

THE KNOX COUNTY NEWS

VOL. 39 NO. 42

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2011

75CENTS

Drought and high temps wreak havoc on local economy

Tamara Smart

Usually the later months of September into October and November, the edges of hwy 6 and 222 are riddled with cotton bolls that have flown from the constant trucks hauling back and forth from the O'Brien Co-op gin to the expansive cotton crop all over the landscape of Knox County. Yet, this year, one can safely foreshadow the absence of the snowy looks lining the roadways, as the cotton crop is being scraped by many a farmer as not even worth harvesting because of the severe drought that has riddled most crops to the brink of death. At this point, no dry land cotton can be found. Only the irrigated lands will be harvested, and only a handful of that is even slated for harvesting at that. The difference in the amount of dry-land cotton versus irrigated cotton is about 4 acres of dry-land cotton to 1 acre of irrigated. That means only a fourth of the planted cotton could even be considered for

harvest... and some of that cotton is being plowed up too.

Terry Utley, the Director of the O'Brien Co-op Gin, which processes all the local cotton production, told Knox County news that the numbers are down and dropping. Normally at this point in the year, 26,000 acres would have been committed to the gin. As of now, only 4,500 are committed. Utley has had to cut the number of seasonal staff too.

This comes off the heels of a pitiful wheat season. According to Hiram Whitaker who has worked at Benjamin Fertilizer for 22 years, he's never seen a drought so bad. Whitaker says that no dry land wheat was even harvested this past wheat harvest season, rather the farmers all plowed it up, realizing the extreme financial loss that harvesting would create. Irrigated wheat only brought in 5-9 bushels per acre (compared to the usual 20-25 bushels per acre on an average

DROUGHT
continued on page 11



At one time, this was a water hole from which wild life drank to sustain life. Now, with 76 days of over 100 degree heat and rain gauges full of dirt, not precipitation, this cryptic image dots the horizon of Knox County and surrounding areas.

Photo by Tamara Smart

LOOKING AHEAD

Registration for all the Knox City/ O'Brien schools is August 17 from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. Any new student to the district needs to bring their social security card, their birth certificate, and a current immunization record.

Registration for the MCISD needs to go to the school in which they want their child enrolled any time between now and when school starts. For new students, parents need to provide social security card, their birth certificate,

LOOKING AHEAD
continued on page 12



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GOD'S PROMISES

I know this sounds like a crazy title for something to do with faith, devotion or trust. If you will bear with me you will see that something can be learned about God, even from a pig.

As I was thinking about what I might write about I thought about what had happened between my pet pig Dottie and me. You see,

some time back I had told our Baptist preacher that I needed a pet pig to compliment all the other animals that reside at our house. We have miniature donkeys, chickens and a Jack Russell dog. A short time later, Brother Joseph showed up with a newborn wild pig. She was so young that still had her navel cord and was only a few days old.

As we began raising her on a bottle, with a feeding every few hours, cleaning her dog crate and training her to a litter box, needless to say we had bitten off more than we bargained for. She would take the bottle like she was starved and when she finished she would begin squealing like a mountain lion was killing her until we put her back in her crate. When we

were about at our wits end she was not getting any tamer, so it was time to go outside.

I made a donkey pen "pig proof" and put her a doghouse in it and things got better. She still didn't want to be touched or scratched, just had a "feed me and go away" attitude. Then, all of a sudden, she began to get excited whenever I came around and would grunt

and squeal when she couldn't get to me. I got the bright idea one day to see what she would do if I let her out to follow me. I took a walk from the south side of Rochester to downtown and back home again with her following along like a puppy.

Well, pigs get bigger and I began to think if anyone besides me went into her pen she might hurt them. I came to the painful

decision that it was time for her to go back into the wild, so I took her to my pasture about three miles from town. The first time she saw me out there she tried to follow me in my truck and I had to speed away. A couple of days went by and no Dottie. Then she showed up again and tried to follow me again. At this point, I decided that she wanted me to feed her and feeling guilty the next day I went out with feed and called and called, but no Dottie.

The next morning at about six a.m., I went back and there she was- Boy, was I relieved! I put some feed out for her. She ignored it and followed me with every step I took. I couldn't stand it any longer and decided that if she was willing to make the three mile journey home, I would let her come back. We made it about two miles and she got to hot to go on. I couldn't just leave her, so I called my wife to bring a bucket of water. We gave her a drink and poured water on her to cool her down. I had set to fast a pace so I decided to walk with her back home. Once again, she followed like a puppy all the way to her pen.

Now the burning question: what has this to do with faith or God? It seems that food, water or shelter were not the most important thing to Dottie; but the separation from her surrogate parent. The next day or so after we had returned home, we started from her pen to an open pasture and I side stepped into an alley way without her knowing and she began running all over the pasture and back into her pen. At first I thought she was just feeling good until she came close to me and I called her name. She stopped and smelled

The Knox County News

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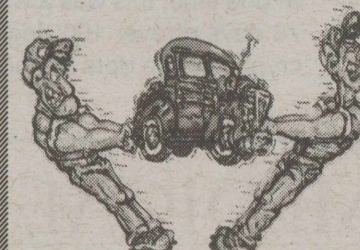


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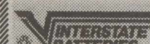
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See GOD'S PROMISES
on page 8

Just Jeff

By Jeff Stanfield

Coach Steele has become quite famous. Last week while playing golf in Wichita Falls, he had a woman chase him down the fairway just to bring him back his golf ball. See Coach had shanked a drive (kinda like Tiger does these days) and sent his ball into the tennis courts and this nice lady brought it back to show her appreciation of his golf skills. Not only did she retrieve the ball, but she had some really nice things to say about his golf game.

I felt sorry for him, not only was he speechless, but he was trying to drag his rear end from this ladies mouth because she was sure chewing it out. Me (being the good friend that I am) all I could do was take the wise advice my son, Payne, give: "Dad do not say anything to her". That was hard for even Payne to verbalize because it's hard to talk when you are crying from laughing. I finally took up for Coach. I told her we yelled "Fore." That went over about like passing gas in church. In fact she did not appreciate anything I had to say from that point on.

From then on she had some really mean things to say about us- until I was sure she understood it was Steele and not us who almost hit some poor kid. I pointed out how there were 4 golfers and 3 balls in the fairway, so only one of us must have shanked his drive. She then concentrated all of her anger towards the "Big Guy" said more unpleasant things about his game (something about Steele must be one heck of a golfer to hit way over there), and then proceeded to tell him he missed a girls head by 6 centimeters.

Honestly, that comment flew by all of us. I was like, "Six centimeters? Is that like

inches, yards, feet or miles?"

The metric thing is not my strong suit so she lost my sympathy on that. She then took our cart number and said she was reporting us to the golf course manager and then stormed off. Hey, I have been thrown out of lots of places in Wichita Falls- but a golf course would have been a new one. Luckily for us, there is no law about being bad off the tee box. She really needed to work on her sense of humor it was just a bad shot and he felt really bad. If she is married Coach does owe her husband an apology, I bet she was a barrel of laughs around the house that night.

No one needs to worry about coach being arrested, I fixed that for him. When we were leaving, I told the golf course manager that it was an accident and I assured him as a coach, Steele cared about kids and he would never do anything to harm them. I then told him if she had any problems or needed the cops to get a hold of this errant golfer, he just needed call Panther Creek High School and

ask for Mitch Lee... I am sure he will apologize for his wayward golf shot.

Well, to change things up a little each week I get the same question, are your boobs real? It is time to disclose the real answer: No.

I am just kidding. That is not the question I get, The question I get is: "Stanfield, do you know any single guys you can introduce me to?" Every week I get the same thing from... Well, I better not print their names, it will make them look desperate... but Ms. Miller and Ms. Camp each ask me the same thing. Ladies, guess what we have a new single teacher

moving in. He even has all of his teeth, he is a great cook and he showers regularly and yes, he is single. Ryan Faulks, who will take over as Mr. Cosby's replacement, is a graduate of the University of Tennessee and has been in Knox County for 5 years guiding duck hunts for us each winter. He and Cooper, his Lab, will be a huge addition to the high school. Ryan was lucky enough to be on the "death trip", the canoe outing last year that almost killed Steele, and Dusty and I. Welcome to living in Knox City year round Ryan!! God Bless

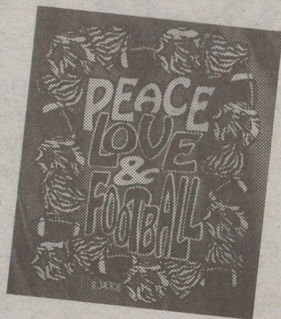
Jeff 'Better keep it in the Fairway' Stanfield

PUBLIC NOTICE

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SAMMIE'S KNOX CITY CORNER AND FINAL THOUGHTS

Sammie Offield

Monday started as a day on the road for me going to the hospital with my brother, Roy Rodriguez for a heart cath. The results were wonderful and he is home now and doing great with no complications. Thank you God and all the prayers that have been working... not just for us but also all over the nation.

Marvin Jones has had another visit from skin cancer on his right ear, but he says

that he's doing great and I've seen what they have done to some of his skin- he has no scars and has healed great. He is part of the guys I get to visit with at Bud's every morning. I look forward to our chats and catching up on the things I have missed with them.

I talked to Paula Carter and she says Kristi is still on the road trying to get set in their new home and waiting for the next move to when they can get their furniture. They are

in San Marcos. Hopefully her shop will sell and someone will come in and do as good of a job as she did. You can never have enough salons in a small community because everyone has a different style and variety of products to offer. Losing Kristi is very hard on me though, as she was my very good friend. I miss her and her family very much.

Diana Cassillas' mother form Munday, Dominga Ramirez has had a stroke.

She is having a difficult time remembering and suffering from a few side effects on her left side. She is still able to get around. She is at 10%, but she will have a long road of recovery ahead of her. With medication, therapy and time she will undoubtedly recover. Our prayers will help her in this time.

Ester Grindstaff is holding her own as I spoke to Jennifer this last week. They had spent all week in Abilene as she has been communicating

with them through pencil and paper. Ester is eating a little at a time and has a feeding tube and a oxygen line to help her breathe.

Harry Stten has also been taking care of his father in El Paso. It must be hard for these kids they work for their living and work to help keep their parents alive too. I know Sammy Jr. and Melony have been doing everything possible to keep

her comfortable too.

Well, school has started doing their two-a-days. Please protect your kids with plenty of water and rest as they work out in this terrible heat. We've seen what can happen when a person gets overheated or dehydrated by watching the news. Our kids and coaches are very important to us.

See SAMMIE on page 8

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THE KNOX COUNTY NEWS

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2011 Weekly Weather Report

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08/02	79	109	
08/03	78	108	
08/04	81	106	
08/05	79	104	
08/06	79	102	
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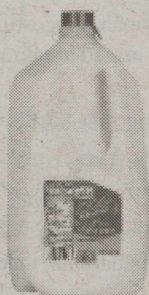
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OPINION

The Paperboy



Hey world, change your attitude!

By CHRIS BLACKBURN

What is the economy?

If you'll allow me some abstract thought... The economy is generated from attitude. Right now, there is a global negative attitude.

What if you had no clue what the national deficit was? What if, as far as you knew, everything was okay? Or at least, as good as it always is?

Would not knowing about global economic turmoil improve the economy? Of course it would. You would be more likely to fill up instead of just putting \$20 in the tank. You'd be more willing to shop for school and get your household needs out of the way.

In a perfect world, the economy would have a more natural flow. When you throw in humans with opposing economic philosophies, poor communication skills, and self-serving motives, you have a complete mess.

Speaking of the economy: there is one way the United States could change the sorry global attitude. President Obama could fire the idiots in his cabinet who have zero business experience and replace them with individuals with a variety of

experience.

If I were president, I would study history and look at what has worked in the past during economic turmoil. I would then surround myself with the most qualified people I could find to advise Congress on the best course of action. Furthermore, Congress would be back in session until we had a plan to get our fiscal house in order.

If Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner is the best Obama can do, that is an awful statement to the American people. Geithner needs to be fired and replaced with someone who has a proven record of turnarounds.

I promise such a move by Obama would get attention around the world. Instead, Obama gave Geithner a vote of confidence. I just don't understand this thinking.

How wonderful would it be if our members of Congress had term limits? I honestly think the culture in Washington could change if term limits were in place.

It's been my observation that when a member of Congress is in Washington for too long, they belong to Washington and not the Americans they work for. How else can they avoid arriving at the same conclusions we do in our every day lives?

Another benefit to term limits would be the amount of time

and money it takes to win elections. If our representatives and senators were limited to one or two terms, I think you'd see quicker action out of both bodies. I also think you'd see action for the greater good instead of special interests.

There is no question our financial system needs to be retooled for today's world. There is also no question our political system needs work as well.

Did you know that the majority of our fighting forces come from rural America? They do. The brave men and women doing the hard work are from our towns and we need to keep them and their families in our thoughts and prayers every day.

When you've been at war as long we have, those insulated from it begin to take it for granted. But their wives, husbands, moms, dads and children don't.

I'm very proud of those of you serving and supporting the troops. You are owed much for your sacrifice and I sincerely hope you can feel our support from where you are.

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

Downgrade Should Remind D.C. Politicians They Are Mere Mortal

By ADAM BTELY

The political class in Washington got a wake up call late Aug. 5 — they are just as mortal as the rest of humanity.

For some strange reason, many of the political elite were astounded that Standard & Poor's would downgrade the U.S. credit rating. What seems so obvious to so many people, appears to be a foreign concept to those in D.C..

When a nation has over \$14 trillion in debt, and increases their borrowing limit by over \$2 trillion over a year and a half, and only vows to cut about \$1 trillion over a decade, it's no wonder that a credit ratings agency would downgrade the U.S. credit rating.

But what is most important here is the lesson that some politicians might finally learn from this incident — and that is that the political elite in Washington have to abide by the same rules as everybody else.

Politicians on the campaign trail have long felt a need to proclaim that America has some sort of exceptional advantage over the rest of the world. This is commonly believed to be true, but when a believer is asked to explain, they usually point to a flag, a politician, or some sort of government building as evidence of

such claims.

But what has made America great is its relatively free market economy — not politicians and government meddlers who are ever increasing the government's size and scope.

Many elected officials have fallen prey to the belief that because America is exceptional, they as the leaders of the government must also be exceptional. And that is why the responses from these people when their credit rating was downgraded came as no surprise.

Some seemed shocked that S&P would point out that over \$14 trillion in debt is slightly high. Others claimed that S&P is in no position to pass judgment on credit ratings.

Have our politicians forgotten that they racked up such massive debts that have no realistic way to be repaid at this point in time?

Washington politicians need to look at the credit downgrade as a wake-up call, a reminder that they have to abide by the same spending laws that everyone else abides by. But as Obama indicated Monday, he is content on continuing to live in the fantasyland that the U.S. still has a AAA credit rating, and will completely disregard the lessons from this downgrade.

Liberal talking heads such as Michael Moore, taking a page

from Fidel Castro, suggested on Twitter yesterday that Obama should arrest the CEO of Standard & Poor's suggesting that their action of downgrading U.S. credit was aimed at taking down the economy.

Paul Krugman weighed in suggesting that S&P's is trying to murder the economy, stating in the New York Times, "If there's a single word that best describes the rating agency's decision to downgrade America, it's chutzpah — traditionally defined by the example of the young man who kills his parents, then pleads for mercy because he's an orphan."

It would appear that the nation's leaders have no appetite for learning their lessons. Instead, Obama and his cohorts in Washington plan on continuing to live in the myth that you can borrow and spend as much as you please, with no possible repercussions.

If only they would come to the realization that they are mere mortals, and can't repeal the basic economic laws that govern every household in America and every other country in the world just because they are the temporary custodians of power in Washington, our nation would be a better place.

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
CITY OF BENJAMIN, TEXAS
TDRA PROJECT NO. 710059**

Separate sealed bids for the construction of **WATER TREATMENT PLANT** will be received by the **CITY OF BENJAMIN, TEXAS** until **Thursday August 18, 2011, at 12:00 p.m.**, at City Hall, 303 South Hinton Street, Benjamin, Texas 79505, and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud. This project includes four contracts. Contract #1 consists of the construction of 3.83 acres of Evaporation Ponds with in-situ liner. Contract #2 consists of the provision and installation of all required RO equipment including RO Skid, CIP Equipment, WTP Control and associated appurtenances. Contract #3 consists of the provision and installation of a 30'x24' Water Treatment Plant Building including concrete foundation, electrical, chemical containment, and associate appurtenances. Contract #4 consists of clearing and grubbing the Evaporation Pond site and adjoining 100' around the property, approximately 8.5 acres total.

• **CONTRACTS #1 AND #4 WILL BE BID AT A LATER DATE. THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS FOR CONTRACTS #2 AND #3 ONLY.**

The Contract Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Contract, Performance and Payment Bonds, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Plans, Specifications, Wage Rate Determination, Addenda (if any) and Project Contracting and compliance Provisions may be examined at the following location:

JACOB & MARTIN, LTD., Consulting Engineers
3465 Curry Lane, Abilene, Texas 79606

Bids will not be received from contractors who have not obtained original plans and specifications from Jacob & Martin. Bids shall be submitted on original documents and the entire specification book must be returned with bid. No faxes or copies of bid sheets will be accepted.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to awarding of the contract.

Copies of the Contract Documents and half size (11 X 17) plans may be obtained from Jacob & Martin, Ltd., 3465 Curry Lane, Abilene, Texas 79606 (325-695-1070), upon payment of \$75.00 (non-refundable) for each set. Checks should be made to the order of Jacob & Martin, Ltd.

A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of **City of Benjamin**, negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid.

Bidder's attention is called to the fact that not less than the federally determined prevailing wage rate, as issued by the Texas Department of Rural Affairs and as set forth in the Contract Documents, must be paid on this project, and that the Contractor must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Adherence to the grant recipient's Section 3 Policy is required for contracts and subcontracts in excess of \$100,000.00.

CITY OF BENJAMIN, TEXAS

By: Sylinda Meinzer
Mayor

Date: August 4, 2011

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
CITY OF O'BRIEN, TEXAS
TDRA PROJECT NO. 710531**

Separate sealed bids for the construction of **WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IRRIGATION** will be received by the **CITY OF O'BRIEN, TEXAS** until **Thursday, August 18, 2011 at 1:00 P.M.**, at City Hall, 1102 Grand Central Avenue, O'Brien, Texas 79539 and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud. This project consists of installing two floating irrigation pumps, 307 feet center pivots, electrical, controls and 4" PVC irrigation piping to center pivot.

The Contract Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Contract, Performance and Payment Bonds, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Plans, Specifications, Wage Rate Determination, Addenda (if any) and Project Contracting and compliance Provisions may be examined at the following location:

JACOB & MARTIN, LTD., Consulting Engineers
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Bids will not be received from contractors who have not obtained original plans and specifications from Jacob & Martin. Bids shall be submitted on original documents and the entire specification book must be returned with bid. No faxes or copies of bid sheets will be accepted.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to awarding of the contract.

Copies of the Contract Documents and half size (11 X 17) plans may be obtained from Jacob & Martin, Ltd., 3465 Curry Lane, Abilene, Texas 79606 (325-695-1070), upon payment of \$40.00 (non-refundable) for each set. Checks should be made to the order of Jacob & Martin, Ltd.

A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of the City of O'Brien negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid.

Bidder's attention is called to the fact that not less than the federally determined prevailing wage rate, as issued by the Texas Department of Rural Affairs and as set forth in the Contract Documents, must be paid on this project, and that the Contractor must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Adherence to the grant recipient's Section 3 Policy is required for contracts and subcontracts in excess of \$100,000.00.

CITY OF O'BRIEN, TEXAS

By: Janice Frost
Mayor Pro-Tem

Date: August 4, 2011

GOD'S PROMISES continued from page 2

my hand and calmly walked off. That is when I realize the connection.

When you think of Hell, most people think of the flames and the pain of burning. Yet, the worst part of Hell is the separation from the Father. Total darkness means no light and God is light. Once again that separation being another pain worst than the flames and brimstone. If you think of a time in your life you felt the loneliest and magnify that by the largest amount

you can imagine, even then it wouldn't begin to describe the pain of separation from the Father.

So little Dottie reaffirmed to me that every human needs to be with the Creator to ever feel really loved and safe. My security comes from knowing that I will never be separated from Him, and, like Dottie, when we want to come home to be with Him he will guide us. If need be, He will walk with us back into the fold. Unlike Dottie, where I caused the

separation, when we separate ourselves from the Father, all we have to do is start the journey home and He will be with us all the way.

If you are like Dottie and wanting to come home, He is waiting on you to make the first move.

Ricki Russell

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SAMMIE continued from page 4

The Garcia's from O'Brien and Knox City (Migo, Lou, Elda and Connie) came together this past weekend for a reunion. I'm sure they had a great time. On Sunday Elda and Alex Martienez renewed their wedding vows by the Catholic Church, followed by a reception at the hall with a small dance. May God bless them.

Saturday, our Foursquare

Church hosted a national prayer for 2 and a half hours as we gathered to pray for our nation, economy, families and for peace. It was a wonderful experience to come together for a cause so high and so needed.

Sunday, Eddie and I went to Dairy Queen in Munday for lunch and got to talk to Bill and Johnny Pearl Smith. She has been battling some

caner and also has endured three rounds of chemo. She will probably start another one soon, but she looks good; maybe a little tired, but she says she is doing really well. They are always so full of joy and wonderful to visit with. I assured her that she is in our prayers and thoughts. They lived in Knox City for the longest time. Bill worked for the telephone company until he retired and moved to Munday. They are a great couple and great friends.

I have no further information on Ray Penman lately, but I am sure the doctor is keeping him busy. I know recovery can be a long road. He will also remain in our prayers and thoughts.

This coming Saturday is a great golf day for all out Ag Oil Golfers at the Knox City Country Club. The annual affair will have 2 tournaments in one day with lots of fun, food and refreshments. May they have a safe day that is much cooler than what we have been experiencing. If you would like to sponsor the tournaments and haven't had a chance, you can contact Gilbert Casillas, Eddie Offield or Tracy Carter. They can give you more information.

Mario and Linda Abila celebrated the graduation of daughter, Lezle, from nursing school with a surprise party to honor her and show her how proud they are of her. Lezli-congratulations from Uncle Eddie and Aunt Sammie. We love you.

I also want to say Thank You for all your thoughtfulness during the struggle with my brother's health and hospital stay. Thanks from the bottom of my heart for your prayers and visits.

May God Bless our troops and each of us.

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Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

Same song- umpteenth verse: hot, Hot, HOT and dry, Dry, DRY- but at least there is some severe thunderstorms predicted in some areas nearby, so that is encouraging. Just maybe we will get a little relief.

The news on Chad Tolson is about as it has been for several weeks. Not much change. Each day brings hope for some encouraging report.

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I urge everyone to continue to pray for this family.

Sympathy to the family of Will Kendrick today. Will died during the weekend of what appeared to be heat

exhaustion. His body has been sent to Lubbock for an autopsy. Will and Patty had lived here about 1 and See **BENJAMIN NEWS** on page 10

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Legal Notice

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Childress

Contract 6227-13-001 for INSTALLATION OF CULVERT & DRIVEWAY IN KNOX County will be opened on September 08, 2011 at 1:00 pm at the State Office for an estimate of \$60,039.00. Contract 6227-14-001 for CRACK SEALING in DONLEY County, etc will be opened on September 09, 2011 at 1:00 pm at the State Office for an estimate of \$477,053.80.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.txdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.

NPO: 37325


State Office

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

Dist/Div Office(s)

Childress District
District Engineer
7599 U.s. 287
Childress, Texas 79201-9705
Phone: 940-937-2571

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

50-197
(Rev. 05-06/10)


Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The Knox County Commissioners Court will hold two public hearings on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by 2 percent (percentage by which proposed tax rate exceeds lower of rollback tax rate or effective tax rate calculated under Chapter 26, Tax Code). Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The first public hearing will be held on August 18th at 10:00 A.M. in the Assembly Room at the Courthouse.

The second public hearing will be held on August 23rd at 10:00 A.M. in the Assembly Room at the Courthouse.

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR: Judge Floyd, Commissioners Birkenfeld, McCown & Urbanczyk
AGAINST:
PRESENT and not voting:
ABSENT: Commissioner Griffith

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in 2010 last year was \$ 27,437 (average taxable value of a residence homestead in the taxing unit for the preceding tax year, disregarding residence homestead exemptions available only to disabled persons or persons 65 years of age or older). Based on last year's tax rate of \$ 0.766253 (preceding year's adopted tax rate) per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed last year on the average home was \$ 210.24 (tax on average taxable value of a residence homestead in the taxing unit for the preceding tax year, disregarding residence homestead exemptions available only to disabled persons or persons 65 years of age or older).

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in 2011 this year is \$ 29,109 (average taxable value of a residence homestead in the taxing unit for the current tax year, disregarding residence homestead exemptions available only to disabled persons or persons 65 years of age or older). If the governing body adopts the effective tax rate for this year of \$ 0.7455701 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$ 216.74 (tax on average taxable value of a residence homestead in the taxing unit for the current tax year, disregarding residence homestead exemptions available only to disabled persons or persons 65 years of age or older).

If the governing body adopts the proposed tax rate of \$ 0.766253 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$ 223.05 (tax on the average taxable value of a residence homestead in the taxing unit for the current tax year, disregarding residence homestead exemptions available only to disabled persons or persons 65 years of age or older).

Members of the public are encouraged to attend the hearings and express their views.

Knox County Aging Services

Menus For August 15th To August 19th

Monday August 15th

Salsbury Steak/Gravy
Rice
Mixed Vegetables
Sliced Bread
Fruit

Tuesday August 16th

Fish/Tartar Sauce
Cole Slaw
Macaroni/Tomatoes
Hush Puppies
Cookies

Wednesday August 17th

Pork Roast/Gravy
Carrot/Raisin Salad
Buttered Potatoes
Hot Rolls
Jello/Fruit

Thursday August 18th

Chicken Spaghetti
Salad
Garlic Toast
Fruit Crunch

Friday August 19th

Bbq On A Bun
French Fries
Dessert
New Serving Time Is 12
Noon (In Knox City Only)
Alternate Desserts For
Diabetics
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BENJAMIN NEWS continued from page 9

a half years and he was the grandson of former resident, Mary Powell. Memorial services are pending at this time.

Here N There

Bob and Janet Powers of Springdale, Arkansas spent several days last week with their sister-in-law, Lorene Powers. Also visiting was her nephew, Sam Powers and a friend of Henrietta.

Sue Terry and children spent the weekend with her parents, Jane Gideon and Weldon Gideon. Sue and her family live near Dallas.

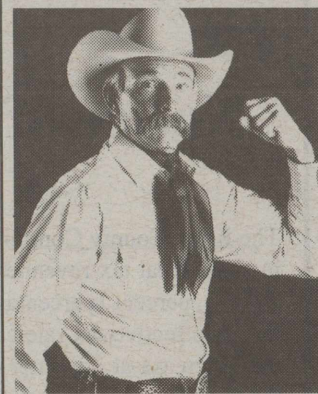
Debi Moorhouse and Dillon Key were in Amarillo on Saturday. They took her grandchildren, Lexie, Katie, and Blaze Taylor home after they visited here for 2 weeks. Chance Gallion of Childress is spending this week with Dillon.

Helen Green who lives in Guthrie called today. She said her brother, James Coppedge,

is hanging in there. He feels pretty well most of the time. He is taking blood every week to help keep his strength up. She said he and his wife were in the area a few weeks ago and they all had a family get together. All were there except a sister who lived in Arizona. She said they all had a good time. James lives at College Station and has been battling cancer for several years.

Ron Yast called today just to see how things are here in Knox County. Of course, he's a Munday native, but lives in Denver, Colorado for several years now. He said it was cool, and pleasant out there.

Jeff Conner and Cayden and Larry Vaughn and children, James and Jordan visited Jeff's mother, Judy Barnett and her husband Randy one day last week. Randy took them all fishing at Miller Creek during their visit.



ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE by Baxter Black, DVM

DISPOSABLE TAILGATES

Our regular goin'-to-the-pasture rig, a one-ton 4-wheel drive '97 GMC diesel with 256,439 miles, was in the shop. So we brought out the ol' standby; a 1969 Ford F-250 ¾ ton 4-speed with split rims and a manual choke. It has a B&W turnover gooseneck ball made during the civil war, I think.

My son hooked up the old Ford to the gooseneck trailer, loaded the horses and went to check the cows. They came back, unhooked the trailer and took a load of trash to the dump with the Ford. I returned from the shop with the Jimmy and backed up to the trailer. In the rear view the trailer's electric hook-up looked different? On closer exam I could see the male plug was gone and the wires had been stripped! Oh, no. I silently prayed that he'd at least dropped the tailgate before he drove off.

It happens to us all. It's one of those moments like accidentally drilling a hole in the gas tank, or tightening a bolt till the head breaks off, or thinking "It'll hold one more cow!"

My Iowa friend Steve has a history of minor collisions. It's always entertaining to ride with him. Some farmers of his caliber paint their company name or logo on the truck door; Agri-Beef or Sky View Farms. Steve's vehicles are easily recognized by their damaged fenders and tailgates.

I remember staring at the back of his fairly new pickup and asking, "How's the new gooseneck?" Then I looked closer. It wasn't just buckled out like someone had tried to pull it up nor down nor in nor out, it was all of the above. It resembled a Tyrannosaurus Rex chew toy!

Turns out he had unhooked the gooseneck, forgot to drop the tailgate and drove off. Next day, tailgate down, he jumped in the cab, glanced in the rear view and backed into the meter pole! He swore someone had moved it while he was in the shop!

A year later he told me he'd gone out to cut hedge posts and left the tailgate down. After cutting and stacking the posts in the bed of the pickup, he climbed in, put it in reverse and backed into a good-sized tree! His story to this day is that it had grown right up behind him while he was cutting!

Last month we pulled out of his circle driveway and he hit a flat-bed trailer that they used to haul their 4-wheelers. I heard a screech, felt a bump and could hear something dragging in the gravel but it was below our field of vision. However, it didn't seem to slow the truck any.

"I think you hit something," I said, "Should we stop and check?"

"Whatever," he said, and drove on.

www.baxterblack.com



If you rent a house in the country that's in ill repair, rent to an animal lover and tell them no pets.

How so? People who like animals are less likely to freak out over the occasional snake in the toilet or nocturnal scratching noises in the attic. The trick is to find a renter who doesn't like animals too much to do battle with the invaders.

Why the no-pet rule? A typical old house in the country doesn't need more fleas.

Meanwhile, our animal readers – raccoons especially -- are questioning my use of the term "invader." In my mind's eye, Mr. Raccoon is wearing glasses and reading the morning paper, shaking his head and raising his eyebrows at the idea of being called an invader. In the background Mrs. Raccoon is fixing breakfast – eggs and bacon. She's wearing an apron. They're in the attic.

Well, I've got a message for raccoons. Get off welfare! If it weren't for us humans and our garbage and dripping outdoor hydrants and houses with the occasional accessible attic, you'd have to live in trees and find food on your own and wash your cute little hands and faces in creeks. So there.

Think I'm kidding about snakes in the house and raccoons in the attic? Ask my renter. Her name is Terri.

By the way, as you perhaps know, you don't have to live in the country to be invaded by wildlife, raccoons especially. They're everywhere. I remember seeing a whole family traipsing through Wichita

Falls very early one morning – downtown, at that. Seems like they were near the main post office.

Here's another rule of thumb:

If you have raccoons in your attic, it's best not to have any holes in the ceiling. Small raccoons fall through ceiling holes. They are cute when they're little.

Also, if you have an air conditioner cooling the room with the hole in the ceiling, expect the raccoons to hang out near the hole. After all, it's hot in the attic.

Advice to landlords:

If you visit your renter, don't sit under the hole.

I don't make these things up.

Last night when I dropped in on Terri, we ended up in the cool room with the hole in the ceiling. I sat not quite under the hole. No little raccoons tumbled through. No big raccoons peered down. Fine with me.

But, according to Terri, the usual scenario these days is less dramatic. A resident raccoon simply settles in close to the hole and drops one leg down to feel the cool air. It's that kind of heat wave.

Some people who've had to sell all their cattle because of the extended drought are still keeping a water tank full for the deer. That's nice.

At the other end of the spectrum, Terri is air conditioning raccoons. Oh well.

Years from now we'll all be swapping tales about how we survived the summer of 2011. Some venerable raccoons are going to have the best story of all.

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DROUGHT continued from page 1

year). In Knox the amount of dry land wheat outweighs the irrigated wheat by 8 to 1. Yet, for those farmers who did harvest wheat, although the production was down 50% or so, the price of wheat was up. One farmer commented, "Because wheat prices were \$6 to \$8.50 per bushel, even though I only had half the production, I still made the same amount of money as a normal year."

The drought is not only effecting Knox County, but all the surrounding areas as well. According to John Rector the

director of the FSA in Knox City, "This situation is serious. It is not only affecting crops directly, but cattle and means of irrigation." Rector explains that wells are getting weaker and weaker for both irrigation and residential water.

The whole Knox County economic landscape is reeling from the effects of this drought, too. During wheat harvesting, restaurants, stores, motels and RV parks are usually packed with custom harvesters from out of town. Where a normal year brings at least 8 custom

harvesters with enough people to operate 3-4 machines and several grain trucks, this year only four custom harvesters reported to the Knox City gin... and with them, each harvester only brought 1 or 2 machines with them, reducing the "tourist heads in beds" significantly. Local diners prices are going up, others are closing several days a week.

On another economic staple in Knox County, the drought is killing wild life faster than hunters can get out and do their thing. Jeff Stanfield, co-owner

of Stanfield Hunting Outfitters candidly speaks about the decline in hog and deer in the wild. For Stanfield's though, the main bulk of their business comes with migratory bird hunts. Stanfield predicts the numbers will be down on the hunts simply because of the decline in local agriculture. For geese hunts, would-be hunters lay in wait for their prey in peanut or milo fields, where the birds gather for food. Yet, because the apparent lack of peanuts or milo fields, the less places for the birds to graze,

the less migration, which will go through this area. Stanfield notes, though, that can all change with a good amount of rain by the end of September.

As of Tuesday, August 9, 2011, Knox County has endured 64 consecutive days of over 100 degree weather; that is not a total of over 100 degree weather in 2011, that is just the consecutive days. All in all, in the 221 days that have passed in 2011, 76 of those days have seen 100 or greater temps. (Weather stats according to the weekly NRCS local weather

submitted to the Knox County News.) Rector predicts another 30 days, other people predict more. Local churches are getting together for community prayer services to beg God for relief. It has been 56 days since any precipitation that anyone on Knox County soil witnessed, which fell on June 15 when .15" bathed the dry dirt. Year to date- Knox has only gotten 2.22". Last year at this time, the rain count was 22.33". That is a difference of over twenty inches. The weather forecasters don't foresee an end in sight.

NOTICE

1. The Benjamin Independent School District offers career and technology education in programs in Agricultural Science, Computer Applications, and Business Education. Admission to these programs is based on grade level and desire of the student.
2. It is the policy of the Benjamin Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
3. It is the policy of Benjamin Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
4. Benjamin ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.
5. For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator, Olivia Del Hierro Gloria, at P.O. Box 166, Benjamin, TX 79505; telephone-(940) 459-2231.

FORMA DE MUESTRA

1. Benjamin ISD ofrece programas vocacionales en Agriculture Science, Computer Applications, y Business Education. La admision a estos programas se basa en nivel y el deseo de el estudiante.
2. Es norma de Benjamin ISD no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, en sus programas, servicios o activades vocacionales, tal como lo requieren el Titulo VI de la Ley de Deprechos Civiles de 1964, segun enmienda; el Titulo IX de las Emmiendas en la Educacion, de 1972, y la Seccion 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitacion de 1973, segun enmienda.
3. Es norma de Benjamin ISD no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, impedimento o edad, en sus procedimientos de empleo, tal como lo requieren el Titulo VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, segun enmienda; el Titulo IX de las Enmiendas en la Educacion, de 1972, la ley de Discriminacion por Edad, de 1975, segun enmienda, y la Seccion 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitacion de 1973, segun enmienda.
4. Benjamin ISD tomara las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso de la lengua ingles no sea un obstaculo para la admision y participacion en todos los programas educativos y vocacionales.
5. Para informacion sobre sus derechos o procedimientos para quejas, comuniquese con el Coordinador del Titulo IX, Olivia Del Hierro Gloria, P.O. Box 166 Benjamin, TX 79505, (940) 459-2231.

Special Education Child Find 3-5 Year olds Screening dates set

ATTENTION PARENTS:

If you are a resident of any of the following school districts:

- Benjamin ISD
- Knox City/ O'Brien CISD
- Munday CISD
- Paint Creek ISD or
- Rule ISD

Haskell- Knox Shared service Arrangement is cooperation with the school districts it represents (see above) are holding some screenings for children 3-5 years of age whose parents have concerns of the developmental levels where their child functions. These screenings will be September 12, 13 14, 15 16, 2011.

In the Spirit of Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Act (IDEA, 2004) and No Child Left Behind (NCLB) we will focus on keeping children in their most natural settings wherever possible, while focusing in on supports for areas of delays.

If you have concern with your child who is 3 or older and not yet in kindergarten; in the area of:

- Mental
- Learning
- Speech
- Motor and/or
- Emotional skills...

PLEASE call HKSSSA to set up an appointment. The number is 658-3587. Once an appointment time is set, you will be asked to bring your child's birth certificate, social security card and immunization record with you and the child on the day of the appointment.

If your child is under the age of 3 years old, and you have concerns with their development; then you are encouraged to contact Little Lives- ECI @ 1-800-852-2193 for their program.

LOOKING AHEAD continued from page 1

and a current immunization record. For transfer students, previous school information needs to be provided. Registration packets are available at schools.

Munday Elementary Meet-the-Teachers is on Friday August 19 from 1 p.m until 3.p.m. Come meet your kids teachers, drop off school supplies and become familiar with the building.

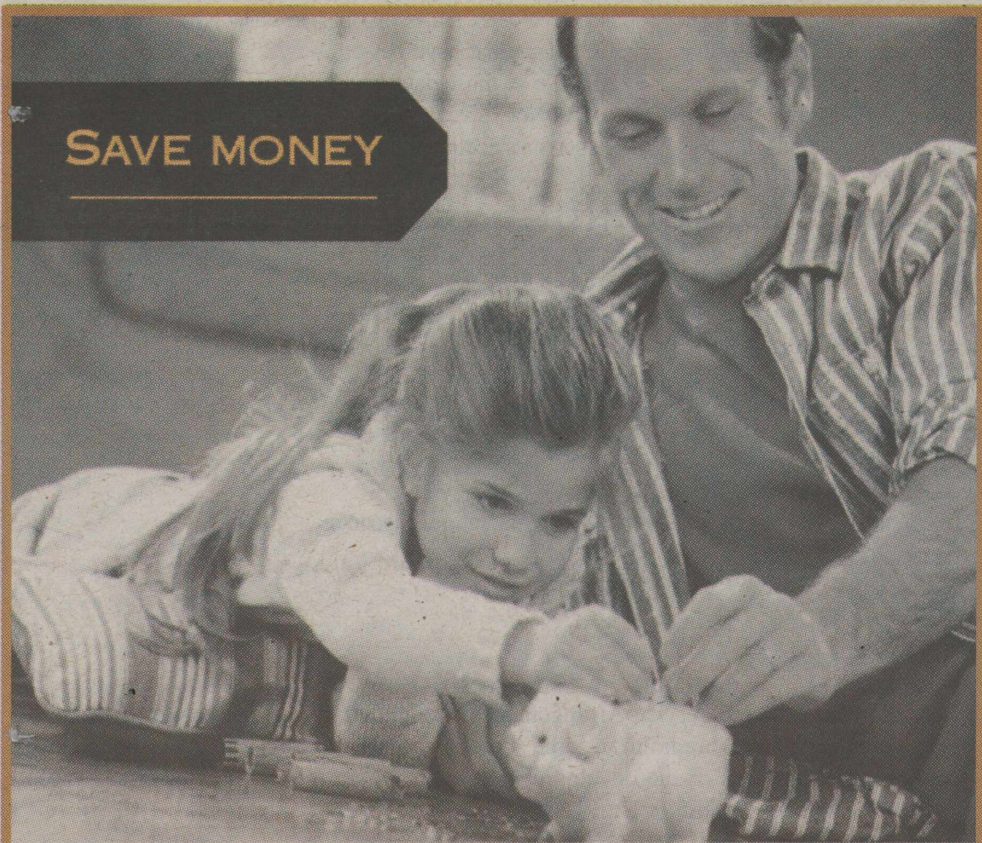
BISD has registration for PreK or any new student on-going-until the beginning of school. Come by BISD to register.

First day of school for KC/O'Brien CISD, MCISD, and BISD is August 22. Make sure to eat a hearty, healthy breakfast and come ready to learn!

MIDNIGHT MADNESS FOR THE GREYHOUNDS

Greyhounds prepare for their upcoming season with a public practice at midnight, when the weather is... well, not 100 degrees. The season starts with a scrimmage on August 13 at 6 p.m in Knox City.

Photos by Michelle Stanfield



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res Patterson, 806-447-5684, leave a
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Basic service call \$55. (0811p)**

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to (40_463-3679. (TFN)

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**KNOX CITY - The Knox County
News is accepting applications for
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elove@blackburnmediagroup.com.
(0825)

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PADUCAH - Land for Sale South-east Cottle County 486 Acres of hunting & farm land for sale 14 miles southeast of Paducah includes 2 br house & barn Land currently in crp willing to subdivide 160 acres to sell. Contact 913-269-9327 or 817-706-4445. (8/31p)

Houses for Sale

CHILDRESS - House for Sale 706 Ave 1 SE Childress, Texas 4BR/2 bath brick with fireplace, wood floors, 1.5 city lots, 600sf shop, and a storage building. E-mail Russell Graves(russell@russellgraves.com) for more information. Seller is a licensed real estate agent. (TFN)

LARRY JONES REAL ESTATE - FLOYDADA ** Excellent 3 bed-2 bath home with 2 car garage in great neighborhood!! ** Cozy 3 bed-1 bath home with carport in country with 3.6 acres!! Call Dedra at 806-543-7540 for more details or appointment. (6-TFN)

MEMPHIS - House for Sale - 1121 Montgomery, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. \$6,900. Call Trustar Real Estate. 806-665-4595. (TFN)

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MEMPHIS - The Memphis Housing Authority has apartments for rent. One, two and three bedroom units are available at this time. Interested persons should visit the Housing Authority office at 216 south. 6th street to pick up an application. (TFN)

Miscellaneous

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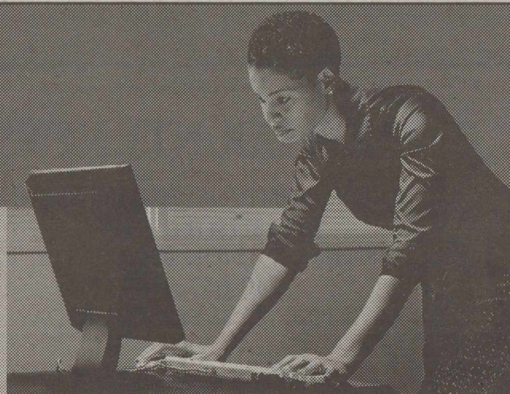
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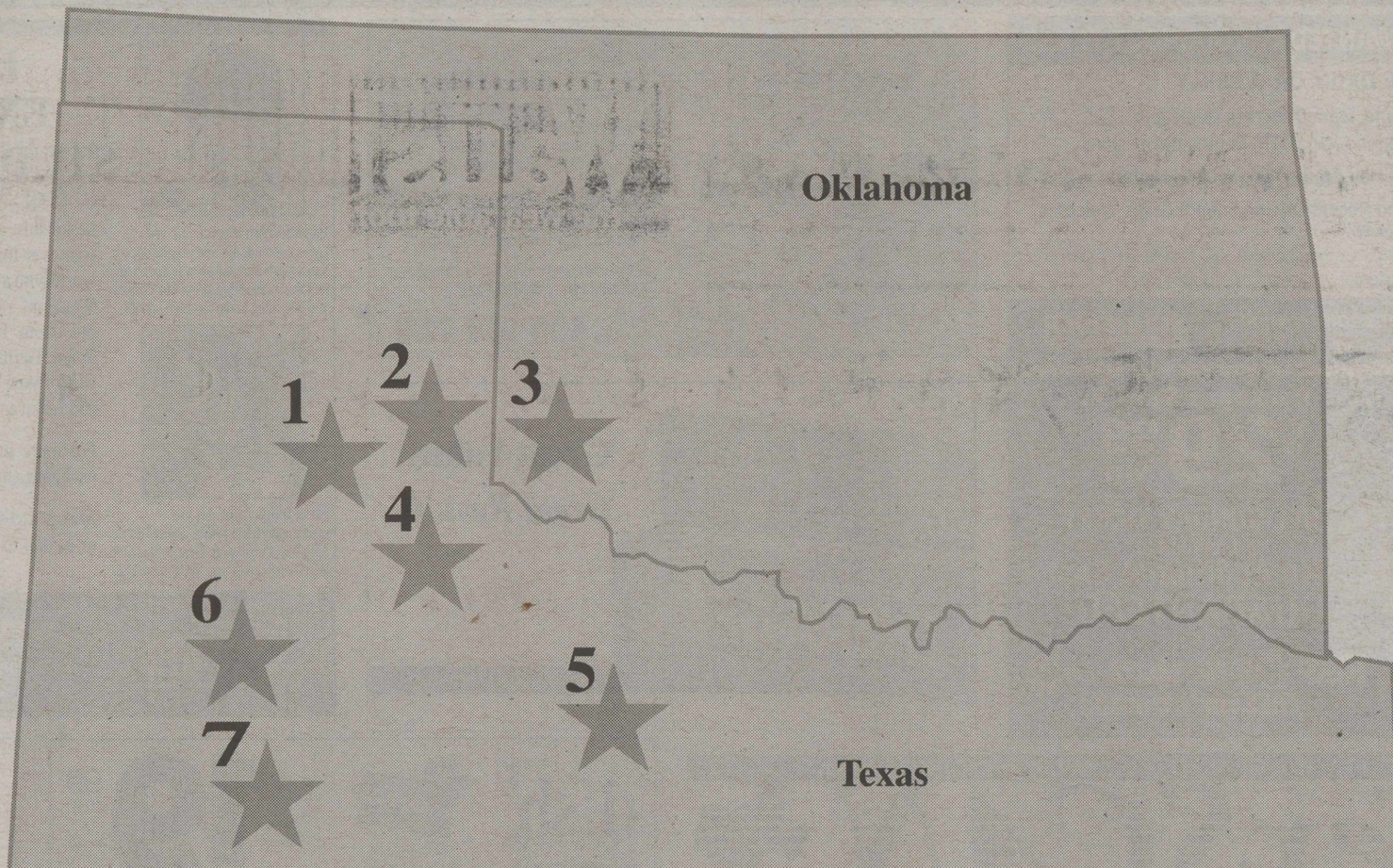
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NEW TEXAS CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY LAW

Save a Life
Texas Department of Transportation

NEW TEXAS LAW Effective 9/1/2009

A child up to 8 years old, unless taller than 4 feet 9 inches, must ride in a child safety seat.

Most children between ages 4 to 8 will need a booster seat to be safe and comply with the law. Safety experts recommend that all children under age 13 ride in the backseat. Adults and children must be buckled up whether they are in the front or back seat.

4 STEPS FOR KIDS

Make sure all children in your vehicle are properly secured. Use a child safety seat appropriate for their age, weight and height.

State law requires that you always follow the manufacturer's instructions.



REAR-FACING SEATS

From birth to as long as possible, up to the weight or height limit of the seat. At a minimum, keep rear-facing until age 1 and 20 lbs.



FORWARD-FACING SEATS

From a minimum of age 1 and 20 lbs until the child reaches the upper weight or height limit of the seat.



BOOSTER SEATS

From about age 4 to about age 6, or up to 4 feet 9 inches.



SAFETY BELTS

From 6+ years old or taller than 4 feet 9 inches.

Still not sure which safety seat is right for your child? Contact Safe Riders at 1-800-252-8255 for more information.

Make sure your family has a plan in case of an emergency.

Ready ✓

Fill out these cards, and give one to each member of your family to make sure they know who to call and where to meet in case of an emergency. For more information on how to make a family emergency plan, go to ready.gov



Family Emergency Plan

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME: _____
TELEPHONE: _____

OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACT NAME: _____
TELEPHONE: _____

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING PLACE: _____
TELEPHONE: _____

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION: _____

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

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TELEPHONE: _____

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