

THE

KNOX COUNTY NEWS

VOL. XXX NO. 250

THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2011

75CENTS

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BENJAMIN, TX 79505-0196
KNOX COUNTY, DISTRICT
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Fireworks Prohibited this Fourth of July

Tamara Smart

Earlier this summer, Locals get to see the devastation of wildfires firsthand. Currently, 100's of thousands of acres are burning in Arizona and New Mexico causing severe devastation, even threatening

Military Nuclear Reactors in the mountains of northern New Mexico. The summer in Texas has been hot, dry, and windy creating the perfect conditions for a small spark

FIREWORKS

continued on page 11



aura Stoval, secretary at Hunt Oil Company, presents a 1000 check to Alvie Overmyer of the Knox City Volunteer Fire Department. The check will help replenish resources that were taxed during the fires earlier this season.

Courtesy Photo

Super Heroes Visit Knox Vacation Bible School



The Knox City 2011 Community Vacation Bible School kicked off last Sunday evening. The school is themed around "God's Super Heroes". The first night; the children were visited by some true-life heroes of the Knox City VFD and Knox County EMS.

During the evening hours since the kick-off, Knox

City Foursquare church has been filled with cape-laden teachers, teenagers and volunteers who are all on their own super-hero mission to teach our youth about Jesus.

Everyone is invited to attend the program, and all people who have children involved in VBS are invited to attend a hot dog dinner afterwards.

Additional photos on page 7 and 12

LOOKING AHEAD

There will be an appreciation dinner for the Local public servants on July 1st at the Kox City Park. People who attend may wish to bring their own lawn chairs, although there will be tables and chair set up. Anyone interested in helping the preparation of this event can call Michelle Stanfield at 658-5535.

Knox City Summer Football camp will be on July 13, 14, and 15th from 9am until 12 noon. Registration is Thursday morning at 8 a.m. Cost will be \$30 per child. 1st grade until incoming freshman are legible to attend.

On July 10-14 the Annual Music Camp in Goree will be held. The cost to attend the camp is \$425. Contact Jimi Coplen at the KCVG to sign up.

LOOKING AHEAD

continued on page 11

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GOD'S PROMISES

Tex Cox, Tex Cox Ministries

Can You Hear Me Now?

Knox City, Texas is known for not having a very good cell phone signal. My sister always tells me that she knows she is getting close to KC when her phone reads "no service"! For years, one of the most common sentences coming out of peoples' mouths was "Can you hear me now?"

Surprisingly, this is also a common

question people ask God. "God! Can you hear me now? Are you listening? **Answer me!!!!!!**"

Religion has done a good job of telling people that God loves to tell us to "Talk to the hand!" If we don't have all our ducks in a row and all our "sins under the blood", God won't listen!"

I say, "**Baloney!**"

God is **always** listening and **respond-**

ing to us! And, **YOU** believe it whether you know it or not!

"Oh yeah? How do you know what I believe and what I don't believe, Tex? You sure sound arrogant today!"

I was listening to Joseph Prince the other day and he gave a wonderful illustration of this very thing. A woman had come into his office and was complaining about how God never listened to her. "No matter what I do, Pastor, God does not hear my prayers!"

He said, "Why of **COURSE** God hears you!"

"Oh, no, Pastor, I pray and I pray, I do all the right things, but God never hears me! I'm not getting any answers."

So, Joseph looked at her and told her to stand up. "Now, sister, I want you to stand there and I want you to say, 'God! **I CURSE YOU!!! I CURSE YOU GOD!!!!!!**'"

The woman looked absolutely horrified! "Oh! I could **NEVER** say that!"

Pastor Prince asked, "Why not?"

"**Because God would hear me!!!!!!!!**"

Do you see this? People have more faith in the curse than they do in prayer and thanksgiving! They have more faith that God will hear the **BAD** things coming out of their mouths than the good things! Amen?

GOD IS ALWAYS LISTENING AND RESPONDING! God does not have a problem with hearing you.....if you are not getting answers, you need to check **YOUR** tuner! Maybe you need to spend a little less time tuned in to the "world channel" and get plugged in to the "God Channel." Amen?

Maybe your listening device (**your heart**) is not plugged in to the Word. God will always speak according to what His Word says.

Do you know what most Christians are missing in their Christianity? They are missing a very key ingredient in their walk. **They know very little of their Lord and Savior and very little of His Word.**

Let's be honest here. When God speaks, **do you listen? Or do you challenge?** That is a very strong statement. Think about it. Do you respond to God based on what you "know" about God? Based on what your preacher has told you, or what your Mother or Father have told you.....based on what your co-workers or your favorite TV preacher says?

Or do you have a **close personal relationship** with God the Father? The Word says, "*My sheep know my voice.....*"

The encouraging thing is, **God wants to direct the path in your life!** He wants to lead you into the abundant life that Jesus tells us about in John 10:10. He is constantly trying to speak to you, He just needs you to **work on your listener!!!!!!**

God speaks. He speaks through His Word, He speaks through the Holy Spirit, and He speaks through others. And guess what....when you ask a question, **God listens!**

And you better believe that He knows the answer! Amen? The **REAL** question would be, "how are **you** going to **respond** to that answer?"

Unlike Knox City, God does not lack a tower to receive the signal - (God **IS** the tower, amen?) - God does not have a problem tuning in. We need to adjust our tuner and hear what He is speaking to us. He wants to speak Words of Truth and Life to you! Now just hush up, and **LISTEN!!!!**

Remember - - - you are **BLESSED!!!!**

The Knox County News

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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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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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MUSEUM NEWS

Friends of the Knox County Historical Commission reviewed Wichita Brazos Museum exhibits and fund raiser plans for the remainder of the year at a Museum meeting on June 15th.

The new Entertainment themed exhibits have been completed with many new and interesting items to see. Among the exhibits, which were created by board members representing each of our eight communities, are pictures, articles, toys, musical instruments, info on Knox County entertainers, photographers, and authors. A victrola (record player) is displayed. We also have the 78 record, the 33 and 45, displayed. One youngster asks where we got those big discs, and how we dialed up on the old crank telephone. You will find many interesting items that bring back old memories.

The Museum hosted a portion of the Amazing Grace Race for the Knox County Visioning Group Adventure Days the on June 18th. A 20 question form on exhibits within the museum was given to each team. It was an exciting day with many visitors.

Saturday, July 30th, the Museum supporters will sponsor a homemade ice cream and bake sale booth at the Knox City Watermelon Festival. We have sold homemade ice cream at this event for several years—it's just the thing for a hot summer day.

The August event will be Sunday, August 7, at 2:00 P.M. at the Wichita Brazos Museum. Clark Hitt, formerly of Crowell, will tell about the 1841 Texas-Santa Fe Expedi-

tion which crossed Knox County east to west. In 1841, few Anglos had ventured up the Wichita Rivers, though Spanish maps made a fair representation of the North and South forks of the Wichita and where the two forks joined. Mirabeau Lamar, president of the Republic of Texas, promoted the journey as an attempt to attract trade to Texas from the Missouri to the Santa Fe trade route. It was a trip all who endured it never forgot.

The September calendar will include the annual Museum garage sale, the second biggest museum fund raiser of the year when the "trash" in Knox County's closets becomes the museum's "treasure" to help provide materials for displaying exhibits, pay for office supplies and maintain the museum in many, many ways.

The annual Veterans Day program will be in November.

Knox County Aging Services

Menus For July 4th To July 8th

Monday July 4th

Closed.

Have A Safe And Happy 4th Of July.

Tuesday July 5th

Tacos/Cheese
Salad
Corn
Apple Slices

Wednesday July 6th

Chicken Strips/Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Biscuit
Fruit Crunch

Thursday July 7th

Spaghetti/Meatballs

7 Layer Salad
Garlic Toast
Banana Pudding

Friday July 8th

Tomato Soup
Pimento Cheese Sandwiches
Crackers
Dessert

New Serving Time Is 12 Noon (In Knox City Only)
Alternate Desserts For Diabetics

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Jerry Vincent, Pastor
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Sunday Evening Worship at 6:30 p.m. • Mid Week, Wed. at 6:30 p.m.
FBC Sunday School, and the worship services at 10:55 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
are telecast live on Classic Cable, channel 6 in Knox City and O'Brien.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH – Knox City

Timothy Trimble, Pastor
Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
No Sunday Evening Service

ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP –

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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

SANTA ROSA CATHOLIC CHURCH BILINGUAL – Knox City
Father Charles Gorantla • Deacon Ben Vasquez
Sunday Mass at Noon

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

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

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – Rhineland

Father Charles Gorantla • Deacon Jim Novak
Monday through Friday mornings, 8 a.m. Mass
Saturday Mass at 5 p.m. • Sunday Mass at 10:30 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH – Benjamin

Sunday School at 10 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH – Benjamin

Timothy Trimble, Pastor
Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. • Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.

GILLESPIE BAPTIST CHURCH – Gillespie

Matt Harrington, Pastor
Sunday School at 10 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST – Benjamin

Bible Study at 9 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10 a.m.

THE BELIEVERS' CHAPEL – Highway 222

W.O. Smith, Pastor
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Mid-Week, Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

O'BRIEN BAPTIST CHURCH – O'Brien

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

WEINERT FOURSQUARE CHURCH

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

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Adrian Fletcher, Pastor

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SAMMIE'S KNOX CITY CORNER AND FINAL THOUGHTS

By Sammie Offield

This week started with dry weather. We are still praying that we receive a good rain. Hopefully it will be in the near future.

Billy Ray Marrow went to the doctor for a check up and is doing good. His doctor is working on getting him home health attendants and a life alert. Thank God.

Marvin continues to fish and keep up with his yard and house. He's good at what he does, and still makes time to come to Bud's and have coffee with the guys. Between him and me, we try and keep tabs on the other guys. If they aren't there one day, we try and go check in on them and make sure they are alright. Can't find good friends like those so treasure

them when you have them.

Sandra Chambers and Paula and Cassidy Carter jut returned from North Carolina on Tuesday after a great weekend with Kim, Jessie, the baby and Jodi. They got home safely, thank the Lord.

Vallia Magana has taken quite the vacation to Washington to visit her daughter, Monica and the boys while her husband, JJ was on a trip. From there I believe that she was headed to Illinois to see April and her husband, Dusty, and the two little boys. Hope she is having a great time. I know she couldn't wait to see them again, but Chuco is back home tending to himself. I'm sure the folks at Bud's Café are helping him make it.

Mrs. Rodriguez has

company for the weekend. Two of her daughters are visiting, Lilly Garcia and son Jordon from Plainview and Stella Abila, Alma Archer from Ranger. She said she is really having a great weekend and that is wonderful because some days are just hard for her to get by. We thank God for everyday we have her.

Eddie and I spent today with our granddaughter in Aspermont after the time of sorrow cause by the loss of her mother, Jamie Branch. The funeral was Monday evening at 2 p.m.. It was a long day for all involved. God will be with them in their grief as they get along without their mom. My heart ached for them.

Saturday our Guys and Dolls decided to have a

tournament in Knox City, and believe me, I don't know how they made it through it. Three digit heat and high winds. When they were finished, they were almost sick. They went to the clubhouse and had plenty of tea and refreshments so they could rest and cool off. There was a good turnout though.

Friday I received a letter from Ramona Holmes Horne who lives in Wichita Falls. It was so good to hear from her, I hadn't heard from her since she moved. I get to stay in touch though through my column. She says she misses everyone here and says hi and that she is good.

Our camp kids had a great time last week and are ready for Bible school this week. A small accident with

Kylie Deville, but a few stitches and she was back in the saddle. She wasn't ready to come home. Some adults visited their kids on different days of the week so they could see their kids at camp. Everyone described the experience as great and wonderful and heartwarming to know God could touch the kid's heart like he does.

Brandy Manning was telling Eddie that their oldest

girl got to go to Hobbs, NM to be in the softball tournament. Besides a series of good games, it was hot and windy and sand was blowing the whole time they were there.

Roy Rodriguez spent some time with his daughter Casey and her babies before they leave the country to join her husband who is stationed in Turkey for the next couple

See SAMMIE
on page 11

Knox County Market Place

House for Sale

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For Rent

For Rent: 100 N. Central; Southside of Mini-mall for small events. Kitchen available. Call Dessie 806-543-3131.

609 Corothers in Rochester. 2 bedrooms (possible 3 bedroom), 1 bath. Fenced in backyard, corner lot, cellar. Comes with refrigerator, stove and dishwasher. New carpet, new floor. Hook-ups for washer/dryer. Central Heat and Air. \$425 per month, \$350 deposit. Call Michael at 325-668-4865 for more details.

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170 irrigated acres with pivot. 2 houses, sheds, silo, 5 irrigation well and two house wells. 4.5miles NW of Knox City. Call for details 940-657-3773, or 940-657-1063

Help Wanted

East Side Baptist Church in Haskell is looking for a part-time Administrative Assistant. Computer skills a must. Pay commensurate with skills and experience. Email resume to jbeerley@esbhaskell.org or fax to 940-864-2771

The City of Knox City is accepting applications for a Police Officer. Applicant must be TCLEOSE certified. Contact: Chief Mendoza at City Hall 940-658-3414

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Lost & Found

Found. Heart shaped necklace medallion. Found it in the vacuum at the carwash about 2 months ago. Medallion has a father's day of death inscribed on back. Please call Lisa at 658-3130 to identify and repossess item. Must be able to be specific about day of death or inscription on front in order to claim.

Volunteer Wanted

East Side Baptist Church in Haskell is looking for a guitarist to join our worship ministries team. If you are interested please contact Shawn Smith at 940-864-2738 or ssmith@esbhaskell.org

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2011 Weekly Weather Report

Date	Temperature (F)		Rainfall inches
	Low	High	
06/20	82	106	
06/21	69	98	
06/22	70	101	
06/23	70	106	
06/24	73	106	
06/25	78	110	
06/26	80	111	

Total Rainfall for month .15
2011 Rainfall (ytd) 2.22

Texas can add grasshopper outbreaks to drought woes

By: Robert Burns

COLLEGE STATION — While drought is bad for practically everything else that grows, it does often promote a good crop of grasshoppers, according to Texas AgriLife Extension Service experts.

“Grasshopper populations are normally maintained at lower levels by natural controls, including diseases,” said Dr. Chris Sansone, AgriLife Extension entomologist, San Angelo. “The main disease is a fungus, and most fungi do better during cool wet conditions. Since we didn’t have cool, wet conditions in the spring, the fungus isn’t thriving, and since the fungus isn’t thriving, we’re having higher populations of grasshoppers.”

There are also some effects with bare ground warming up faster in the spring that fa-

vors grasshopper outbreaks, he said.

Despite the drought, grasshopper reports from AgriLife Extension agents were sketchy across the state, but seemed to be more common in East Texas and South Texas around San Antonio.

The hit-and-miss outbreaks are most likely due to there being other factors involved, Sansone said.

“This year has been interesting because the drought has been so severe,” he said. “If people haven’t had any showers at all — even those late afternoon showers of a tenth or two-tenths of an inch — we’re not seeing any grasshopper outbreaks.”

Sansone said this is probably because there’s not enough food in pastures and rangeland to sustain even a grasshopper population.

“These areas that have

been catching afternoon showers are seeing the worse outbreaks.”

More information on grasshoppers can be found at in the AgriLife Extension publication “Grasshoppers and Their Control,” available at <http://insects.tamu.edu/extension/publications/epubs/e-209.cfm>.

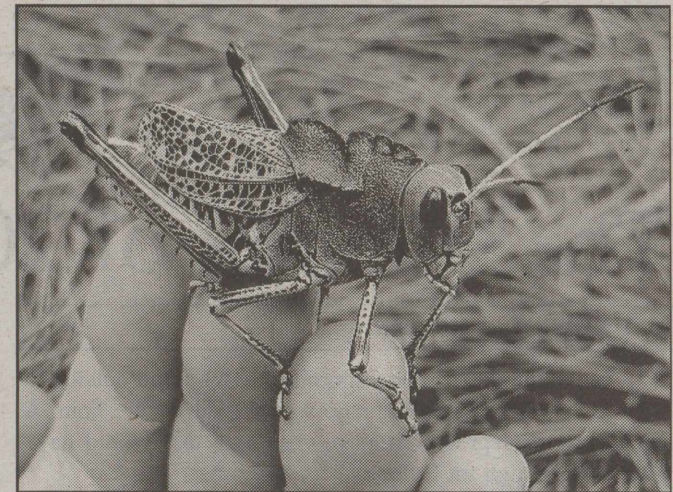
More information on the current Texas drought and wildfire alerts can be found on the AgriLife Extension Agricultural Drought Task Force website at <http://agrilife.tamu.edu/drought/>.

AgriLife Extension district reporters compiled the following summaries:

Rolling Plains: The region remained hot, dry and windy with no relief in sight. The first 18 days of June, 100-plus degree temperatures devastated soil-moisture levels. Dryland cotton planting was finished,

but very little of the crop was expected to emerge. Irrigated cotton producers were watering, hoping to establish stands. Some ranchers were culling herds. One Motley County producer stated that without rain soon he would be weaning calves as early as the first week of July. Ranchers have culled off cattle and cut numbers to such an extent that if it does rain, it will be a long time before they can rebuild herds. Hay supplies were running low also. Producers were reporting yields of about one-third of normal. Hay was often sold before it was baled. Stock-water tanks were also drying up. The threat of wildfire remained high, and most counties remained under burn bans.

Panhandle: The region remained extremely hot, dry and windy with wildfire danger high. Soil moisture was



Texas hosts about 150 grasshopper species, according to Texas AgriLife Extension Service entomologists.

Texas AgriLife Extension Service photo by Robert Burns

very short in most counties. Corn and cotton continued to struggle under high winds and 100-plus degree heat. Most counties reported corn to be in poor condition. Cotton was in fair to very poor con-

dition, with most reporting poor. Producers were actively irrigating all summer crops. Rangeland and pasture conditions were mostly very poor. Ranchers continued supplemental feeding of cattle.

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Early Holiday Deadlines

Due to the 4th of July holiday weekend, we will have early deadlines for our **ADVERTISING and EDITORIAL**

For the July 6th issue only

Advertising	Editorial
Thursday	Friday
June 30TH 5PM	July 1ST 4PM

Thank you for your cooperation and patience
-The Staff At

THE **KNOX COUNTY NEWS**

OPINION

The Paperboy



The summer of 2011

By CHRIS BLACKBURN

It was midnight (Monday morning) and I stood outside to see what the temperature gauge would read at that hour. A sweltering 96 degrees. Three months ago, that would have been a warm high for the day.

In 1994, when I was young and foolish, I got word that Childress was going to be at an all-time high. After work that day, a buddy and I went to play golf. It was 117 degrees.

This past Sunday we hit 117 again, tying the all-time record. Ironically, my good friend played golf Sunday during the heat of the day. He joins the prestigious club I started in 1994.

I don't have to tell you what the weather is like. It is abundantly clear. It is nearly unbelievable the extremes - both hot and cold - that we can reach in this part of the country.

When you're watching the news, and you get credit for "leading the nation today" for the highest temperature, that is not a good thing. I guess for one second everyone listening or watching will think, "Thank God I'm not there," but that's about all you get winning that category.

I was going through the National Weather Service database and heat waves of this magnitude happen a couple of times a decade. What makes this one so bad is that it comes during a

severe drought encompassing nearly all of Texas and half of Oklahoma and Kansas. My farmer friends are telling me it's the worst they've ever seen and more than one older farmer has said it's worse than at any point in their lifetime including the 1950s.

But what can you do? The only option is to wait it out.

When I was a child, my grandfather was involved in the Greenbelt Bowl All-Star game in Childress. There was a severe drought and as the story goes, I was sitting in the car at the football stadium and it started to sprinkle. As the water hit the windshield, I asked my grandfather what it was. I think I was 3, which would have made it June of 1971.

The entire incident tickled my grandfather and he passed the story on to a friend of his at *The Dallas Morning News*. Sometime later a blurb appeared on the front page of the DMN referring to a young boy, Chris Blackburn in Childress, Texas, who didn't know what rain was when he saw it.

Again, that's not how you want your town perceived.

We have hired some new people here and three are not from this area. One is from Michigan, one from Denver, and one from Arkansas. I've told them multiple times that this is not normal. I don't know if they believe me or not because I'm pretty sure they think they've moved to the sun.

Back during that heat wave of 1994, my grandfather and

his buddies would meet for coffee daily at 3 p.m. I remember one day his friend walked into the paper and said, "Morris, it's 110 outside and I don't know if I can take it."

My grandfather replied, "Buddy, what in the hell did we do before air conditioning?"

That's a valid question. One repeated the other day by my son. He wanted to know how people survived before AC. I told him people they didn't know anything different and they were probably a little tougher than we are today. I also told him that may be the reason no one was smiling in our old family photographs.

I don't know how long the heat wave will last and I don't know how long this dreadful drought is going to last. I honestly don't think anyone does. My heart goes out to the farmers and ranchers trying to cope with the unbearable conditions. It's rough.

Looking at the next week, it looks like the coolest day we have coming up is 106 degrees. I guess that's better than 117...

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

CBO's Fuzzy Math

By BILL WILSON

On July 22, the Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) issued its latest long-term projections on the growth of the national debt. Astonishingly, as bad as the numbers issued by the CBO were, the debt crisis the nation faces is even worse than we are being told.

The CBO analysis does not take into account the full \$14.344 trillion national debt, nor does it reflect the \$430 billion in gross interest payments we are paying every year.

Instead it only considers the \$9.7 trillion 'debt held by the public'. That was cited by the CBO. What was not was the \$4.6 trillion of debt owed to the Medicare and Social Security trust funds. Interest is owed to those programs similarly is not included.

These are real liabilities that the American people are expected to honor, and do honor under CBO's analysis. But because they are not revealed until 2024 and 2036, when the trust funds are fully exhausted, even the dire scenarios that are presented to the American people are actually rosy.

Why would the CBO leave this out of their analysis? Ostensibly, economists would counter that it's just money owed to ourselves, and not a share of debt held publicly. That, those obligations might be repudiated. So they shouldn't be counted until they come due.

In reality, it's just an accounting gimmick that hides that allows the government to understate the dire fiscal condition the Treasury really is in. When the Medicare and Social Security trust funds are exhausted in 2024 and 2036, respectively, the Treasury will be forced to borrow more money publicly anyway to honor the obligations to those programs.

So, it's all going to wind up in the gross debt that's reported at the end of day. That makes public debt and intergovernmental debt a difference without a distinction, but nonetheless a useful sleight of hand for the government to hide the true extent of the problem.

CBO reports that the debt will reach 100 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2021. In reality the national debt will be larger than the entire economy in 2012 if not sooner. At \$14.344 trillion, the national debt already rep-

resents 95.5 percent of the \$15.010 trillion Gross Domestic Product.

Nor are the people warned that total interest payments already exceed the 18 percent of revenue red flag level Moody's has explicitly warned against as being unaffordable. Just as the principal owed to the entitlements are not taken into account, neither are interest payments to those programs. Will Moody's wait until 2024 and 2036 to discover that interest payments have suddenly jumped?

The truth is, we cannot afford to wait 15 to 25 years to be honest about the debt burden we have taken on. The crisis is now.

The projections are bad enough in any event. They point to the need for every member of Congress to take the 'Cut, Cap, and Balance' pledge, which would immediately cut spending by hundreds of billions, cap it at 18 percent of GDP, and send a Balanced Budget Amendment to the states for adoption.

What Congress may not understand, however, is that time is running out to take meaningful action to avert a true crisis.

God's Super Hero Training Camp



Additional photos on page 12

Wild Things

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Grain elevator failures lead to new law

AUSTIN – Gov. Rick Perry has signed landmark legislation that will allow Texas grain producers to vote on whether to create and pay for a self-insurance program that will cover their losses when they are not paid for grain they deliver to a buyer or a storage facility.

Rep. Larry Phillips of Sherman and Sen. Craig Estes of Wichita Falls introduced the legislation after a series of grain elevator financial failures in recent years resulted in millions of dollars in losses to Texas grain producers who were not compensated for their stored or contracted grain.

“Passage of this new law has been a top priority for Texas producers who need this additional risk-management tool to protect themselves from catastrophic losses that could put them out of business,” David Gibson, executive vice president of the Corn Producers Association of Texas, said. “This law is the result of efforts from many organizations across our state, including the Texas Farm Bureau, grain producer associations, grain buying associations and others.”

The Texas legislation was modeled after successful indemnification programs that have operated for decades in more than a dozen other major grain producing states.

“This will be similar to the checkoff programs that producers are familiar with,” Gibson said. “And grain producers will have an opportunity to vote on whether to move forward with funding and operating the program.”

If approved by producers in a referendum, an indemnification fund will be created and financed by a small assessment deducted from a producer’s proceeds when grain is sold. Grain buyers

will withhold the assessments from the sales and remit the assessments to the fund each quarter. If a grain producer suffers a loss when a grain elevator has a financial failure or a grain buyer fails to pay for delivered grain, the producer can file a claim with the fund to recover up to 90 percent of the value of the grain lost. The program will apply to transactions involving corn, soybeans, wheat and grain sorghum.

After the law becomes effective on September 1, 2011, the Agriculture Commissioner will appoint a nine-member board with representatives from grain producers, storage facilities and grain buyers to conduct the referendum and oversee operations of the indemnification fund.

The board will adopt procedures and set a date for the producer referendum. Producers will have 90 days notice before the referendum is held. The cost of the referendum will be paid by producer organizations.

“My hat’s off to the corn producers board and association, Texas Farm Bureau, TDA, Texas House Agriculture Committee and the Texas Senate Agriculture Committee for their leadership in crafting a risk mitigation tool for the benefit of Texas grain producers,” Mitchell Harris, CEO of AgTexas Farm Credit Services, said. “The grain indemnity fund legislation brings a very cost effective, farmer funded vehicle for grain farmers to mitigate the counterparty risk of a failing grain elevator in these volatile times.”

For more information about the grain producer indemnity fund, go to the Texas Corn Producers’ Legislature page at <http://bit.ly/mc1ukS>.

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Money Matters: Tips from the FTC
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Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

Been another pretty slow news week for some of us. For some, it's been a little more "eventful". Best news is that there's no real problem with illness (at least that I'm aware of). There are just many complaints about the hot, dry weather. But that's been going on for a while.

Shower Honors New Bride

Teri Miller Pulido was honored Saturday morning with a post-nuptial bridal shower. Held in the fellowship of the First United Methodist Church, call hour was from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Refreshments were brunch foods and drinks. Receiving guests with the honoree

were her mother, Kim Grey, and grandmother, Kay Miller, of Guthrie, and Beverly Smith of Levelland. Hostesses for the occasion were Kaitlyn Acevedo, Irma Bell, Judy Barnett, Pam Duke, Sheila Kuehler, Laura McCannies, Nancy McGreger, Janet Reed, Tina Seimens, Geraldine Tomanek, Jessica Trevino, Mitzti Welch, Dawn Vanderpol and Mary Jane Young.

Here N There

Keith and Pam Conner and grandson, Carson Conner of Midland and Bob and Stephanie Brannan and children of Lubbock visited Hazel Stockton during the weekend, Keith, Pam, and Carson also visited Keith's

dad, Bud Conner.

James, Stacia and Cody Propps returned home Sunday from a week's vacation with Stacia's family in Cancun, Mexico. This has been a tradition when any one in the family graduates from high school; the entire family (or at least those who can) takes the trip. Cody said they had a great time. Making the trip were Jimmie Kay and Don Liles, Shannon Propps, Shaylee Propps and James, Stacia and Cody.

Oscar and Shannon Gideon and children who live in Arizona were to arrive today for a week's visit with daughter (and sister) Ariel and family, his mom, Jane

Gideon, and dad, Weldon Gideon.

Diane and Ashlee Evans of Childress visited with me on Sunday. We all had supper with Debbie and Mike Moorhouse, Will and Dillon Keys. Peggy Shro-

phire of New Deal visited friends here on Sunday and attended church services at the Methodist and Baptist Church.

We're proud of one of our own, Wyman Meinzer, who will be the Grand Marshal

of the Parade this coming weekend, ushering in the annual Texas Cowboy reunion at Stamford. It will be hot, but I'm sure lots of people will be on hand to enjoy the four days of activities.

Sarah Clower Named to Dean's List at Hardin-Simmons University

Sarah Clower, of Benjamin, TX, has been named to the Hardin-Simmons University Dean's List for the Spring 2011 semester.

The Dean's List is comprised of students carrying 12 or more semester hours who obtain a GPA of 3.75-3.99.

With its 13:1 student-to-faculty ratio, students enjoy personal attention as they pursue over 70 fields of undergraduate study, 20 fields

of graduate study, and seven pre-professional programs.

For the 20th year, HSU guaranteed students a tuition rate that does not increase as long as full-time enrollment is maintained during consecutive fall and spring semesters. HSU also distributes approximately \$12 million each year in scholarships to students, and has an enrollment of approximately 2,300 undergraduate and graduate

students.

Founded in 1891, HSU is affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas and provides an academically challenging undergraduate education based on a liberal arts foundation. Combining a commitment to academic excellence with a concern for the development of the total person, Hardin-Simmons provides An Education Enlightened by Faith.

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Roadcheck 2011 inspected almost 8,000 commercial vehicles

During the 72-hour Roadcheck 2011 program last week, DPS and other Texas law enforcement agencies inspected 7,993 commercial vehicles. Of the vehicles inspected, 26.5 percent were placed out of service for safety violations.

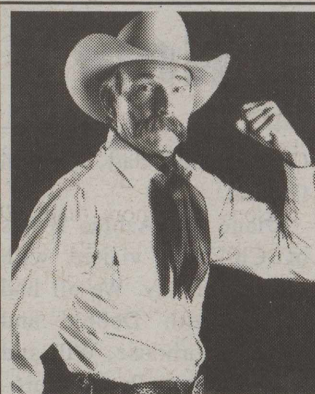
Throughout Roadcheck, DPS Commercial Vehicle Enforcement troopers, non-commissioned inspectors, and specially trained Highway Patrol troopers and officers from other agencies inspected safety equipment and checked driver log books, driver licenses and endorsements. They also looked for possible drug or alcohol use.

Officers placed 212 of the drivers (2.6 percent) out of service for reasons ranging from not properly tracking their hours of service to suspended, expired or cancelled driver licenses. Four drivers were placed out of service for drug or alcohol infractions. Troopers issued 17 tickets for seat belt violations.

Of the vehicles that were inspected, 26.5 percent were placed out of service because they were found to have serious enough safety violations to be removed from service until repairs could be made, including issues with the braking systems, tires, lights and safe loading.

The annual Roadcheck program, which stretches from Mexico to Canada, is designed to reduce commercial vehicle highway fatalities through increased vehicle safety. The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA), which sponsors Roadcheck, reports a significant decrease in the commercial vehicle crash rate in North America since the program's start in 1988.

Vehicles passing inspection received a CVSA decal exempting the vehicle from inspection for a 90-day period, unless they have an obvious safety defect. Troopers issued 2,515 decals during Roadcheck 2011.



ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE by Baxter Black, DVM

THE MAD COW ESCAPE

It's 6 1/2 hours from Sierraville to Modesto and the packing house. Karl had put together a load of cull cows. Whilst unloading, a bony gummer mama cow who looked like a ragged shag carpet hangin' over a sawhorse, balked, backed up, and fell between the chute and the truck!

Karl leaped after the critter shouting profanities! Ever Ready, as we'll call the cow, turned, charged and put him under the trailer. Evaluating his predicament, Karl dialed the nearby sale barn requesting assistance and to bring a rifle. Ever Ready wheeled and took off! She raced past the beef packing house, the tallow works, the hog plant and the hide plant, scattering a pack of smokers on a break! She hit the Stanislaw River and swam it like a porpoise, climbing out on the other side onto the golf course.

By the time the sale barn pickup found Karl, crossed the bridge, and swerved out onto the golf course, E.R. was chasing and menacing a foursome of retired bankers who had already downed half a fifth!

Karl was leaning out the sale barn pickup window wielding a rifle when a deputy sheriff with lights and a siren blaring forbade him to shoot the cow. "Against the law in the city limits," he explained, "Animal Control is on the way with a tranquilizer gun."

In the meantime twelve police cars had converged on the back nine. Animal Control arrived with the tranquilizer gun just as the Police Sergeant drove up. He said it's too dangerous to fire at the cow, what with there being an apartment complex just across the street. They must wait for the Swat Team who had a designated shooter.

In a stroke of professional genius the expected shooter made a quick analysis and, taking a page from the Modesto Rodeo, commandeered four patrol cars to chase the cow across a big par 5 as hazers, while he raced behind like a bulldogger to get close enough to bring her down! It was at that moment that Channel 3 arrived and joined the chase!

At ten o'clock that evening in an all-night café Karl was ordering a turkey and cheese sandwich to go with his antacids and stool softener. The television behind the counter was playing and the story of the great cow escape came on. Karl and the waitress watched the wild-looking cow running at full speed across a broad expanse of fairway being chased by, what appeared to be, the start of the Indy 500!

"Can you believe someone is dumb enough to let their cows out on the golf course!" the waitress asked indignantly.

Karl popped a Tums and said, "Yup, it's unbelievable"



Red tape. By any other name it's papierkrieg – German for "paper war."

Germans make good soldiers. Maybe it should be no surprise that the German term makes paperwork an enemy to be conquered. Who wouldn't rather be a soldier in the fight against bureaucratization and all its trappings than a victim tied up in an overabundance of tape, unable even to flail? The word "papierkrieg" holds at least some hope of victory.

Have I lost you?

Well, it's late. And I've been tied up in red tape myself. Or fighting the paperwork war, if you please.

Anyway, as long as we are noticing how things get cast differently in different languages, consider the operative French word "bureaucratization" as used above, even if it's not totally French. Or maybe it is.

INTERNET PAUSE.

Yep. Oui. It's a real French word, except you change the "z" to "s," which is probably also necessary for the British English spelling. But do we care? I'm past caring. Red tape affects me that way.

INTERNET PAUSE.

In case you were wondering where we get the expression "red tape," I'll save you some Googling. It's from England, where legal documents traditionally are bound in red tape. But when I myself think of red tape, I see instead the current Southwest Airlines commercial where a guy is being chased by a big ball of red tape or the one where a hapless family gets wrapped up in tape. Southwest to the rescue. If only it

were that easy.

Meanwhile, the word "bureau" holds some intrigue. How did "bureau" get to be part of a verb like "bureaucratize?" When I was a child, a bureau was either a piece of furniture or the name of my daddy's favorite organization, Farm Bureau.

Indeed, we were on a Farm Bureau trip to Washington, D.C. in July 1948 when I said my first sentence – "J. Z. gone town" – to the Statler Hotel porter who brought a glass of buttermilk to our room for me. Other babies drank formula; I drank buttermilk. At home on the farm we made our own, but at the Statler we were dependent on room service. Mother always remembered how that glass of buttermilk arrived on a silver tray with a small silver shaker of salt. Nice.

Anyway, there I was, an 18-month-old sipping buttermilk and developing verbal skills and no doubt hearing the word "bureau" left and right in the Farm Bureau context and, when back home, hearing my grandmother use the very same word to refer to the chest of drawers. Confusing.

Then I majored in French and found out that the most basic meaning of "bureau" in French is simply "desk," which makes the term "bureaucracy" easy to understand. Lots of desks.

The late Capt. Henry Spicer, my one-time boss in New Orleans, once told me "Give a person a desk, and they'll create a job."

There you have it. We don't have a job shortage in this country. We just need more desks.

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SAMMIE continued from page 4

of years. Riley also had a great time with them. They will be missed by many here and also by her mom, Nancy Boone in Seymour.

Kenny Lawson and the family were in this passed weekend to continue to work in his parent's home. I didn't get a chance to speak to them this visit, I'm pretty sure they were very busy taking care of business.

This week, Bill and Frankie Baker have headed to the cool mountains of Ruidoso for a month or two and I don't blame them. I would be going too if I could I've seen their little cabin and it is located in a wonderful spot. God take care of them.

As we listen to the news more and more fires are blazing. Everyday is more dangerous fire danger. Please be careful during the use of any kind of heating element, for not only your own protection, but for all of ours.

We hate to see two of our local hairdressers leaving us. Connie will be gone soon and Kristi King is too. I don't know when Kristi is planning on going, but I know that she will take care of her customers be-

fore she gets ready to go. They are both wonderful ladies who have great families. Ladies, you will be missed.

Wilma Hougan is having treatment and we are praying for her and sending her all the blessings we can. Here's praying that she will recover soon. Hope to see her come back to her station at Kristi K's Salon because we certainly miss her smiles and conversations. Wilma always has time for everyone, whether you are a customer of hers or not, she has a smile just for you.

I haven't had a chance to talk to Lindsay Penman. Maybe next week I will be able to get some details on Ray's recovery.

GREAT NEWS! Missy Eades has been hired as a Munday teacher and is really looking forward to doing what she does best, and what she has spent so many days and nights studying to do. She will definitely be great at it and will be a treasure in the Munday School. Look for Hope; she'll be the new manager at Penman's. Hope's husband, Matt Mueth will work for Cisitation Oil Company out of Midland in Aspermont. What a great

pair to add to our community.

Tracy and Paula Carter and kids spent the weekend at 6 Flags. I am sure they had a great time and are grateful to be home.

Kristi and Chris King enjoyed their Saturday morning having a moving sale while the boys were at camp with grandma, Paula Chambers. Chris made it through his military graduation and returned home just in time to get ready for the sale. Great timing.

The young ones will have one more day of Bible school on Thursday at Foursquare Church. They are having a blast. Come and join for all the fun you can possibly handle. Our Foursquare Church has been a great host and all our surrounding churches are supporting in great ways.

Before next week, I hope to have spent some time visiting with our people who are having health issues: Alfredo Abila, Norman Tolson, Danny Reece, Brandon Grimsley, Ray Penman, Wilma Hougan and anyone else.

Stay in touch and try and stay cool.

God bless our troops and each of us.

FIREWORKS continued from page 1

to not only become a blazing inferno, but to spread and destroy countless acreage, homes and livelihoods.

It is because of these very reasons that more than 220 counties Texas-wide have implemented Burn Bans. While these burn bans have been noted numerous times throughout the past months, and very visible reminders are posted in various places throughout the counties; when it comes to this upcoming celebrations, the Burn Ban takes on a whole new meaning.

The Burn Ban in Knox County (and others surrounding counties) includes the prohibition of fireworks. That means the usual tradition of setting off a nocturnal visual light show featuring the loud booming and popping of the biggest package of fireworks in celebration of freedom and all it is to be Americans must not occur this year. Those who violate this ban and chose to set off their annual lightshow will be issued a Class C Misdemeanor, face fines up to \$500 and have all their fireworks confiscated.

Yet it is not only the firework issue that needs to be minded this weekend. Barbeque pits and outdoor grilling are also forms of fire danger. According to the Texas Forestry Service, the recent Dyer Mill Fire in Grimes County, where more than 5,200 acres were burned and at least 30 homes lost, was started by a barbecue pit.

This is no joke. Texas is a beautiful place, but is also currently a firetrap. Use caution and common sense this weekend when celebrating.

LOOKING AHEAD continued from page 1

First Baptist Church of Knox City will reopen "His Kids" and "Teen Time" again this summer. June 21-August 9, "His Kids" will meet in the basement from 10:00 AM-Noon on Tuesdays. "His Kids" is for kids Pre-k through 6 grade. "Teen Time", for older youth in Jr. High and High School, will meet in the basement from 10:00 AM-Noon on Thursdays from June 23-August 11. Kids from pre-k and up are invited to come for fun, devotions and crafts. For further information you may call the

FBC KC at 657-3141.

O'Brien is having their community Vacation Bible School July 17-21 from 6 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at the O'Brien Baptist Church.

Sign-up for this "Beach Blast" event is Saturday Night from 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the Knox City Pool. For more information or to offer help call Lynn at 658-3553 or 658-3725.

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