

THE KNOX COUNTY NEWS

VOL. 39 NO. 52

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2011

75CENTS

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

The Knox County News 40th Anniversary Edition

By Sherry Reid

It's Saturday morning and as the rain drenches our moisture-starved area, I take a trip down memory lane in preparation for this article commemorating the 40th anniversary of the *Knox County News*.

As I read through numerous past editions of this paper, many of the names were familiar in the form of relatives of those we know today, or where many are still active in this community in 2011. They are who have made, or are making Knox County what it is today.

I begin in September of 1971. During this month the *Knox County Herald* became the *Knox County News* after the *Herald* fell on hard times. As I learned this morning, due to the efforts of this community and a long time publisher from Stamford, the late Roy Craig and his wife Dorothy, the *Knox County News* came into being. As

you will read later on, Roy and Dorothy paved the way for this new effort through teaching and training those who were taking over.

As I turn the pages of this September, 1971 issue, I see ads for Lewis Deluxe Paint and Body Shop along with Jerry's Plumbing both still

in business today. The M System grocery store advertised T-bone steaks at \$.98 per pound. The "Benjamin News" column was reporting

the happenings of that community, just like it is today, and the reporter that day was ANNIVERSARY EDITION continued on page 11

Knox City Greyhounds Booster Club Presents 'The Knox City Showdown'



Coach Charles "THE ANIMAL" STEELE

The long anticipated wrestling showdown will finally take place Saturday, October 15, 2011, with the first bell sounding at 7:30 p.m. Greyhound stadium will probably be packed to see the Knox City Greyhounds head coach Charles "The Animal" Steele come up against the Grey-

hounds "Infamous Fan" and worldwide Knox City sensation, Chad McGee. Other matches involving professional wrestlers will be brought to this event by Wild West Wrestling Productions. Tickets are Adults \$10, Students \$6 and kids age three and under are free.



"INFAMOUS FAN" Chad McGee

Looking Ahead

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT with special emphasis on feral hog control will be one of the featured topics at Ranch Management University Oct 10-14 at Texas A&M University in College Station.

"The ongoing drought is forcing a lot of feral hogs to travel to new areas on ranches throughout Texas," said Dr. Jim Cathey, Texas AgriLife Extension Service wildlife specialist. "We will be discussing trapping methods, design, place-

LOOKING AHEAD continued on page 11

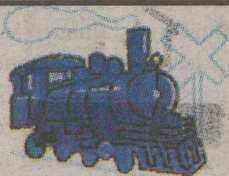


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COMMISSIONERS' COURT MINUTES

BE IT REMEMBERED on the 12th day of September, 2011, there was conducted a regular Meeting of the Honorable Commissioners' Court of Knox County, Texas, for the purpose of transacting any and all business that may lawfully be brought before the same. The Court met at 1:30 p.m.

Knox County Judge Travis Floyd, called the Regular Meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Commissioners Urbanczyk, Birkenfeld, and McGown were present. Also attending were County Sheriff Dean Homstad, County & District Clerk Annette Offutt, County Treasurer Rosie Ake, County Court Coordinator Michelle Esquivel, Cheryl Daniel Aging Services Director, Coun-

ty Community Development Director Jimmie Copeland, Pam Reed 911 Director, Justice of the Peace Vonnie Ivie, County Extension Agents Lorrie Coop, Anthony Munoz, and Extension Secretary Pam Oliver. The Court considered the following matters posted and filed for Record in the office of the County Clerk September 6, 2011 and Addendum posted September 9th, 2011.

Commissioner McCown made the motion seconded by Commissioner Birkenfeld to approve the minutes of the Special Session held August 1, 2011 and the Regular Session held August 8, 2011. The motion passed four to zero.

Upon consideration of the ongoing drought conditions

Commissioner Birkenfeld made the motion seconded by Commissioner Urbanczyk to extend the Burn Ban for ninety days. All agreed.

The motion was made by Commissioner Urbanczyk to combine Polling Places for the upcoming Amendment Election; Commissioner McCown seconded the motion, the motion passed four to zero.

County Sheriff Dean Homstad presented the 2012 Sheriff's and Constables' Fees; Commissioner Birkenfeld made the motion to approve the proposed fees Commissioner McCown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

After the Court reviewed the information received from The State concerning the Juror Pay

Commissioner McCown made the motion seconded by Commissioner Urbanczyk to lower the daily rate from \$40.00 to \$34.00. The motion passed four to zero.

Commissioner Urbanczyk made the motion to proclaim October 2-8, 2011 as National 4-H Week in Texas; Commissioner Birkenfeld seconded the motion the Court voted unanimously to pass the proclamation and commended the 4-H Youth Development Program of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the many men and women who have made the program a success.

Commissioner Urbanczyk made the motion seconded by Commissioner McCown to amend the 2010-2011 Budget pursuant to the Local Gov-

ernment Code Chapter 111, Sec.111.0106. Commissioner McCown seconded, the motion passed four to zero.

Commissioner Birkenfeld made the motion to approve the new Non-Financial contract with the Knox County Child Welfare Board, Commissioner Urbanczyk seconded the motion, all agreed.

The court reviewed the nominations for the Appraisal Board and on a motion made by Commissioner McCown seconded by Commissioner Birkenfeld; all agreed on staggering terms for Appraisal Board Members.

Commissioner McCown made the motion to approve the submission of the grant application for the Safety Updates Project to the Office of the Governor; Criminal Jus-

tice Division. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Urbanczyk and passed four to zero.

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

Commissioner McCown made the motion to approve Financials, Budget and pay the bills for August, 2011; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Birkenfeld, the motion passed four to zero.

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

CITY COUNCIL PURCHASES NEW EQUIPMENT



In June of this year the KC City Council approved the purchase of two new pieces of equipment. The City was in need of the new equipment to replace old equipment that was in need of expensive repair. The City has already received the new 2011 Case tractor from Wylie Case Implement

in Munday and last week took delivery of a 2011 Caterpillar backhoe from Warren CAT. City Administrator Chad Roberts received several bids on the equipment and brought them to the council for their consideration. The council then approved the budgetary purchases.

FORMER ABILENE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SWORN IN

AUSTIN, Texas—The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) swore in its 5th Executive Director in its 46 year History during a ceremony held Friday. Kim Vickers was sworn in by Presiding Officer Charles Hall replacing Chief Timothy Braaten who served as the agency's Executive Director and Chief of Police since 2005. Prior to assuming his new role, Chief Vickers served as the agency's Director for Education and Credentialing Services and as a Field Agent for West Texas region.

Chief Vickers began his law enforcement career with the Abilene Police Department in 1979 and continued to serve until his retirement in 2006. During his 27 years with the Abilene Police Department he served in many capacities such as training office with oversight of the applicant selection process. School

Resource Office, Detective, Public Information Officer and Commander of the Critical Missing Response Team (CMRT). It was while he was the commander of this team that they gained nationwide attention when they handled and quickly solved the first Amber Alert stranger kidnapping case in Texas. He is nationally recognized as an expert instructor and consultant in the area of Family Violence dynamics and law. He has drafted several pieces of Texas family violence law, testified as an expert witness before the Texas legislature; and is currently a member of the Board of Directors for the National Council on Family Violence and National Domestic Violence Hotline.

Chief Vickers has 26 years of teaching and education experience including teaching a variety of courses for universities, academies, associations, and law enforcement departments across the state

of Texas.

Chief Vickers has been married to his wife, Chrys, for 38 years and has two children and two grandchildren. His son, Eric, is a crimes against persons detective with the Abilene Police Department and daughter, Jennifer, is a medical doctor in New York City.

According to Knox County Sheriff Dean Homstad, "Mr. Vickers is a friend to small agencies like the Knox County Sheriff's office. He is a real friend to myself and others, meaning that he is genuine not just to your face, but all the time. With his appointment to TCLEOSE this will mean that real time experience and knowledge of law enforcement will help to influence and mold TCLEOSE into a better organization able to relate to problems and ideas set forth for the benefit of the working individual that is licensed through that agency."

Find the Knox County News on Facebook!

Former Abilene law enforcement officer sworn in



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Fire safety important for hunters and outdoorsmen

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — October 6, 2011 - With Texas still mired in a record-breaking drought and no real relief in sight, hunters and other outdoorsmen must be especially careful when heading out to take part in their favorite pastimes.

Dangerous wildfire conditions are expected through the fall and into the winter, which means a wildfire easily could be ignited by just one spark from an unattended campfire, lit cigarette, muzzle of a gun or even a hot exhaust pipe on a car left running — or parked — on the side of the road.

"You should always take wildfire conditions into consideration when you're doing anything outside that could cause a spark — especially with vegetation as critically dry as it is right now," said Justice Jones, coordinator for the Wildland Urban Interface and Fire Prevention programs. "If you start an accidental wildfire, the camp you destroy may be your own."

Though hunting season already has kicked off, hunters aren't the only people who should take precautions. All outdoorsmen should keep fire safety in mind as conditions re-

main ripe for massive, unwieldy wildfires.

"Roughly 90 percent of fires in Texas are started accidentally by people," Jones said. "That means they're preventable. And that's just what we want people to do — prevent them."

If you're heading outside, keep in mind the following wildfire safety tips:

Obey outdoor burning bans. Don't build a fire during dry or windy conditions.

Drive only on designated trails. Don't park or idle vehicles in dry grass, which can be ignited by contact with a hot

muffler.

When shooting close to the ground, be sure there is no dry grass or tinder in front of your muzzle. Though rare, it's not impossible for a shot to ignite nearby tinder.

Use caution with cigarettes and matches.

Use spark arresters on all power equipment.

For more information, visit <http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu>.

Contact: Jan Amen, Wildland Urban Interface Specialist 936-639-8100, 936-546-1004, jamen@tfs.tamu.edu

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Medicare's annual open enrollment

is from Oct. 15 - Dec. 7 every year, people with Medicare get to explore new choices and pick the health and drug plans that work best for them. This year, this Open Enrollment period is starting earlier — on October 15 — and ending sooner — December 7. This gives people with Medicare a full seven

weeks to compare and make decisions, and ensures that they will have essential plan materials and membership cards in hand on January 1, 2012 when new coverage starts.

There'll be a wide range of health and drug plan options available across the country, including

Original Medicare. Most people with Medicare can choose a "Part D" plan to help them pay for prescription drugs. And people who have chosen to enroll in a "Part C" Medicare Advantage plan for their basic health care services have the option of staying in that plan, choosing a different plan, or go-

ing back to the Original Medicare program. Plans can change from year to year, so these are important choices that should be made with care. People can turn to www.medicare.gov, call 1-800-MEDICARE, or consult with a local State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for help.

KC AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH — Knox City

Jerry Vincent, Pastor
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10:55 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6:30 p.m. • Mid Week, Wed. at 6:30 p.m.
FBC Sunday School, and the worship services at 10:55 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. are telecast live on Classic Cable, channel 6 in Knox City and O'Brien

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH — Knox City

Thomas Carter, Pastor
Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.

No Sunday Evening Service

ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP —

Knox City

Tex Cox, Pastor

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

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 11 a.m.

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 6 p.m. • Sunday Mass at 9 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH — Benjamin

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH — Benjamin

Thomas Carter, 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

Shannon Waters, 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.

MUNDAY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Adrian Fletcher, Pastor

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FIREFIGHTER'S TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

BASTROP, Texas – Starting Friday, firefighters will head en masse to Camp Swift in Bastrop, just 3 miles from where one of the state's most devastating wildfires occurred on Labor Day weekend.

This time, though, their assignment will be a little different. Rather than responding to an actual emergency, they'll be training for future fires at the 14th annual Capital Area Inter-agency Wildfire Academy.

Designed for both beginning and advanced firefighters, municipal and rural volunteer firefighters and structural and wildland firefighters, the academy

runs through Oct. 27.

Thirty-five classes are planned for this year's academy. Topics include basic firefighting, ignitions, basic engine and suppression tactics, leadership, incident command, chainsaw safety, dozer operations, helicopter training and emergency vehicle operations.

"Firefighters are drawn to this academy because of the vast combined knowledge of the instructors and staff and the fire camp setting," said Fire Prevention Specialist Jan Amen. "Volunteer fire departments in Texas are the first line of defense so their training not

only benefits them but it benefits the entire state."

Hundreds of firefighters often come from across the country — and sometimes from across the globe — to attend the two-week training academy, Amen said. Rather than having to attend for the duration of the academy, attendees can pick and choose applicable classes, many of which are offered on weekends.

The cost is \$60 per day and includes breakfast, lunch and course materials. Volunteer firefighters can be reimbursed for this cost through the Rural Volunteer Fire Department As-

sistance Program, a grant program funded by the state and administered by Texas Forest Service.

Free lodging is available for firefighters who choose to stay in the base barracks or tent camp.

"This year has been devastating for our firefighters and civilians and we don't expect it to improve over the long term even with recent rains," Amen said. "We are excited to see high enrollment numbers again this year; it will prove to be a great academy."

The academy is a joint effort coordinated by Texas Forest

Service, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Weather Service, The Nature Conservancy, National Wildfire Coordinating Group, Texas Wildfire Association, Texas Army National Guard, Bastrop County Office of Emergency Management and area fire departments.

For more information or to register, go to the Texas Inter-

agency Coordinating Center training page or contact the academy registrar at AcademyRegistrar@tfs.tamu.edu or 979-458-7330.

Contacts: Jan Amen, Fire Prevention Specialist 936-546-1004, jamen@tfs.tamu.edu

Meredith McNeil, Academy Registrar 979-458-7330, AcademyRegistrar@tfs.tamu.edu

edu

Knox County Market Place

Services

Childcare available - Spots available at the Knox City/O'Brien CISD daycare. For more details call Christie Howeth. 657-3427.

House for Sale

2 bedroom, 1 bathroom. 2 acres, fenced. Hardwood floors. 2 car garage. Shop in back. About 1 mile east of the Rhineland/Gilliland turn-off on hwy 82. \$32,000. Call 940-256-2070 and ask for Ronnie Hale.

House to be finished in Benjamin. 3 bed, 1 bath. Sits on 3 lots behind the school. Call for more information. \$3500.

For Rent

1 Acre on Hwy 6. 2.5 mile north of Knox City- excellent spot for mobile home. Water, electricity and sewer. Call 940-658-3092, 940-658-3807 or 940-256-0182 for more information

3 bedroom, 2 bathroom. NO smoking, no indoor pets. 712 9th across the street from O'Brien Middle School. Call Billy Walker at 657-3628.

Help Wanted

Licensed vocational nurse positions available. Please apply in person at Brazos Valley Care Home, 605 S. Ave. F, Knox City.

Wanted Full time CNA'S Contact April, Roby, RN, Director of Nurses,

at Gibson Care Center, Aspermont, TX 940-989-3526.EOE

Brazos Valley Care Home is now seeing an Activity Director. Certification required. Please apply in person at 605 S. Ave. F Knox City.

DRIVER/VAN

Part time: Seeking reliable individual to drive van for nursing facility. Must be at least 25 years old, with good driving record. CNA preferred, not necessary. EOE. Apply in person Mon-Fri, 9:00 am to 5:00pm. HASKELL HEALTH CARE CENTER, 1504 North First St., Haskell.

Volunteer

CANNED FOOD DRIVE - First Baptist Church of Knox City is asking for canned food donations. KC Hometown Variety will match your purchase! If you buy one can, they will donate one can. This began Monday, Sept. 19th and will continue until they are sold out.

Classifieds Get Results

Legal Notice

The Knox County Commissioners Court is seeking bids for the following surplus equipment:

1995 Ford F-150 XL

1992 Ford Aerostar

1993 GMC Sonoma SLS

1994 Chevrolet Suburban

Equipment is located at Precinct Barn in Munday, Texas across from Dairy Queen.

Sealed bids must be received before 12:00 P.M. on Monday, October 10, 2011 in the office of the County Judge, P.O. Box 77, 100 West Cedar, Benjamin, Knox County, Texas. Bids will be opened at a meeting of the Commissioners Court of Knox County on Monday, October 10, 2011 at 1:30 PM.

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David Counts, Broker

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3BR, 1 B Brick home. Detached 2 car garage, fenced yard, large corner lot. \$50,000

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

2011 Weekly Weather Report

Date	Temperature (F)		Rainfall inches
	Low	High	
09/26	53	92	
09/27	65	94	
09/28	62	96	
09/29	66	103	
09/30	55	82	
10/01	47	86	
10/02	51	91	

Total Rainfall for month
2011 Rainfall (ytd) 2.52

Phil Wilson TxDOT Executive Director

AUSTIN — During their regular monthly meeting Thursday, the Texas Transportation Commission selected Phil Wilson as the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) 19th executive director, effective October 17, 2011. Wilson currently serves as senior vice president of public affairs for Luminant, an electric generation company headquartered in Dallas, and previously served as Texas Secretary of State.

As secretary, Wilson was responsible for elections and acted as the governor's chief

liaison on the Texas-Mexico border and issues with Mexico. He has also served as Chairman of the Governor's Competitiveness Council, where Wilson helped identify ways the state could improve its economic position for continued long-term success. Wilson's public service also includes time as an aide to U.S. Senator Phil Gramm and on the senior staff of Governor Rick Perry.

"Phil's experience as a public servant and member of the Texas business community has prepared him well to lead the

department as it continues to modernize," said Ted Houghton, Texas Transportation commissioner and chair of the commission's executive director search committee. "While TxDOT is certainly a national leader in transportation infrastructure development, there are opportunities for Phil to guide the department through this period of transition, emerging a more responsive and efficient organization."

"I am honored to be selected as the next executive director of TxDOT. This is an agency

with a rich history in successfully building for our future with dedicated employees," said Wilson. "I look forward to working with the agency, Commission, Legislature and local communities on the most efficient and effective ways to build infrastructure for Texas."

During his time as secretary of state, Wilson led a number of transportation-related programs, including the Border Colonia Access Program and the Texas Interagency Work Group on the Texas and Mexico Border Affairs initiative. The

secretary of state also serves as the state's chief economic development officer, and in that role, Wilson worked with TxDOT professionals in bringing new opportunities to the state.

As a chair of the Governor's Competitiveness Council, Wilson and his colleagues made several transportation recommendations to improve the state's competitiveness, including proposals to reexamine public-private partnerships, expand inland ports, repair and maintain the state's existing infrastructure and advancement

of rail relocation efforts.

Wilson succeeds Amadeo Saenz, Jr., who retired from state service at the end of August. Wilson is the department's first executive director since legislation was passed in 2009 removing the requirement that the position be occupied by a professional engineer. He holds a bachelor's degree from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene and a master's degree in business administration from Southern Methodist University.

Cattle Raisers Urge Congress to Streamline Endangered Species Act

LUBBOCK — The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) passed policy Friday urging the U.S. Congress to require the Department of Interior (DOI) and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to streamline the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to better balance comprehensive science, economic development, input from affected stakeholders, and private property rights when determining whether to list, introduce, and/or relocate a threatened or endangered plant or animal species.

According to TSCRA, many species are listed without sound evidence supporting claims that the species are indeed endangered.

"The ESA has far reaching implications concerning agricultural practices and private property rights in areas where endangered and threat-

ened plant and animal species may exist," said Joe Parker Jr., rancher and president of TSCRA. "Before government implements new regulations that could potentially harm the cattle industry, they should at least have strong proof that there is a problem."

According to TSCRA, the interpretation and administration of the ESA often exceeds the intent of Congress. In addition to lacking the sound science, Parker says the ESA doesn't include the proper economic impact studies.

"Ranchers work to protect the environment, but they fear that the ESA has become another vehicle used by the federal government to control what they can and can't do on their land," said Parker.

TSCRA's policy also supports the ability of private landowners to voluntarily participate in non-regulatory

incentive programs to comply with the ESA and to be eligible for any tax incentives associated with those programs.

TSCRA also opposes forced perpetual land-use takings, management plans and easements for the recovery of a threatened endangered species. TSCRA supports stronger legal protections for private landowners that would:

- Provide fair compensation if property rights and/or land is taken under the ESA;
- Better

protect confidential information provided by landowners regarding species presence, data collection, and voluntary program participation; and

- Provide stronger burden of proof and evidence requirements to be placed on those petitioning that a species be listed as threatened or endangered.

The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association is a 134-year-old trade organization. As the largest and oldest livestock association in Texas,

TSCRA represents more than 15,000 beef cattle producers, ranching families and businesses who manage approximately 4 million head of cattle on 79.5 million acres of range and pasture land, primarily in Texas and Oklahoma. TSCRA

provides law enforcement and livestock inspection services, legislative and regulatory advocacy, industry news and information, insurance services and educational opportunities for its members and the industry.

Benefit Lunch for Dionisia Estrada

Turkey/dressing
& homemade desserts

Sunday Oct. 16, 2011

11:00 to 1:30

Knox City School Cafeteria

Adults \$8.00 Children \$5.00

Tickets Available at door

or contact: Mark Tucker (940) 657-3731

Marsha Quade (940) 657-3147

• Carry Outs available



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"VERY LIKELY DROUGHT WILL LAST INTO 2012 OR LONGER"

By Robert Burns

COLLEGE STATION
--Another year of drought, or even five to ten years more drought? The first is highly likely, and the second, though harder to predict, a strong possibility, according to Dr. John Nielsen-Gammon, state climatologist.

Regarding the drought continuing through this winter and spring, everyone is watching what appears to be a new La Niña developing, Nielsen-Gammon said. But a strong Pacific Ocean La Niña is not the only phenomenon that affects

Texas droughts, he said. Scientists now believe that Atlantic Ocean temperature oscillations also play a role in long-term droughts such as the one that hammered Texas and the Midwest in the middle of the last century.

Two-minute MP3 Audio Texas crop, weather report for Oct. 4, 2011 Climatologists have found a strong correlation between Pacific Ocean surface temperatures and some events like the Dust Bowl drought. But the drought of the 1950s, which rivaled the current drought, did not show up in the computer simulations correlated with Pacific Ocean La Niña events. The simulations did find, however, that patterns that strongly suggested warmer-than-average North Atlantic sea-surface temperatures also contributed to droughts in parts of North America, Texas included, according to Nielsen-Gammon.

"Compared to the trend, the north Atlantic is warm in the 1940s and '50s, cool in the 1970s and '80s, and warm since 1995," he said. "A cool North Atlantic implies a wet North America, amplifying the response to an El Niño."

According to similar study, drought in Texas has been overwhelmingly more frequent when there is a negative Pacific Ocean La Niña event and a warm North At-

lantic, such as was in place during the 1950s. All this may seem a bit esoteric to any but professional climatologist, Nielsen-Gammon said, particularly as there is currently no proven way of forecasting long-term ocean variability in the Pacific or North Atlantic.

"We do know that the current temperature patterns are not a death sentence for non-stop drought," Nielsen-Gammon writes in his blog, The Climate Abyss. "But we have heightened drought susceptibility during this period, and, according to some studies, the effect of La Niña is likely to be amplified. ... So this coming year looks very likely to be another dry one, and consequently it is very likely that next summer will have water shortages and drought problems even more severe than this summer." And what about the long-term picture?

"At this point, all I can say is that we're in a period of frequent Texas drought until further notice," he said. "This period, with both the Pacific and Atlantic working against us, might be over in a couple of years, or it might last another 15 or 20 years. It seems likely to last another decade." 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:

Central: Conditions were extremely dry. Hay supplies continued to be tight, and -- with no available forages --livestock producers further culled herds. Several counties saw light scattered showers but did not receive enough rain to provide drought relief.

Coastal Bend: The region had isolated showers, but much more rain was needed to replenish parched soils and to promote forage growth in pastures and hay meadows.

Livestock producers were concerned about very short hay supplies going into fall and winter, and were reducing herd sizes. The production of cool season crops may not be possible due to the drought. In Washington County, livestock sales continued, as did supplemental feeding and watering of livestock. Many ponds were being renovated while they were dry. Many trees were dying or dead. Some producers were planting winter pastures. In Nueces County, growers finished harvesting sesame.

East: The drought continued with little to no rain received. Many producers hesitated planting winter pastures because of dry soils. The few that were planting were doing so in river bottoms and lower-lying land. Large numbers of cattle flowed through the sale barns as producers continued to sell off cattle or sell out herds entirely. Panola County reported a more than a 50 percent drop in the number of cattle in the area, and Trinity County reported a 30 percent to 40 percent drop. Feral hog damage increased.

Far West: Scattered showers visited the area, but left behind only traces or sprinkles. Presidio and Brewster counties were the exceptions, with reports of 0.2 to 0.5 inch of rain. The danger of wildfire remained high due to lightening in passing cool fronts. Most Brewster County livestock producers were still repairing or replacing fences burned this year as they prepared for fall working of cattle or shipping of stockers. In Brewster and Jeff Davis counties, producers were selling brood cows because of the drought and wildfire having burned over 800,000 acres of rangeland. Rangeland and pastures were in very poor, dry condition. In El Paso County, the pecan crop was ahead of average maturity by about 10 days. Alfalfa producers were taking

the last cutting of the season, and cotton was ready for defoliation. More advanced cotton fields had 50 percent of bolls open. Some producers were still feeding and supplementing cattle while others continued to sell some or all. Red Bluff reservoir engineers stopped sending water down the canals due to low water levels, putting alfalfa producers in a sticky situation. Without irrigation water, portions of fields that are dying cannot be replanted. The Andrews County pecan crop was in fair condition.

North: The region had cooler temperatures but received little or no rain. Soils remained very dry. Rangeland and pastures were poor to very poor condition. A few farmers have begun planting small grains and winter pastures and were praying for rain. Some ranchers were buying hay from northern and northeastern states, but the transportation costs make it very expensive. Large numbers of cows were going through sale barns. Even those cattlemen who had hoped to hold onto their core animals were starting to sell out. Livestock water was becoming critical, with most stock-watering ponds very low or completely dry.

Panhandle: The region remained dry with above-average temperatures. Soil-moisture levels were very short. A few isolated areas received from a trace to 0.9 inches of rain. The corn harvest was ongoing with below-average yields.

Most corn had been abandoned earlier in the summer and some was cut for hay. The soybean harvest continued. Cotton growers in some areas were applying harvest aids. Winter wheat was being planted. Rangeland and pastures were in very poor condition. Livestock producers continued supplemental feeding of cattle. Rolling Plains: Dry conditions persisted.

Temperatures rose, with highs in the mid-90s in some areas. Pastures and rangeland were in very poor condition. Beef cattle producers and horse owners were still looking for hay. Producers increased culling strategies on cattle herds. Some producers were planting wheat in hopes of some moisture to get it sprouted. Earlier planted wheat that germinated had very spotty stands with heavy weed pressure. Wildfires remained a big threat. Approximately 10,000 acres burned in Foard County during the last two weeks. The fires were started by lightning strikes. Burn bans remained in effect. South: Soil moisture conditions were short to very short throughout the region. A cool front brought some showers that slightly improved rangeland and pastures. Parts of Frio County received about half an inch, while some La Salle

County areas received about 2 inches. However, mostly all the rain did was bring cooler weather. Rangeland and pastures still needed a lot of rain to recover from the damaged done by drought. Livestock producers were culling more cattle and providing supplemental feed at a steady rate. Producers continued to have problems finding hay. Peanuts were progressing well and showing signs of making a good crop. In Atascosa and Frio counties, oats and ryegrass planted a week earlier had already sprouted. In Zavala County, cotton gins were busy and had a lot of cotton modules in site. Also in that area, some producers began planting spinach. Irrigated oats and wheat fields were already planted. In Hidalgo County, sugarcane growers were preparing for harvest, and early maturing citrus harvesting was under way.

South Plains: Dry conditions continued, with a few areas getting showers. Cotton growers began harvest-

ing, as did growers of corn, sorghum and pumpkins. Pumpkin yields were about 50 percent of average. Temperatures were in upper 80s to mid-90s.

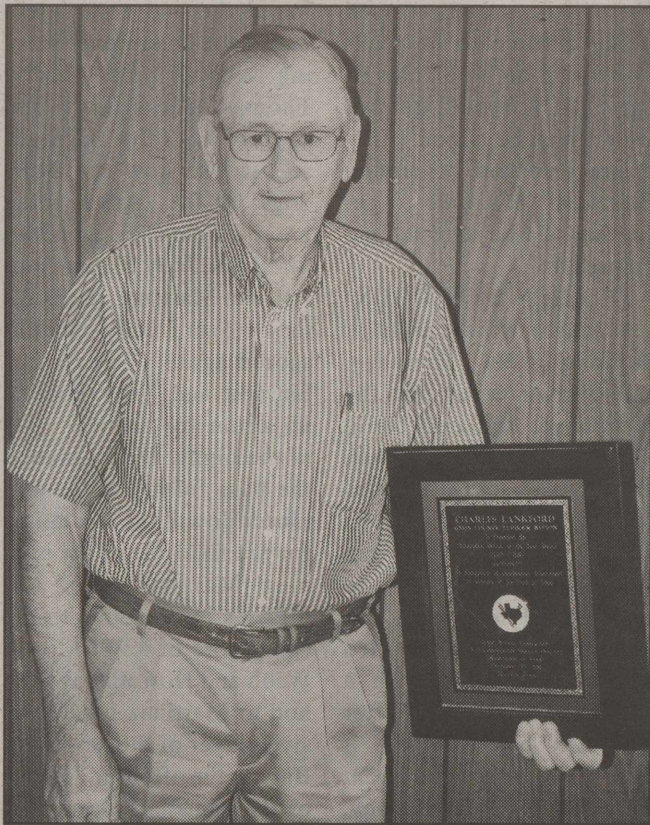
Southeast: Parts of Montgomery County received less than a half inch of rain, making the area more than 30 inches behind for the year. In Burtleson County, a few optimistic livestock owners were drilling oats. Brazoria County had scattered showers, with accumulations ranging from 0.1 to 0.75 inch. Rice growers were concerned whether they'll have irrigation water for the 2012 crop.

Row-crop producers were concerned if they'll have enough soil moisture for spring planting. Cattle producers continued to cull herds, while trying to feed some of their remaining cattle. Hay supplies were very short. Without rain, farm ponds continued to dry out.

Southwest: Some areas received scattered rains and cooler temperatures, but extremely dry conditions generally prevailed. Livestock producers continued to provide supplemental feed to cattle or to liquidate herds. There was little or no sign of appreciable forage growth. Some producers were preparing to plant winter pastures.

West Central: The region had warm days with continued extremely dry conditions. Nighttime temperatures were cooled. A few areas reported scattered showers. The wildfire danger remained extremely high. Soil-moisture levels were very low. Wheat planting was under way, with most being planted into dry soils. A few producers were planning to plant some form of cool-season forage in hopes it will rain soon. There was no improvement of rangeland and pasture conditions. All water sources were dropping. Livestock producers increased supplemental feeding of cattle or liquidation of herds.

Charles Lankford Alternative certification program honored



The Knox County, Lubbock Region, of the Veterans County Service Officers Association of Texas, recently honored Charles Lankford as **Outstanding Officer of the Year** for 2010-2011 in recognition of his outstanding achievement to Veterans of the State of Texas at their 64th Annual Conference, September 13, 2011 in Houston, Texas.

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Alternative certification program

Accepting applications for the Region 14 Education Service Center's 2012-2013 Alternative Certification Program for Special Education, Math and Science teachers will be accepted September 1, 2011 thru November 11, 2011.

The program allows college graduates wanting to be teachers to earn certification as they train and teach full time, serving as

interns with mentor teachers in area school districts. Participants complete training in the spring and summer prior to entering the classroom. During the internship year, training is continued.

Applicants are selected from those meeting the following admission requirement:

Received bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education.

For additional admission requirements contact Region 14ESC Alternative Certification Program OR visit our website at www.esc14.net.

Financial reimbursement is available if grant requirements are met. This program is made possible by a 1.4 million dollar federal Transition to Teaching Grant.

The teaching certificate enables recipient to teach any-

where in Texas. Reciprocity is available in some other states.

For more information, contact:

Gay Ann Walts, Special Education, 325-675-7017

Donna Ray, EC-6 Generalist, 325-675-8670

Vern Popelka, Science, 325-675-8684

Sandra Carter, Math, 325-675-7006

Research project shows calibration is key to spreading manure for maximum effectiveness

AMARILLO – Manure, managed correctly, is a valuable natural fertilizer. Researchers and the cattle industry are joining forces to make sure those spreading the manure know how to do so in the "greenest" manner.

Texas Cattle Feeders Association, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas AgriLife Research and West Texas A&M University cooperatively are conducting the project "Development and Implementation of an Environmental Training Program for Manure and Compost Haulers/Applicators in the Texas High Plains."

Dr. Brent Auvermann, AgriLife Extension environmental systems specialist, said the main purpose of the project

is to demonstrate how best management practices can be used to protect water quality.

The project is operating under the authority and funding of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 319 nonpoint source water quality program.

"This is about nonpoint source pollution, which is any pollution you cannot trace to the end of a discharge pipe of some kind," Auvermann said. "Diffuse runoff from agricultural fields falls into that category. So we are trying to prevent or mitigate nonpoint source water pollution through the use of beneficial management practices for manure and

compost application."

"Feeding cattle has been an integral part of the Texas High Plains economy for the past 40-plus years," said Ben Weinheimer, Texas Cattle Feeders Association vice president. "Custom manure and compost haulers are important to the long-term success of cattle feeders.

A number of companies in the region provide manure/compost removal, hauling and spreading services, Weinheimer said. These independent contractors market manure and compost, primarily to farmers in the region. In recent years, feedyards have been able to sell manure due to its increased competitiveness with commercial fertilizer.

"TCFA's interest in this project is to assist a key supporting industry by demonstrating field-proven techniques for proper application of manure and compost," he said. "These include proper calibration of spreading equipment, best management practices for environmental protection and training resources for owners and employees of manure/compost companies."

Auvermann said they are developing and refining management techniques of manure application, including developing a system by which manure haulers can easily calibrate their trucks and the applications they make if they don't have electronic management capability.

The project has sites on watersheds in Wheeler, Donley and Deaf Smith counties along the Sweetwater Creek, Buck Creek and Palo Duro Creek, respectively.

"The No. 1 environmental challenge is making sure feedyards have enough

land to put manure on," Auvermann said. "One way to do that is off-site or third-party manure transfer. These transfers to third parties are really a critical component of a feedyard's nutrient management planning exercise.

"In order to preserve that conduit for manure off the feedyard, we have to make sure that everyone involved in spreading manure knows how to spread manure uniformly, how to hit the target application rates and what areas of the field to avoid. That's what this demonstration project is all about," he said.

Dr. Paul DeLaune, AgriLife Research soil scientist in Vernon, said the project is looking at different rates of manure and compost applications, and documenting the effect of different rates of soil nitrogen and soil phosphorous and how it correlates to crop yields.

"And then also we want to monitor not only the soil nutrients, but how much nutrients we are losing in runoff water," DeLaune said. "We have an automatic water sampler to collect water runoff samples during a storm event or even an irrigation event."

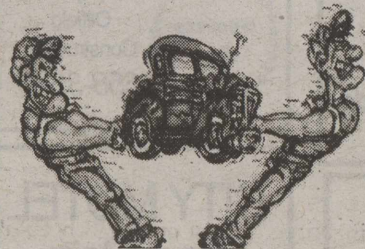
He explained that if irrigation or storms produce runoff, the water runs through a flume on the backside of the sampler and they are able to calculate runoff volume based on that. In addition, they are able to take water quality samples.

"We have four rates: 20 tons raw manure per acre that is applied once every three years; five tons per acre of compost annually; commercial fertilizer applica-

See **MANURE**
on Page 11

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KNOX COUNTY SPORTS

By Tracy Carter

The Knox County Greyhounds took down the Vernon Northside Indians last Friday night with a 58-8 victory. KC running back Heath Welch, was hurt on the 2nd drive of the game after he was injured on a run in which he was upended and came down and dislocated his elbow. He was taken to the ER in Vernon and later transferred to Wichita Falls to have it reset. This fired up the Hounds who quickly scored on a pass from T.J. Moore to Blake "Train" Jones for a 25 yd. touchdown. After a great defensive stop by Austin Valimont, the Hounds took over, but fumbled the ball right back to the Indians, who scored from the 1 yard line. That would be

the last time the Indians would score on the night. After the ensuing kick off, Austin Valimont, picked up the kick and returned it 45 yards for the touchdown to make it 14-8. After some big hits and great defense by Kyle Harrington, Ryan Ledesma and Valimont, the Hounds took over and quickly scored again with Ledesma on a ten yd. TD plunge. Moore's 2nd PAT kick made the score 22-8. Blake "Train" Jones made some huge hits with Ty Baker sacking the QB twice to keep the Indians out of the end zone. Josh Schnable made a fantastic 42 yd. touchdown run in which he juked, spun and blasted into the end zone (he had 2 more TD's called back earlier in the game) and after Moore's PAT kick it was 30-8. On the Indi-

ans next possession, Kyle Harrington picked off an Indian pass and returned it 25 yds. to paydirt for a 38-8 lead. The Hound defense continued to play relentlessly as Ty Baker put on a school on how to rush the passer by putting great pressure on the QB. Tylonne Eaton, Jones and Valimont were also huge in stopping the Indians running game and the secondary of Schnable, Wilde and Ledesma covering the passing game. After shutting down the Indian offense, the Hound offense then showed a little trickery with an end-around play with Brandon York showing some speed by getting into the end zone for a nifty 20 yd. TD run, making the score 44-8. On the next Indian possession, Valimont jarred the

ball loose and Jarek Wilde scooped it up and returned it to the Northside eleven yd. line. On the next play Ledesma crashed into the end zone for a 52-8 lead. The Hound defense led by Jones, Ledesma and Valimont shut down northside once more and gave the ball back to the offense. On the next play, with some great blocks by the Hound offensive line, Ledesma galloped 56 yards for his 4th TD of the night. After kicking his 5th PAT of the night, T. J. Moore made the final score 58-8. The Hounds will take this week off and will start district play next week at home against the Gordon Longhorns. The JV Hounds were idle last week but will play at St. Jo this Thursday @7:00. Everyone wishes Heath

Welch a speedy recovery. He will be greatly missed being a force to be reckoned with on both sides of the ball. Let's all get behind these boys and enjoy a great season of Hound Football. It's time to get on board the Greyhound Express!

O'BRIEN BULLDOGS

It was a windy night at Bulldog field Thursday, but neither wind nor the Northside Indians could slowdown the O'Brien Bulldogs. Jacoby Thomas scored first for the Dogs followed by a power run by Alfredo Martinez to take a 12-0 lead.

Anthony Estrada then hit Sheldon Baty with a touchdown pass and, after the kick by Martinez, it was 20-0 with some great blocking by Tyler Harvey, Kristopher Stafford and

Martinez, the Bulldogs found the end zone again with Zack Overmeyer scoring from 25 yds. Jacoby Thomas once again found paydirt, his 2nd of the night and it was now the Bulldogs 34-0. After some great defense by Donivan Stallings, Joey Espinal and Alfredo Martinez the Dogs took over and quickly scored again. The duo of Estrada and Baty hooked up again for their 2nd TD of the night. Baty grabbed the pass from Estrada and raced down the sidelines for the final TD of the evening. Martinez kicked 3 of 6 PAT's in the game to the final score of 42-0. Coach Webb and Howeth gave the nod to Martinez for defensive player of the game and Baty as the offensive player of the game. O'Brien will be open this week.

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Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

The big news in "these here parts" this week is, of course, the wonderful rain we had during the weekend. Most gauges over here measured just about 3 inches and every drop was so appreciated. Just seemed it made everyone's personality change suddenly! We really needed it and could use more, but we'll take what we can get.

News on our ill is varied this week. Charles Griffith had been dismissed from the hospital in Lubbock and had gone to his daughter's home there early last week, but had to be readmitted later in the week because of intense pain. I talked to his daughter, Becky Jones, tonight. She said they visited him on Sunday and he was feeling better. Still very weak, but might be dismissed from the hospital tomorrow (Tues). He had surgery about 4 weeks ago and has had a few problems, but for the most part, has done well: Just is taking a while to get back to his usual self.

Dutch Young has had a pretty bad week beginning with a fall in Knox City on Tues. He was taken to Wichita Falls by ambulance and checked out and after lots of tests, was diagnosed with a serious lung problem. He did come home on Friday nite and had a pretty good day Sat., but on Sunday suffered an apparent stroke and was taken back to Wichita Falls and is undergoing more tests today. Right now, he's having some pretty bad days. They need everyone's prayers as they face the days and lots of decisions ahead.

Chad Tolson continues to improve slowly but that is encouraging. Any small step forward is like a giant leap because he has been so long at not showing much

improvement at all. Please continue to pray for him and his family,

Corrine Parrish has been having some serious back problems for quite some time. She had an MRI last Tues. and goes back this week for the results. We are all hoping she can find out her problem, get help for it and she can begin to feel better soon.

Susan White has been having some health problems and has an appointment with a cardiologist in early Nov. Of course, we need to keep her in our prayers along with all these friends who are having health problems.

HERE 'N THERE

The volley ball girls soundly defeated the Munday JV last Tuesday here at home. On Sat., they traveled to Knox City and lost to their hosts and tomorrow, they go to Rotan with games with them.

Keith and Pam Conner and grandson, Carson Conner of Midland, visited with homefolks on Sat.

Debbie Clower left last Wed. on a mission trip to Africa. She was excited and though her stay was to be only a week, I'm sure she will have lots to tell when she returns.

Becki Keys of Holliday visited me on Sat. She's loving her new location moving there from Amarillo just 2 weeks ago and her daughter, Randi, loves the school and loves being an Eagle!

The Revival at the First Baptist Church last week was well attended and all who were there received a blessing from it. We had not only our local attendees, but several from other towns who came for services. Wed. nite, (which was the last nite), we had homemade ice cream and fellowship which was enjoyed by a good crowd.

DAVID'S FISHING REPORT

Stamford Lake 10/8/11

Bass up to 8 lbs. were fair in stickups close to the rocks on Sexy Shad crank baits or Junebug plastics and green glittered creature baits.

Thanks to the Haskell Bass Club members for this information. Due to the weather Saturday, we wouldn't have had a report this week.

God Bless and Good Fishing! David

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NOTICE OF ELECTION (AVISO DE ELECCION)

To the registered voters of the County of Knox, Texas:

(a los votantes registrados del Condado de Knox, Texas)

Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on November 8, 2011, for voting in a special election to adopt or reject the proposed Constitutional Amendments as submitted by the 82nd Legislature, Regular Session, of the State of Texas.

(Notificación por las presente, que las casillas electorales situadas abajo se abrirán desde las 7:00 a.m. hasta las 7:00 p.m. el 8 de noviembre 2011 para votar en La Elección Especial pa'ra adoptar o rechazar las enmiendas constitucionales propuestas así como fueron sometidas por la 82^a Legislatura Sesión Regular, del Estado de Texas.

LOCATION(S) OF POLLING PLACES (DIRECCION(ES) DE LAS CASILLAS ELECTORALES)

Prec. #1 (Benjamin), #2 (Truscott) & 7N (Knox City)—Vote at Benjamin Memorial Bldg.
Prec. #3 (Gilliland), #4 (Vera) & #6N (Munday)—Vote at Munday City Hall
Prec. #5 (Goree) & #6S (Munday)—Vote at Goree Community Center
Prec. #7S & #8 (Sumet)—Vote at Aging Center in Knox City

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at:
(La votación adelantada en persona se llevará a cabo de lunes a viernes en.)
Knox County Clerks Office at 100 W. Cedar in Benjamin, Texas
(location) (sitio)

between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. beginning on October 24, 2011
(date)

(entre las ocho de la mañana y las cinco de la tarde empezando el 24 de octubre del 2011

and ending on November 4th, 2011 (y terminando el 4 de noviembre del 2011)
(date) (fecha)

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:
(Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán adelantada por correo deberán enviarse a:)

Annette Offutt
(Name of Early Voting Clerk)
(Nombre del Secretario de la Votación Adelantada)

P.O. Box 196
(Address) (Dirección)

Benjamin, Texas 79505
(City) (Ciudad) (Zip Code) (Zona Postal)

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on:
(Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán adelantada por correo deberán recibirse para el fin de las horas de negocio el.)

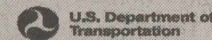
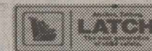
November 1st, 2011 1 de noviembre del 2011
(date) (fecha)

Issued this the 6th day of October, 2011.
(Emitida este día 6 de octubre, 2011.)

James C. Hoyle
Signature of County Judge (Firma del Jefe del Condado)



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Hay, the latest target for thieves

By Jason Allen

GRAPEVINE – If the drought wasn't enough for farmers and ranchers to struggle with, now they are facing a growing threat. Thieves are targeting pastures and barns for suddenly valuable hay bales.

It's the nature of ranchers like James Lockridge to give you something if you need it badly enough. "Come up and ask us. Surely we can work something out.

Mitch waters runs a feed store that's such a fixture, people drive 50 miles to shop there.

"Got out of school in '77 and been here ever since."

But now both men, are putting their livelihoods behind locks. Signs are posted, keep out.

They know where all the area security cameras are, and are intent on protecting something that's never been worth as much as it is right now. "Our convenient hay barn here, for just the drive up customers."

Yes, hay, is the new target for thieves. Round bales that used to sell for \$20 are now topping \$175.

The night watchman at Master Made Feed in Grapevine has scared off a half dozen prowlers already, Lockridge says he's got more than 150 bales from a Grand Prairie Field, a \$26,000 loss.

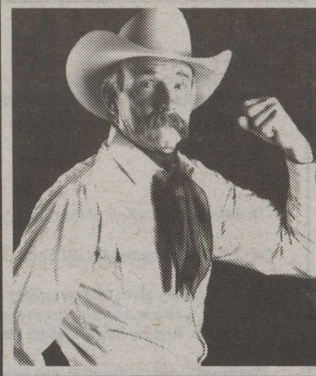
"If you want to steal a bale of hay, we're going to press charges on you. You're going to jail. We're just not even going to play around no more," says Lockridge.

It's so valuable and becoming so rare that even the hay falling off the bales of a truck is being picked up, put in bags and sold.

It's going to be a secured product because people are going to be in need of it and who knows, what's going to take place this winter," says Winters.

With winter around the corner Lockridge is worried about having enough to feed his own animals, and is hurrying to get everything secured in lots now locked or guarded by round the clock security.

Hay is becoming so rare that Master Made Feed is paying people a finders fee if they can hook them up with willing sellers.



ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE by Baxter Black, DVM

Fowl Play

Darrie took a likin' to Hangin' Tree cow dogs. They are slick, short-haired and promoted for their endurance and stamina. They have that hound dog look and come in various colors. Darrie bought her pup out of Missouri and brought her to Arizona. It was female so she named her Billie.

Billie soon adapted to the new neighborhood and was already "working" all the animals on the place; barn cats, old dogs, saddle horses, jackrabbits, and the occasional javelina! By the time she was nine months old she had begun to travel farther afield so it was necessary to pen her up at night.

One morning Darrie drug herself out of bed. She worked her way out to the kitchen in her old but comfy nightgown with the faded pattern of Sequoia cactus and cowboy hats. Slipping outside, she scooped a cup of dog food from the barrel and went to feed Billie. To her exasperation, Billie had "flown the coop!"

Darrie scuffed across the yard in her wool-lined bed slippers, calling Billie by name, "Billie! Billie! Biiiiiiillyyyy!" At the edge of the irrigated pasture she stopped to survey the horizon. Low and behold, she saw Billie across the pasture in the neighbor's farm yard! That was a relief in a way, but in another way it was an acid-reflux moment! Billie was racing along the ridge with an object in her jaws. A white, feathered object, to be precise. It occurred to Darrie that the neighbor had chickens...but Billie still had most of her baby teeth, didn't she?

Still yelling at the tip of her lungs at the dog, Darrie climbed the wire fence into the pasture. It was boggy from irrigation, the grass was wet with humidity and it was a foot high. She fought her way across the field, her cactus and cowboy hat nighty dragging in her wake. She crawled over the other side fence and caught goofy-little Billie who was delighted to show her the catch that had lost all its feathers.

Then Darrie noticed the ground around her looked like a broiler battlefield, a Campbell's soup catastrophe, a field of flattened fowl... all the chickens were naked! Bare breasts everywhere! It looked like one of those old Renaissance paintings.

Distraught, Darrie went up to her neighbor's kitchen door. With tears in her eyes she confessed to Billie's crime, chicken murder in the second degree. She offered to pay restitution and do her laundry for a month. The neighbor took in Darrie's appearance; muddy up to her hips, feathers stuck to her arms and hair, and her nightgown dragging like a bridal train at a greased pig contest!

"They're not dead," said the neighbor, "I chased your dog away, just not in time. But your dog didn't kill them, she just plucked 'em all!" Then she added that one did die, but she thought it was from fright.

"What can I do?" asked the contrite Darrie.

The neighbor thought it over and said, "Well, I am worried about them getting heat stroke."

"Oh, okay," said Darrie, "I'll run home and get some sunscreen."

"Either that," said the neighbor, "Or barbecue sauce!"

www.baxterblack.com



Homonym, synonym, antonym. They're like a family – three siblings named Homo, Syno and Anto. Makes me think a little of the Marx Brothers, but the only two I remember are Groucho and Harpo.

INTERNET PAUSE.

Chico, Gummo, Zeppo. Those are the other three. Thank you Internet.

Chiconym, Gummonym, Zepponym. Sorry, I couldn't help myself.

Back to the Nym Brothers. In school, when I had to learn all about each one, the trick was not to get them mixed up. Easier said than done.

I guess it's just as well we didn't even know about their young stepsibling. His name? Acronym.

We learned about initials and abbreviations but not acronyms. I'm still not sure I know the exact definition. Here's my guess:

An acronym is a word made of initials that spell something that means something; the meaning is connected to whatever the initials stand for.

DICTIONARY PAUSE.

The basic definition is less complicated. An acronym is simply "a word formed from the initial letters of other words." Thank you dictionary.

Despite the classy Greek pedigree, acronyms didn't come along until the 1940s. My dictionary mentions "radar" as a prime example of an acronym. The soldier-invented term "SNAFU," vintage World War II, no doubt also would qualify.

It's no wonder we didn't study acronyms in school. Our textbooks barely covered that then-recent war, much less any grammatical spin-offs thereof. Besides, acronyms are a questionable breed of words. Never mind that they are the

stuff of bureaucratise. If our country had language police, like the Academie Francaise, acronyms would be redheaded stepchildren pleading for admittance to the dictionary.

Silent Harpo in his reddish wig comes to mind at this point. He could play the part of an acronym begging to be uttered – sort of like the "secret word" on Groucho's show "You Bet Your Life." (If you don't know about the secret word, you're probably not reading this anyway.)

We digress. Or do we?

Maybe it's time to take acronyms for the impostors they are. Let's not let them steal into our vocabularies and claim legitimacy so easily.

The ones that bother me the most are the ones that act like real words when I don't know what they stand for.

MADD is OK. Even I know MADD means Mothers Against Drunk Driving. OK is OK too, whatever its origin.

But what if MADD wanted to go international and open a branch in France? Meres Centre Chaffeurs Ivres would be MCCI. Not OK. Once a Roman numeral, always a Roman numeral.

Yep, if you want a snafu, just try to translate an acronym.

Consider the latest buzz-acronym in economic circles:

It's PIIGS, which stands for Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece and Spain, five economically depressed countries threatening to undermine the Euro. Even when "PIIGS" stays intact from one language to the next – like English to German – the "pigs at a trough" play on words doesn't hold.

Besides, I just read that Belgium may join the group. Oops.

Think twice before you invent an acronym.

The LATCH system makes it easier to be sure your child's car seat is installed correctly every time. Just clip it to the lower anchors, attach the top tether, and pull the straps tight. To find out more, visit safercar.gov.

LATCH

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ANNIVERSARY EDITION continued from page 1

Mrs. Van Green. Mrs. Van Green was known as Gladene Green, who continues that column to this day. Gladene explained to me that she began her newspaper work in 1963 with only a year's break between that time and today. "News About Rochester" was written by Becky Sloan, and "Truscott, Gililand News" was by Ruth Brown. Also in this issue, Knox City's first bale of cotton for the '71 season was ginned by the O'Brien Co-op Gin, Monday, November 1st, as reported by Samuel Tankersly, manager. The cotton from the farm of E. H. Tankersly, Jr. was a 2160 bale of burr cotton and ginned out a 521 lb. lint bale.

Fast forward twenty years to October 1991 and Audie Johnson in her "O'Brien News" writes her "Gem of the Day" at the beginning of her column; "We cannot prevent the swallows of misfortune from circling our heads, but nothing says we must allow them to build nests in our hair." She was still writing this column when we arrived in O'Brien in 2004. We have fond memories of seeing her make rounds in the little dark green car, gathering news for that week's column.

Knox City was having a Funfest Saturday during the 1991 fall edition where downtown merchants featured sidewalk sales planned by the Retail Merchant's group with Sequoyah Reynolds as their chairman. The Chamber of Commerce with Doris Crownover as Man-

ager sponsored a "Taste of Knox City" contest featuring desserts.

Ten more years down this journey in October 2001, the Knox City marching band photos covered the front page and inside as well, as they earned the #1 State rating at the marching contest the previous Saturday in Wichita Falls. Does this sound familiar? It was no surprise to me to see that their band director this year was our current and successful band director, Mark Tucker.

Houndette volleyball lead the district ranking and O'Brien Bulldogs remained undefeated in football action.

In recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Knox County News, the editor of the October 19, 2000 edition wrote: "It was October 21, 1971, that the first issue of the News was published, beginning another hometown newspaper out of necessity after *The Knox County Herald*, 66-year-old publication was closed on October 13, 1971. A town meeting was called on October 14, 1971, by Chamber of Commerce manager Doris Crownover and with the pledged support of Knox City merchants, churches and individuals, this new baby of Knox County was established that afternoon making us the oldest established newspaper in Knox County.

My mother, Billye Angle, who had worked for the previous owner and my fa-

ther, the late Buddy Angle, "backed their ears" and took the plunge into the newspaper business, never looking back.

With the help of long-time Stamford American publisher, the late Roy Craig and his wife Dorothy, the two helped, coach, guided, critiqued and molded my mom and dad's efforts of this publication into what I consider the finest there is. It has been a pleasure to continue the family tradition.

Many other area weekly newspapers have come and gone during the last 29 years, and we are thankful to have lasted this long and proud, every time someone tells us 'we are the best'!!

To our advertisers, You are Really what it's all about. We could not have a hometown newspaper without our advertisers who support us."

Stacy Angle Thompson
As fall approaches, the rain has finally shown itself and left a crispness in the air today. I would like to quote an article written by Benjamin's Wyman Meinzer published in the October 10, 1991 issue of this paper which so appropriately describes our area:

"Who will deny that the last few mornings of crisp Autumn spice is good for the soul? Early Sunday morning I took my camera into the brush and stood in reverence as the rising sun touched the crystal clear horizon to the east. A dew lay heavy in the tabosa grass covering my boots in a coating of water as I walked toward a

low growing cedar near the edge of a thick stand of mesquite. As I sat in my camo clothing breathing the clean cool air that we so often take for granted, I could hear the chatter of the scissortail flycatchers as they swooped and fussed in their haste to head south for the winter. The cool mornings of recent have foretold the winds that will come and, as in centuries past, all warm weather birds are making ready for their age old tip to the south. How I do cherish this time of the year when all eyes cast expectant eyes to the north. Life is so vibrant in the fall and one must only listen and watch to note the excitement of the wild ones! Shortly I placed an old coyote call to my mouth, one which I diligently whittled on for many hours in my dorm room at Texas Tech University some 18 years ago. The cries of the call bounced through the mesquite and tabosa, quieting all life momentarily. I peered over the big 6 pound camera lens in anticipation. Somewhere out in the shadows of a shallow arroyo a furry pair of eyes must surely be listening to the call! Only four minutes had elapsed when, to the north, the sliding grey form of an old coyote topped a low rise in the land. Watching for any sign of danger he stood motionless, staring straight at my position. In the old days he would have been mine right then. Instead of the camera I would have been holding a scope sighted rifle, its

shiny rocket shaped cartridge poised in the chamber for this very moment. But now, at least for today, I only held my camera and lens. He must come closer as my intentions were for magazine quality photos of this elusive creature. At 30 yards he stopped, those yellow eyes staring at the unusual form hunkered beneath the cedar only a few yards away. Fourteen photos later the old grey coyote turned her gaze to the west, her curiosity satisfied for now. With her graceful form disappearing in the grass and distant brush I was filled with a feeling of satisfaction. Autumn is in the air and it is a good day to be alive!"

And so the journey has lead to this day, October 8, 2011 and the 40th Anniversary issue. As the "newbe", I have produced the record number of four editions of the Knox County News. When I began as editor, I stated that I wanted this publication to represent all of Knox County. So many of you have come into the office, called or emailed with help, suggestions and encouragement from all over this county, that I'm encouraged about the representation and input. I'm not planning to set any records, but to simply report the happenings, daily life, events and news of interest about our area, and to promote Knox County businesses that make this publication possible. With your continued help, I feel very positive about the future of *The Knox County News*.

LOOKING AHEAD
continued from page 1

ment and other methods pertaining to the feral hog along with other aspects of wildlife management on the ranch.

GOREE JESUS JAM will be Sat., Oct. 22. It is a joyous celebration unto the LORD! Any bands or individuals interested in performing contact us on facebook.

KNOX CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL will have a Book Fair, the week of Oct. 10th. Then plan to attend their Open House on Wed., Oct. 12th at 5:30 p.m. where report cards will be given out.

BENEFIT LUNCHEON to be held in the high school cafeteria, Oct. 16th, on behalf of Dionisia Estrada.

NATIONALLY KNOWN, DR. WAYNE HAYENGA will be available at First United Methodist Church in Munday, Texas, Mon., Oct. 17., 2011, beginning at 6p.m. to answer questions concerning Estate Planning, Passing on the Family Farm, Living Wills, Real Estate and more. Supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. There is no charge for the meal or the meeting. Please RSVP to Lorri Coop by Oct. 14th at 940-459-2651.

MOTORCYCLE POKER RUN October 22 registration 10 am - 11am at Fort Chadbourne. Prizes awarded 1:00 pm downtown Bronte. Benefits Bronte Chamber of Commerce, for more information bronte-texas.org or 325-473-3501.

METHODIST CHURCH LUNCH CANCELED - Due to the Benefit Luncheon this Sunday, Oct. 16th for Dionisia Estrada, the Methodist Church will not serve their 3rd Sunday meal. The church will not resume their 3rd Sunday meals again until after the first of the year.

MANURE from Page 7

tions annually, which is about 125 pounds of nitrogen, and then we have

10 tons per acre of raw manure application, which occurs annually," DeLaune said.

The initial reports in year one with no storm-driven events, but with irrigation-

driven events, indicate there is potential to move small amounts of nutrients off the plots even through irrigation, he said.

"We've seen as much as 11 pounds of nitrogen lost and about 7 pounds of phosphorous lost from a site - less than 2 percent of applied and soil nitrogen and phosphorus - just due to irrigation that is

moving off site," DeLaune said.

"The most important thing is to soil and manure sample," he said. "Know how much nitrogen and phosphorous you have in your soil profile and how much is in the manure before you go and apply more."

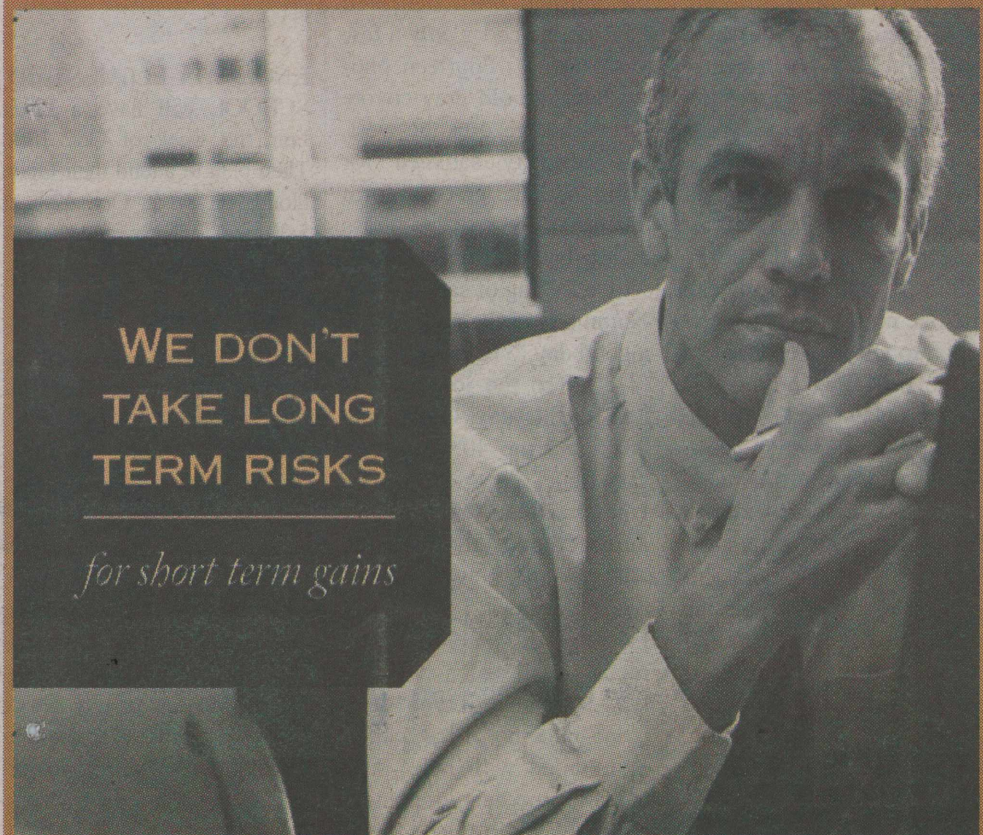
"Manure is a great source of ma-

cronutrients, micronutrients and organic matter," Weinheimer said. "By providing these companies with the resources needed to be informed and making training resources readily available to them and their employees, we can ensure that manure is not at a competitive disadvantage to com-

mercial fertilizer.

"Farmers should have the freedom to obtain crop nutrients from manure, compost or commercial fertilizer," he said, adding they should also feel comfortable that the product has been applied in accordance with best management practices.

The enjoyment of the fall season is exhibited in the creative decorations around Knox City neighborhoods.



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MEMPHIS - Memphis and surrounding areas. HVAC Service/ Installs, call Ty Reese 806-204-0336. Basic service call \$55.

WELLINGTON - Ed Campbell is still accepting new guitar students, call 940-585-9648 after 5 p.m.

MEMPHIS - Ladybug Child Development Center Licensed Child Care Is Now Open (806) 259-3260, 203 N. 12th Street Memphis TX, 79245. HOURS: Mon-Fri 6:30 am - 5:30 pm

Help Wanted

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

CHILDRESS - CNAs and WEEK-END RN - Now hiring State certified CNAs & weekend RN for

immediate openings. Competitive rates! EOE. For more information call (940) 937-8668, or apply in person to our Administrator or our DON at CHILDRESS HEALTH CARE CENTER, 1200 7th Street NW, Childress. (1013c)

HOLLIS - RNs wanted. Good wages and benefits. Apply in person at Colonial Manor II 120 W Versa, Hollis, OK.

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

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PADUCAH - Paducah Nursing Center is accepting applications for DON; weekend RN, as needed LVNs and CNAs. EOE. Apply in person at 800 7th St. Paducah, TX. (1026c)

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CANADIAN - River City Roustabouts in Canadian, TX is now hiring CDL drivers. Offering competitive wages. Preferably bilingual, apply at D&R Transports 10935 US Hwy 60 or call 806-323-8220. (TFN)

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MEMPHIS - New condition Hoyt MT Sport ZR200 Compound Bow Mossy Oak Camo, includes carry case, six arrows, three with broad-points, Truefire trigger release and sights. Call 806-259-3965 for details.

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WELLINGTON - 2 bedroom, 1404 Amarillo St. Wellington \$20K and 2 bedroom 700 Goulston Quanh with 5 extra lots. Financing available email brock_1951@hotmail.com. (1102p)

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CATCHING UP WITH
America's Favorite Bear

Smokey reflects on becoming a "modern" bear, why he'll never need a yacht, and how a little jar of honey can go a long way.

What is your idea of perfect happiness? A day fishing in the wilderness, followed by a nap under a shady, towering oak tree, but over my eyes, so wildfires to worry about.

What is your greatest fear? I just got a publicist, and he tells me to make sure that my message doesn't get lost in today's climate of media oversaturation. And I really don't like bees.

Which living person do you admire the most? Those who really embrace the cause of preventing wildfires - you'll find them clutching a "Golden Smokey Award."

What is the trait you most despise in others? Callous disregard for our forests and wildlands.

What is your greatest extravagance? A friend of mine gave me this amazing jar of honey from Paris - I only open it once a year on my birthday.

What is your favorite journey? Spending time in any forest or wildland, anytime, anywhere. Give me the grass beneath my feet, trees above my head and I'm in heaven.

On what occasion do you lie? The only lying I do involves hibernation.

Which living person do you most despise? Despite it's a strong word - but when it comes to anyone who is careless with fire, let's just say you don't want to see me angry - I'm a Black Bear, not a teddy bear, remember?

What or who is the greatest love of your life? The amazing wilderness that I am so lucky to call home, followed closely by a "special" lady bear in the Yellowstone area.

What do you consider your greatest achievement? 60+ years of preventing wildfires, but I'm just getting started.

Who is your favorite hero of fiction? I know it's ironic - but I love Goldilocks.

When and where were you happiest? Funny story - there's talk of a "Smokey" movie, so I was in Cannes, taking some meetings during the film festival - 60-foot yachts, parties everywhere, fame and fortune beckoning, and all I could think about was getting back to the wilderness. So there you have it.

What do you most dislike about your appearance? I come off as this cuddly, sweet, fuzzy bear - but I have sharp teeth, and big claws - not that I would use them, but if people thought about ending up on the wrong side of them, maybe they'd be less careless in the outdoors. Other than that, I guess I could probably use a new pair of jeans.

If you were to die and come back as one thing, what would it be? There's no one I would rather be. But Jack Nicholson comes close. That guy can tell some stories.

What is your most treasured possession? I'd be nothing without my hat.

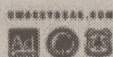
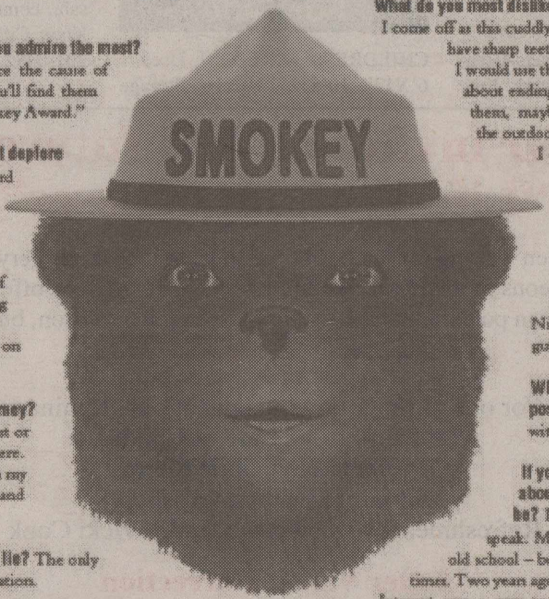
If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be? I'm doing that even as we speak. Most people think of me as old school - but I'm catching up with the times. Two years ago, I would have thought the Internet was a way to catch salmon - now I'm working on a MySpace page and a daily blog.

What is your most marked characteristic? I always say it's my fur - but then again, how many bears have a motto?

What do you most value in your friends? Honesty. Integrity. And a willingness to share food.

Who are your heroes in real life? The men and women who put their lives on the line to prevent the spread of wildfires.

What is it that you most dislike? Wildfires! Boy, these questions are too easy.



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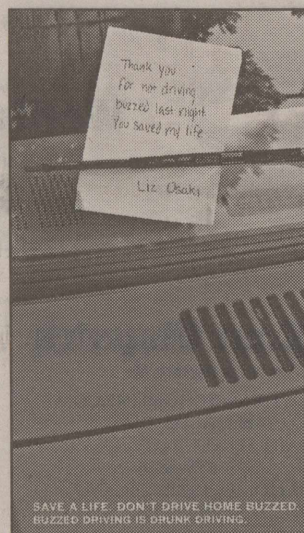
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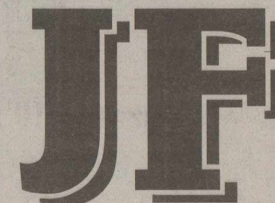
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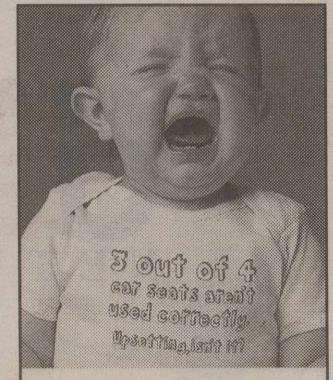
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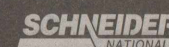
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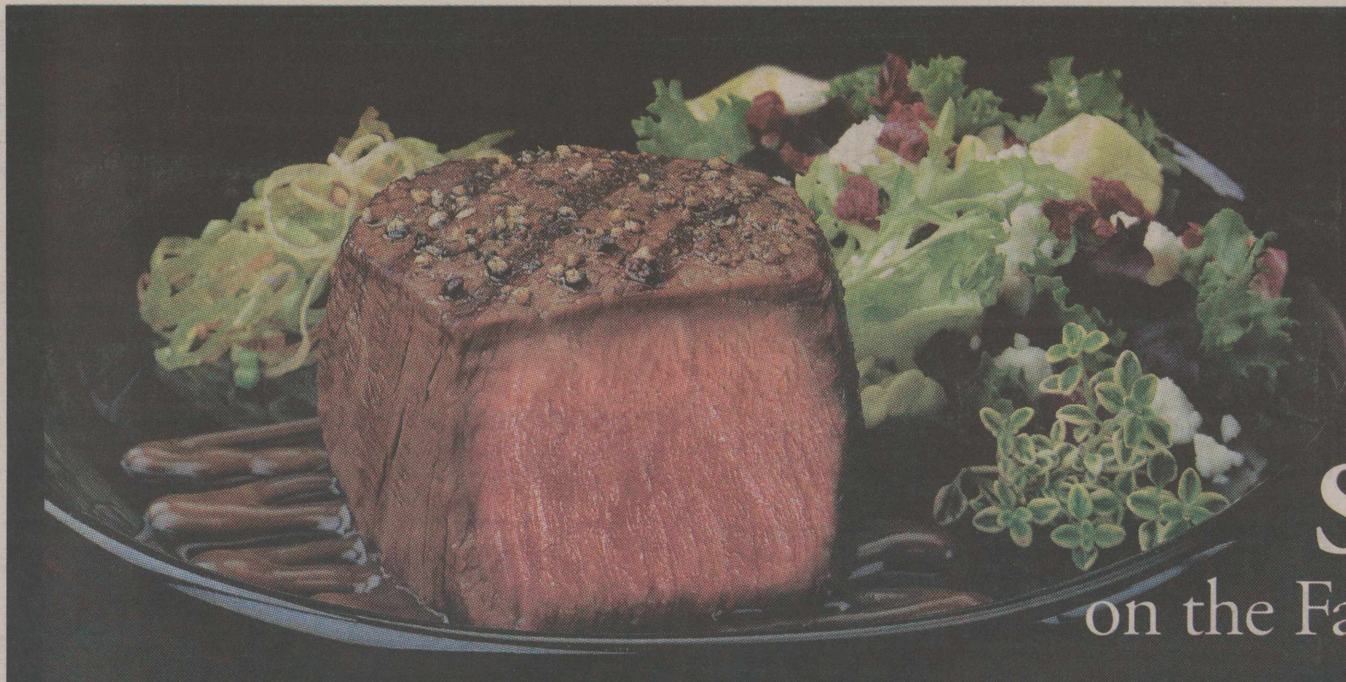


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