a long weekend with relatives in Sulfur Springs. She accompanied Debbie Curd of Knox City and Jimmy and Helen Green of Guthrie on the trip.

Sue Terry and children, Summer and Jake of Dallas spent the weekend with her parents, Jane Gideon and Weldon Gideon.

Debi Moorhouse and grandson, Dillon Keys, were in Dallas on Wednesday and Thursday for Dillon to see his kidney doctor. He got a good report, but still has to be careful and take care of himself. Unless a problem arises, he does not have to go back until September.

Betty Bohannon spent a few days in Nebraska last week with her daughter, Bonnie Howell and family. Her granddaughter, Taylor and Sabra, returned to Ben-

jamin with her for about a month's visit. Gloria West and Cathy Tomlinson of Denton and Betty Parker of Aspermont attended the Yarbrough family reunion in Andrews during the week Gloria and Cathy (who was here visiting her mom) went back to Cathy's grandson, Dillon Cope's graduation from Kindergarten to 1st grade. Dillon goes to school at Ponder.

In last week's news, Michael and Lynn Moorhouse Rogers baby girl's name was listed as Shaylee- should have been Kaylee. Probably my mistake. Also, Jessica Moorhouse was omitted from the list of Debi and Mike's weekend visitors.

Lexie and Sydney Mendoza visited their dad, Carlos and family in Abilene several days last week. Lexie remained for an extended visit.

Have you noticed the house where Debi and Mike lived (on cemetery road) being gone? It's been moved out to the "League Lake" where they live. It was moved Thursday.

I was informed last week

of the death of a former resident and teacher in Benjamin High School, Bob Haynes. He was here in the 50's and those who were here then remember him. He was living at Holly Lake Ranch and his funeral was in that area late last week.

Reba Morrill called one day last week and said her brother-in-law, Larry Beasley, (Glenda's husband) has had some surgery. He is doing well with his recovery but will have to take it slow for a while. They live in Colorado.

The gardeners over this way are not having much luck with their produce this year. Too dry and too much hot wind for anything to do much good. For those of us who enjoy the "fruits of their labor", we sure miss it!

And are you watching the Mavs and The Heat? Don't like this 2-1 business in favor of Miami, but hopefully by the time this is read the series will be tied! I like to watch them, but I enjoy the Rangers games more and am very pleased with their standing thus far.



The 501

by
Hanaba Munn Welch

Some of us like to work in public places. I do. It keeps me from falling asleep, especially if the venue is a coffeehouse and my drink contains two shots of espresso. I'm waiting now for the caffeine to kick in.

But concentration promises to be hard come by today. Just two tables away is a group of ordinary people who apparently meet on a regular basis to discuss oil prospects. I'm eavesdropping. I have a weakness for oil prospects.

They don't look like high rollers. They look like me - ordinary people poised to strike it rich in the oil game.

Except right now they're talking about plugging a well. That tells me they're not getting ready to jump into their first venture. They've been there and done that. Now they're trying to figure the best way to handle something that's no longer worth producing, if it ever was. Like I said, my kind of people.

It's still heady talk - even when plugging and salt water injection wells are the topic. I can almost smell the oil. Makes me think of my youth when we'd be at the edge of oil town Electra on the old highway (because there was no new one) and my mother would say, "Roll down the window and smell the refinery!"

Kids today don't know about rolling down car windows. They don't understand the circular hand motions we used to make to get someone to lower a window.

PAUSE FOR VERIFICATION

Another advantage to working in public is the chance to test ideas and notions on real people.

The woman running the little carpet sweeper looks like she could be my age. I did the roll-your-window-down hand signal for her and asked her if she were in a car what she would think she was supposed to do.

"Roll the window down," she said.

Right answer.

Then I tried the same thing with a college student studying alone at a nearby table.

She gave me the same answer.

"How did you know that?" I asked.

"I had an old car," she said.

My theory stands.

And the oil group conversation continues:

"Reentry ... join you dollar for dollar ... casing point ... complete ... carry ... I don't need money that bad ... \$800 an acre ... H. L. Hunt ..."

A little bit more and I'll be going over there to ask how much money they need from me.

No, they weren't name-dropping when they mentioned the late wealthy oil magnate H. L. Hunt. The gist of that story, as best I could hear, was that someone asked how much H. L. Hunt left when he died.

The answer?

All of it.

Yep, there's a lesson there. In fact, the H. L. Hunt story was probably a you-can't-take-it-with-you sermon illustration in the first place.

Nevertheless, if Heaven is going to have streets of gold, I'm counting on at least 40 acres where the smell in the air will be like the old refinery at Electra.



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GOD'S PROMISES continued from page 2

stand that He also has a plan to do something about it. This is His gift to you. Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Third, please know how much God loves you, and exactly what He did for you. Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Fourth, believe, not just

with your head, but with your heart, and ask Him to be your Savior today. Romans 10:9-10 "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

There you have it. Know you have sinned. Understand the penalty for sin. Under-

stand what Christ has done to show His love for us. Then confess and believe. This is repentance. The Apostle Peter told us we have to repent. The Apostle Paul told us we have to believe and have faith. Jesus himself said, "Truly, truly I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3

Undoubtedly some of you quickly realized that this article defines something that you have already done. You have

already had a time in your life when you asked Jesus to be your Savior. If that is you today, and you are already a believer, please do something for me today. Please join me in praying for the lost. Start by saying a prayer for the young man who came to see me. He left lost. He knows it. He's in an awful struggle for his soul even today. Would you join me in praying for him, wherever you are and whatever you are doing?

And for you, my friend, I wrote this for and because of you. You are loved. You matter, even though you think you don't. Please accept Jesus today. People are praying for you, though they don't know who you are.

p.s. If you just happen to be like that trashy Samaritan woman, and don't think you would be welcome in church, you may be right. People may not go out of their way to make you feel welcome.

No matter, let it go. My family would love to know you. I know for a fact that there are others who want you to come too. We could start a new saying in church, "If you don't have anything good to wear, or worse, if your life is in a mess or needs adjustments, come sit in our pew! We love you and we need the company!" Remember, no one gets out of this unscarred, we may as well love each other, scars and all!

NELSON FAMILY continued from page 1

to Texas so that he could finish up his studies for his PhD in Missions and Evangelism from Southwestern Seminary. Lynn wanted to come home to Texas too. The couple prayed for a door to open in order for them to be brought back to the Texas, and found that door leading them here; to the red brick Baptist Church in O'Brien, Texas.

While the parents, Kevin and Lynn, who were both

raised in the Metroplex area, are returning "home"; their girls, on the other hand, are leaving the only place they had ever considered home. The youngest Nelson daughter, Rachel, had not lived in the United States since she was 3 years old.

The girls have found Texas to be different than anything they are used to. Especially the food. After living in a world where preservatives

and processed food is not reality, the girls are having difficulties with everyday American cuisine... although they do enjoy TexMex Style food.

This vast dissimilarity in cultures between what they have known for almost a decade and what they are coming "home" to lends the Nelson family a unique situation. They feel like this move to O'Brien is another

mission field because the culture is so amazingly different than what they have known. They are using some of the same skills they have honed to transition throughout their entire mission ministry in order to shift their ministries to this rural Texas area.

O'Brien is not just a blessing to the Nelsons. O'Brien is being blessed with the Nelsons as well. Not only

do they bring different world knowledge to the Christian family, but they also have many important messages to share about God's love. Kevin's passion is to "lead lost people to Christ and help guide believers in their walk". Lynn is determined to spread the message that "salvation is for all men". Throughout a spiritual conversation with the Knox County News, Kevin spoke

such sage words about his ministry: "Believers need to get grounded. Personal experience, intellect and emotions will only take us so far, but we run out of answers if those are the only outlets that are being explored."

Lynn's mission starts in the home. Quoting Beth Moore, "No amount of success in ministry makes up for failure at home". Lynn is a full time homemaker and substitute

VARIETY STORE continued from page 1

picked. Merchandise was shipped in. Products were positioned on shelves in a manner that is customer friendly. New checkout stands sited the front of the store. A computer system was installed. Shopping carts bearing the KC Variety Store logo were lined up in new cart aisles. The store was thought, rethought, and is now a creation that is customer savvy and easily navigated.

Now a Knox City citizen, or one in any surrounding area, no longer has to make the trek to Stamford's Walmart to buy many necessities. Arts and crafts, pillows, toilet paper, lightbulbs, fishing poles, bullet of all makes and sizes,

kid's toys, munchies, candy, bed sheets, welcome mats, cleaning supplies... all the wonderful, random items that every household needs now stock the shelves, are reasonably priced and are just a hop, skip and a jump away. The store even has the technology available to issue hunting licenses for all the different hunting seasons that make up such an expansive part of the Knox economy.

While Monday, June 6 was the official opening of the KC Hometown Variety Store, the Grand Opening will be this Saturday, June 11. The store's hours of operation are 9-6 Monday through Saturday and 1-5 Sunday.

her "manager" status, and Josie was given the "Lead Associate" title. Shirley Taylor and Jean Shaw also have variety store experience, as they both were previous employees of Duckwall's as well. Other associates of the retail store

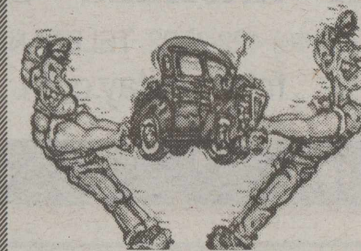
are Brittney Hawkins, Pearl Eaton and Tina Silva (who is the official "IT" girl of the operation)

After that, all the grunt work began. Shelves were ordered, erected and situated. A variety Store co-op distributor was

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Velia Magana, Tammy Gonzalez, and Dina Rios won first place in the second flight.

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