

## Knox City Water Line Leak

It was a sunny afternoon and from all the water standing alongside Ave. F and other streets in Knox City, you might think there had just been a good shower or two that passed through town. But one half mile further south on Ave F on the west side of the highway in a nearby field, Knox City employees were fighting hundreds of gallons of water shooting out from a break in an old flange connection where a 6" water line connected to a 2" line.

Originally and probably many years ago, these two lines were laid about six feet underground, horizontally level, ready to supply a portion of Knox City's water needs.

As years passed, the weight of six to seven feet of soil on top of the line, plus the weight of farm equipment used to plant and harvest crops in that field, began to cause the soil to sink where the flange connected the two pipes together. This was naturally a weak point, so the sinking flange finally gave way, broke apart and the water began to gush.

Fire hydrants in south and east Knox City were opened to try and relieve pressure at the break allowing the workmen to access the broken connection.

The battle at the break continued, unrelieved by the opened fire hydrants, plus two sump pumps at the water leak site carrying water out of the hole and into the field. Still, the crew fought the situation. At one point, a workman was sprayed from head to toe with the freezing, muddy water. He went to his truck, put on a jacket over his soaked clothes and boots, and kept working.

As shown in the photos, the workmen continued to fight the gushing water trying to reveal the lines and get to the connection.

After the efforts to relieve the pressure of the gushing water failed once again, the 2" line was cut and the water directed in a different direction so they could make repairs. After dark and five long hours later, the repair was made using a 6" gate valve. At that point, several very wet and tired men were able to go home.



Photos by Sherry Reid  
Shown above, Knox City workmen battle the broken water line on Friday, December 30, 2011. Shown to the right, fire hydrants opened in a portion of south and east Knox City to relieve some of the pressure on the broken water line. The line was repaired after several hours of work.



### Texas Department of State Health Services

Vaccinations for children and adults will be available including Hepatitis A, pneumococcal conjugate, polio, MMR, HIB, Tetanus Diphtheria Pertussis, Hepatitis B, HPB, meningitis, and chickenpox vaccine. Flu vaccine for adults and children is available.

A parent, adult family member or guardian must accompany minors under 18 years of age. A copy of the child's immunization record, social security card and Medicaid letter, if applicable, must be provided.

Services at the Department of State Health Services are offered on a sliding fee scale but no one is denied services.

For information about immunizations, call the Texas Department of State Health office at 940-552-8770.

**Knox City Immunization Clinic**  
Housing Authority Office, 203 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Tuesday, January 24  
10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

### Rector: FSA Announces Election Results; Albus to Represent LAA2

Knox County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director, John Rector, announced that county committee elections are over, the ballots are counted and the results are in.

JoAnn Albus of Knox City was elected to represent LAA2 and Jerry McCown of Knox City will serve as the first alternate.

Elected county committee members serve a three-year term and are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster, conservation, commodity, and price support programs, as well as other important federal farm program

issues.

"County committee members are a valuable asset because they are local producers who participate in FSA programs themselves and have a direct connection to farmers and ranchers in the community," said CED Rector. "All recently elected county committee members and alternates will take office on January 1, 2012, and join the existing committee," he said.

For more information about county committees and the election process, please contact the Knox County FSA office at 940-658-3537 or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

### LOOKING AHEAD

**Big Country Adult Education Co-Op** is still offering free GED Classes in the Haskell/Knox County area. The classes will be offered Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the Haskell Elementary Computer Lab from 4:00-7:00. The classes will begin again Tuesday, January 3, at 4:00. Please bring your driver's license or photo ID and social security card with you. If you have workbooks from last year, bring them also. These classes are free and space is limited.

**Drive Magazine**, a national magazine that is located in Haskell, Tx is looking for articles on Agriculture Heros. If you would like to submit a story to the magazine, please do so by January 25, 2012. They welcome submissions

from all age groups. Submit your story of 300 words or less by January 25<sup>th</sup>, at <http://drivelivestock.com/magazine>.

The local **Alzheimer's Support Group** meetings will resume their regular 4<sup>th</sup> Monday meetings on Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at the Haskell County Extension Office located at 101 S. Avenue D in Haskell. Caregivers, family members and friends of individuals with Alzheimer's or a related dementia, should consider attending these meetings that are open to anyone in Haskell County or the surrounding area. The monthly meetings offer a confidential environment where participants can share their concerns, support each other, and learn ways to cope with

the challenges associated with long-term care giving.

For more information, you may contact Jane Rowan, County Extension Agent/FCS at (940)864-2546 or Alzheimer's Association North Central Texas Chapter at (325)672-2907 or 1-800-272-3900.

The **Knox County Visioning Group** will meet January 19<sup>th</sup> in Truscott at 4 p.m. The place will be announced later.

**Childress Basketball Little Dribblers Tournament** will be March 22-24, 2012. Boys and girls division \$65 per-team. Deadline to enter is March 11 To sign up or if you have any questions, call Lisa Darter, 940-674-5401.

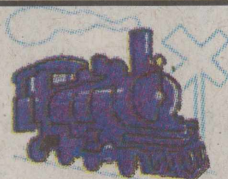


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# 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Cotton and Grain Pre-Plant Conference

By Rod Santa Ana

MERCEDES -- The 18th annual Cotton and Grain Pre-plant Conference will be held Jan. 18 at the Events Center of the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Showgrounds, 898 N. Texas Ave., in Mercedes.

Registration begins at 8 a.m.; presentations begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. Brad Cowan, a Texas AgriLife Extension Service agent in Hidalgo County, said the event will provide information to help cotton and grain producers maximize their yields and profits in 2012.

"We've got a great lineup of topics and speakers, some first-timers and others are repeat performers, but all will provide important information specific to this year's crops," he said. Growers will be especially interested in new varieties that will be available to cotton producers this year, Cowan said. "Dr. Gaylon Morgan, an AgriLife Extension state-wide cotton agronomist in College Station, will tell us about new varieties that have the potential to boost both the yield and quality of cotton fibers," he said. "We seem to get new varieties that produce more and more each year, and it's important for growers to know what's out there now."

With record high cotton prices last year, growers are also interested to hear prognostications about what 2012 will bring, Cowan said. "We'll have Dr. John Robinson, an AgriLife Ex-

tension ag economist who specializes in cotton markets, who will explain the factors that could influence this year's market," Cowan said. "Growers take a lot of information into account when deciding what and how much to plant, so this talk will be especially useful." Dr. John Parker, an integrated pest management coordinator with the National Cotton Council in Memphis, Tenn. will discuss the current status of cotton boll weevil eradication in Mexico. "Boll weevils in Mexico directly affect cotton production here," Cowan said. "There's a spillover effect. We noticed that Valley cotton acreage along the river had high weevil trap counts last year." Dr. Paul Baumann, an AgriLife Extension weed specialist in College Station, will discuss the emerging issue of herbicide-resistant weeds in cotton fields. "This is a huge issue," Cowan said. "We've had no reports of any here, but there are many reports in other areas of weeds resistant to the commonly used herbicides. Dr. Baumann will discuss strategies we should consider to prevent that problem here instead of waiting for it to happen." Shelee Padgett, a representative of the United Sorghum Check-off Program, will provide an update on grain sorghum research projects funded by the checkoff program, Cowan said.

Other speakers include Larry Smith, with the Tex-

as Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, and Dr. Tom Isakeit, an AgriLife Extension plant pathologist in College Station. "Mr. Smith will discuss the tweaking that will be done to this year's bollweevil eradication program that has worked very, very well in our area. But like anything with a lot of moving parts, there are always adjustments to be made," Cowan said. Isakeit will provide an update on cotton root rot control, a disease problem that has limited cotton production for years, he said. "Growers will be pleased to know that we've submitted a Section 18 for permission to use a new product to control cotton root rot," Cowan said. "Dr. Isakeit's research shows it is economically feasible and we may just have the clearance to use it this year." Other speakers include Cowan, who will discuss the current soil testing campaign in South Texas, plus representatives of the agricultural industry who will discuss updates and new technology developments. "We will have continuing education units available from the Texas Department of Agriculture and the Crop Consultants Association," Cowan said. "And the Cotton and Grain Producers of the Lower Rio Grande Valley will hold their annual membership meeting at noon, under the direction of Dr. Webb Wallace, the executive director, and Chris Bower, the association president."

# Livestock Disaster Program Deadlines, Jan. 30, 2012

Knox City, Texas – January 5, 2012 – Knox County RSDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Executive Director, John Rector, reminds eligible ranchers and livestock producers who had livestock losses or grazing losses during the 2011 crop year that the deadline for applying for benefits under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) is Jan 30, 2012.

"It is imperative that producers meet the deadline for disaster assistance as there are no late file provisions for LFP and ELAP," said Rector. "To ensure a smooth application process, producers should have all required supporting documentation with them at the time they apply for benefits," he said.

### Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):

LFP provides payments to eligible livestock producers who have suffered livestock grazing losses due to qualifying drought or fire that occurred before Oct. 1, 2011.

Fire losses apply only to federally managed rangeland. Eligible livestock under LFP include beef cattle, alpacas, buffalo, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, poultry, reindeer, sheep and swine.

During the 2011 crop year, all Texas counties met the LFP trigger requirements for a three-month payment for native pasture, improved pasture and forage sorghum. Eligible ranchers and livestock producers have until Jan. 30, 2012, to apply for LFP benefits.

### Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP):

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish who have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, including losses due to blizzards and wildfires that occurred before Oct. 1, 2011. ELAP assistance is for losses not covered under other disaster assistance programs established by the 2008 Farm Bill.

Producers who experienced livestock death losses must file a notice of loss 30 days after the loss is apparent, but no later than Dec. 29, 2011. Producers who suffered livestock grazing and feed losses must have filed a notice of loss no later than Oct. 31, 2011 and have until Jan. 30, 2012, to submit an application for payment for livestock death losses and livestock grazing and feed losses.

### Program Requirements:

In order to qualify for LFP and ELAP, the applicant must have purchased insurance coverage through FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) or the Pasture, Rangeland and Forage Insurance-Rainfall Index for Grazing (PRF-RI) program offered through the Risk Management Agency (RMA). Producers who meet the requirements of a socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmer or rancher do not have to meet the Risk Management Purchase Requirement (RMPR).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

# Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Program

COLLEGE STATION -- Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Program is seeking applicants for its new class which will begin in July. TALL is a two-year leadership development program managed by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Applications for the newest class, Class XIII, are due March 15. Application forms are online at <http://tall.tamu.edu>.

"Texas agriculture has a need for individuals who can

lead our industry as it faces new and unique challenges. These individuals will provide the leadership, insight and direction to ensure agricultural viability for the future," said

Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz, AgriLife Extension leadership program director. The program invests 455 hours of intensive training per person in seminars, speakers and domestic and international study trips over two years, Mazurkiewicz added. Class

XIII will travel to Brazil. The program is equivalent to the time spent obtaining a master's degree in agriculture. The typical class size is about 25, and tuition is \$2,500.

"The goal of the program is to create a strong network within Texas agriculture by having representation from all agricultural industries and geographic regions," Mazurkiewicz said.

Participants include traditional crop producers, ranchers, bankers and attorneys, as well as those who work in lumber, food processing, agricultural corporations and horticultural industries.

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

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

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

NOTICE

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

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

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## KCHS ONE ACT PLAY IN NEED OF PROPS

Your junk is our treasure! Knox City High School One Act Play is in need of props, costumes, and furniture. We will be holding a Prop Drive January 16 - 30, 2012 to build up our supply. If you have furniture, clothing from all time periods, hats, jewelry, knickknacks, household goods, fake plants, and many other things that need a new home, we will gladly use them. Contact Terra Martinez at 657-3565 for more information and to schedule drop off times.

Thank You from  
**the Knox County Child Welfare Board**

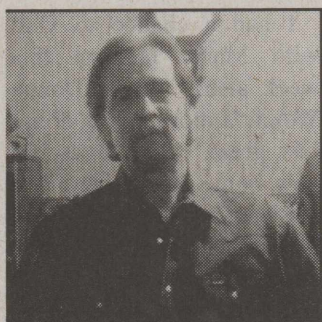
Because of the tremendous response by our community, The Knox County Welfare Board was able to fulfill many children's wishes and make their Christmas happier—and perhaps help a lot of parents enjoy this blessed season a little more. A simple "thank you" seems inadequate, but please be assured there is a world of appreciation in these words.

The Board wishes to give a big THANK YOU to all who helped by taking an angel from the Angel Tree and purchasing items requested by the child. Those who donated monetarily or through memorials made a big difference in what was provided to the children. Another THANK YOU to the Lions Club for their donations each year and to Citizens Bank for letting us place the Angel Tree in the lobby.

Toys, toothbrushes, shampoo, soaps, etc. were donated by the Knox County Hospital Staff, 4-H members and several churches... in addition to the many individuals who provided the requested items for the angels. Thanks also to the Chamber of Commerce for allowing us to use their building to distribute the Christmas bags to the families. Again, we want to thank everyone for your contributions and your contributions and our caring to the children of this community. Although Christmas is the main expense for the Board, funds are also used throughout the remainder of the year for many emergencies which may arise.

Our sincere appreciation,  
Knox County Child Welfare Board  
Knox City and Benjamin members: Kathy Albus, Sheri Baty, Joanna Delgado, Pam Duke, Sherry Hacker and Cathye Williams

# OBITUARY



**BILLY DALE PITTMAN**

Rochester, Texas - Billy Dale Pittman, 45, passed away in Abilene, Texas, January 9, 2012. Visitation was Wednesday, January 11, 2012 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Smith Family Funeral Home in Rochester. Funeral services were held at the First Baptist Church at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, January 12, 2012 in Rochester with Bro. Joseph Barrett officiating. Burial was at the Rochester Cemetery under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Homes.

Billy was born February 5, 1966 in Knox City to Billy Kenneth and Winnie (Goode) Pittman. He married Cathy Rose in Haskell on February 17, 1993 and has lived in Rochester most of his life. Billy was a shop foreman and fabricator with

Smith Pipe of Abilene. He was a member of HOG, an avid welder and diesel mechanic. He enjoyed and was interested in anything to do with trucks. Billy owned a trucking company.

He is preceded in death by his father, Billy Kenneth Pittman; two uncles, Ken Wolsch and Elmer Goode; his grandparents, Floyd and Bobbie Goode, Maudie Hargrave, and Charles William Pittman.

Billy's survivors are his wife, Cathy Pittman of Rochester; his daughter, Tina Pittman of Rochester; a son, Colton Pittman and wife Adria of Haskell; two step-daughters, Shauna Caldwell and husband Jeffery, and Erica Schwind and husband George; his mother, Winnie Pittman of Rochester; a brother, Kenneth Pittman of Rochester; 5 sisters, Angela Campbell of Wichita Falls, Alicia Shaw of Rusk, Terry Hill of Rawls, Shirley Nichols of Akron, OH, and Karen Holmes of Corpus Christi; 9 grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles.

**By Gary Schnable  
Pastor, Four Square Church  
Heart Surgery In 2012**  
*"When you came to Christ, you were 'circumcised,' but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature"*  
Colossians 2:11 (NLT)

I remember 28 years ago when my father was told he needed "heart by-pass surgery". He had three arteries around his heart that were almost completely blocked. By-pass surgery was still in its early years. The percentages of coming through the surgery were pretty good (80/20). My dad had it redone again at 75 and both times has done marvelously well and able to enjoy life to the fullest since then. I'm very thankful!!!

Heart surgery of any kind is a scary thing because the possibilities of dying during or after the procedure are there (My uncle died at 60 two days after a successful surgery). Then again, if one does not choose to have the needed surgery done, many will be very limited or die soon after their prognosis without a chance at a longer life...barring a miracle of God!

Did you know that God does heart surgery too? It is a surgery that we all need in our lives. Some have asked God to perform it on them in their childhood years and others during life, still others just prior to death. It's called "spiritual heart surgery". Yes, it is a fact that we are all born with a heart defect...it's called a sinful nature that is eternally deadly.

This means that God is cutting away old habits (Many that get us in to trouble, get us sick or even kill us), old ideas about life & gives us a brand new healthy outlook on life!

I know with a New Year beginning there are many of us who will try to change our ways, habits and thinking to become what we dreamed of being. Sad part is that most will fail in a very short time and be disgusted with our-

# GOD'S PROMISES

elves and will probably take it out on those closest to us!

Well, God wants you to succeed! He wants the best for you in 2012!! His desire is for you to experience life to the fullest!!! He has great plans for you, BUT it can only truly happen if you have this needed heart surgery we all need!

I had a friend years ago who was ranked number two in the world of full contact karate. Man he was quick! At that time "Air hockey" was popular at the bowling alleys and pool halls. He would hustle guys for money and if they did not pay up he would make them pay physically. He was charming with the ladies and was tough!

This young guy had everything going for him that a young guy could want... looks, charm, girls, talent, fame...when he wasn't in training he could drink anyone under the table. The one thing he was missing was peace! He couldn't sleep at night, always looking over his shoulder, until one day a friend introduced him to Jesus. He asked God that day to do surgery on his heart... no waiting around.

This man who seemingly had the good life to everyone

else knew he had the heart defect! A guy who knew and did everything it took to stay healthy and agile, now knew he was dying on the inside and wanted so desperately for God to repair his spiritual heart!

What an amazing change it made in his life. The ones he fought with before, he apologized to; sharing with them what God did for him and could do for them. He, with God's help, restored family relationships that were just awful. Over the next several years God just radically made him healthy from the inside out...a man who most would have thought had the dream life found the dream life in a relationship with Jesus.

So...do you want a great New Year??? Do you need heart surgery??? Ask God to do heart surgery...to cut away your old life, habits, anger, resentment, etc. (They are just a ball & chain dragging you down). DO YOU WANT A NEW LIFE??? Talk to God today about having heart surgery! You may need to consult with a pastor or a friend that knows God well and will help you with making the decision about heart surgery...Do it!

To those of us that know Fa-

ther God already, maybe like my dad you need heart surgery again. You see, I believe that all Believers over a life time need to have God check us out. For some, we just need some minor adjustments in how we speak, act and live. For others, we have allowed our hearts to grow cold toward others and God. We need to have the hardness or selfishness of our hearts removed again. To make us more sensitive to His call & His desires in order to experience His blessings today! Then we can start living again...living the full life we have dreamed about!

Come on! Start the year right! Start your life over again by asking God to help you make things right in your life! Go ahead, just ask God to do surgery...it is quite painless for most because Jesus suffered the pain so we would not have to! Besides when you have God do heart surgery...He gives you a heart that will last forever!

Happy New Year Everyone!

*"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well" -- 3 John 1:2 (NIV)*

## DEATH NOTICE

James A. Gideon, born July 22, 1918, passed away December 20, 2011.

Mr. Gideon was a veteran of World War II and the Italy Campaign. He retired from the phone company in California where he lived. He was a successful investor in the phone company and held interests in twenty five other companies. He received a

military funeral in Washington State.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Mr. & Mrs. O. M. Gideon of Knox County, his wife, Jean Gideon, and is survived by children Mary of the home, Mark of Martinex, Ca., Jimmy of Las Vegas, Randy Gideon, and one sister, Mrs. Ed Wynn of Knox City, and one brother, Oscar W. Gideon of Benjamin, Tx.

# KNOX COUNTY AGING SERVICES

Menus for January 16th - January 20th

### MONDAY

#### JANUARY 16TH

Swedish Meatballs  
Parsley Noodles  
Mixed Vegetables  
Whole Wheat Roll

Angel Food Cake/Strawberries

### TUESDAY

#### JANUARY 17TH

Beef Soft Taco  
Spanish Rice  
Broccoli  
Mandarin Oranges/Topping

### WEDNESDAY

#### JANUARY 18TH

Baked Chicken Breast  
Baked Potato/Sour Cream Peas  
Pineapple Tidbits  
Chocolate Pudding

### THURSDAY

#### JANUARY 19TH

Ham/Beans  
Spinach  
Seasoned Corn  
Orange/Pineapple Cup  
Country Apple Crisp

### FRIDAY

#### JANUARY 20TH

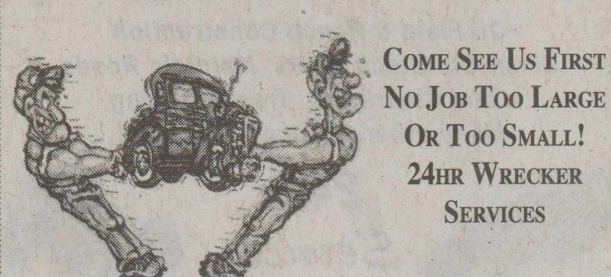
Crispy Chicken On A Bun  
Tomato/Lettuce  
Potato Wedges  
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Save a Life Texas Department of Transportation  
[BuckleThemRight.org](http://BuckleThemRight.org)

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**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH – Knox City**  
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Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m. Evening Bible Study - 7 p.m. Monday, Breakfast Bible Study 6:30 a.m. Tuesday, Morning Bible Study 10 a.m. Wednesday, Youth Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Worship Team Rehearsal 7 p.m. Wednesday, Outreach Lunch 12 noon every 3rd Sunday  
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**  
Jeremias Tigga Sacramental Minister • 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**  
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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# SAMMIE'S KNOX CITY CORNER AND FINAL THOUGHTS

This week's news is very good and all seems to be taking a great direction for the new year. As you've probably noticed, Bud's Café was real busy trying to get their business done during the repairs last week. But they've done a great job getting everything back in place and it really looks nice. I'm sure they were very pleased with Jim Reid's job and his working hands. It was a great job well done.

Joe Rodriguez has finally returned to work and the doctor says things look good. Now his hand is healed, so watch out for that punch. He's back. Thank God all went well and he's happy to return to work. Guess what? On the 17<sup>th</sup> he'll still be older than me. Ha. Love you brother.

Monday we celebrated my son Ruben's birthday and he really makes me feel old, but hey, thank God, they are doing great and are healthy. Patty & Aubri are real proud of him just like us. Eric, Sandra, & Jacob were over and they had a great time. I thank God every day for my family. Enjoy the little ones while you can, be-

cause they grow up too fast. Mrs. Rodriguez had lots of kids for her new year celebration. It's been a while but she loved it just the same. She has some good days and some bad, but thank God for her.

Roy Rodriguez is home from the hospital as of Monday and back to his good old self, giving orders and if you don't get it right the first time, he'll let you know. I'm just glad he's doing good.

Lindsey Abila is home from the hospital. She still has to go to physical therapy three times a week. I got to visit with her and the family and they are so happy and thankful to God for her recovery. They all were having a great time and her little girls were so happy and full of joy to have her home by their side.

Jessie Dena from Munday that I talked about last week, has had half of his foot amputated. His wife, Diana, works at the Knox County Clinic. Anyway, he has to improve his blood sugar level in order to heal faster. They are still in Hendrix in Abilene and Diana travels back and forth when she gets a chance. My

jars will go out this week to try and help with her fuel and lodging expenses. I know it has to be hard. Our prayers are with them always. May God bless them.

Brandon Grimsley is returning for some testing later this month to be sure his kidneys are doing okay. Jan says he takes one day at a time and it's rough.

Denise Estrada and I have not had a chance to visit, and since Dionisia Estrada has been staying in Brownwood with Diana & West, I'm sure it will be a few weeks before we hear how she's doing. We can continue to pray and ask God to get her through the treatments. She has a very positive attitude about everything and her faith in God is "out of this world". Her family is also a great source

of strength for her.

Alfredo and Amanda Abila are doing great. They stay busy with the girls. The speech and physical therapy continues also and that is going well.

James Klutts is having problems with headaches since he had surgery. Hopefully he will do better as the weeks go by. May God bless them. They will remain in our thoughts and prayers.

James, we miss you at church, but please know that you and Jimmy are in our prayers.

Shane Marin had back surgery and she is recovering and doing real well. She stays busy with therapy. She is Beverly Speck's daughter. Beverly says she's coming along slowly but surely. Dewayne Chaney's wife is

spending time to help her get around and take care of things at home.

I want to thank the Denton family for visiting with me recently. Hopefully everyone has returned home and is doing good, health wise. We had a good visit and I appreciate them taking the time to talk with me.

Bridie Helton has been doing good. She had another appointment with the doctor this week to try and help her back problems. Our prayers are with you.

Donna and Stan Wojcik were in Florida this week visiting with Stanley, Mom and Dad, and also his brother, Jimmy & wife, Wendy. Hope everyone is doing great and that Stan & Donna return home safely. Miss you guys.

I had a chance to visit with Maria Jackson this week also. She is Donna Wojcik's mom and is doing just great. She loves her new home at the Stamford Assisted Living Center and is very happy. She is very happy for all she has and sends her love. She misses everyone.

Cody & Shannon Pack have moved already to Abilene. I had a wonderful visit with her on the phone. Both of you take care and hopefully I can come see you soon.

Monday morning and it's raining a little with some ice in it. Who knows what else will come along in West Texas. Anything goes.

May God bless our troops and each one of us.

Sammie



## The Paperboy

By CHRIS BLACKBURN

*"Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase."*

*"Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it."*

*"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. That is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."*

*"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."*

*"Let no man pull you low enough to hate him."*

*"Like an unchecked cancer, hate corrodes the personality and eats away its vital unity. Hate destroys a man's sense of values and his objectivity. It causes him to describe the beautiful as ugly and the ugly as beautiful, and to confuse the true*

*with the false and the false with the true."*

*"Man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love."*

*"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."*

*"Ten thousand fools proclaim themselves into obscurity, while one wise man forgets himself into immortality."*

*"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."*

*"The hope of a secure and livable world lies with disciplined nonconformists who are dedicated to justice, peace and brotherhood."*

*"The good neighbor looks beyond the external accidents and discerns those inner qualities that make all men human and, therefore, brothers."*

*"Nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral questions of our*

*time; the need for mankind to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to oppression and violence. Mankind must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression, and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love."*

The quotes above are from a man whose life was cut short on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee. Martin Luther King, Jr. walked it like he talked it.

King is remembered for attempting to bring about equality in this country. It was an undertaking of epic proportions.

King advanced this country in immeasurable ways and his passion for justice should resonate with us not just on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, but every day.

Last week I wrote of how a positive attitude can effect a local economy. Wonder if the national attitude will

budge any between now and November?

Currently, and throughout President Obama's term in office, the climate has been a reflection of fear and uncertainty. Those concerns have handicapped American businesses.

Without a doubt, President Obama inherited an awful mess. Equally, his policies have made it worse. That's what happens when you surround yourself with inexperienced people.

So, are we at a stalemate from an economic standpoint? Cash hoarding corporations and large banks have cash they are afraid to invest which has caused a stagnant economy.


Sadly, I'm speaking of American companies and banks afraid to invest in America. If that is not a pitiful sign I don't know what is.

It's no secret what the issues are. And it's clear there is no plan or vision at hand to improve things. It's a recipe for stagnation.

What do we get from our elected officials? Blame. Can someone tell me what good comes from the blame game?

It's time for leadership from someone. The problem is who? This country needs smart, capable leaders who can bring people together. I'm not seeing it ... from anyone. Copyright Christopher Blackburn 2012

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



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	
01/02	22/52	
01/03	30/65	
01/04	30/65	
01/05	27/69	
01/06	28/73	
01/07	36/59	
01/08	27/52	0.04
Total Rainfall for month		.04
2011 Rainfall (ytd)		7.30

### Knox County Market Place

#### For Rent

Knox City Housing Authority (KCHA) has 1, 2, and 3 bedroom apartments available for immediate occupancy to eligible applicants in both HUD and USDA-Rural Development programs. Rental assistance is available for most units. Applications for housing may be picked up at 203 SW 4th Street in Knox City, Texas or call 940-657-3612 for more information. It is the intent of KCHA to offer vacant units to income ineligible (high income) applicants when there are not income eligible (very low or low income) applicants on the waiting list. KCHA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

3 bedroom, 2 baths, living room, dining room, pantry/utility room, carport, patio and storage building.

furnished with stove, refrig, washer & dryer, wall furnace, window unit air conditioners, ceiling fans in every room, no smoking or pets inside house. Call Billy Walker, 657-3628.

#### Help Wanted

Full time, second shift, LVN. Apply in person, Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm-Haskell Health Care Center, 1504 North First St.-Haskell, or call Administrator at (940)864-8537

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

Wanted full time LVN's. Contact April, Roby, RN, Director of Nurses, at Gibson Care Center, Aspermont, Tx 940-989-3526.

The Knox County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for the position of Jailer/Dispatcher. Must be able to obtain a jailer's license within a year of employment. For more information, contact Sheriff Dean Homstad at 940-459-2211 or come to the Knox County Sheriff's Office for an application. Position will remain open until filled.

#### For Sale

2 bedrooms, 1 bath, large back yard, detached single garage, 308, S. 3rd, KC, call 1-806-543-3131.

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**Haskell Health Care Center**  
1504 North First St. - Haskell, TX.  
Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm.

**NOTICE OF SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY**  
**KNOX COUNTY, TEXAS**  
BY ORDER OF THE KNOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT, THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY IS AVAILABLE FOR BID. SEALED BIDS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, P.O. BOX 77, BENJAMIN, TEXAS 79505, BEFORE 12:00 P.M., JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup> 2012.  
**SURPLUS PROPERTY AVAILABLE**  
**METAL BRIDGE ON COUNTY ROAD 3605 THAT CROSSES THE SOUTH WICHITA RIVER BETWEEN VERA AND GILLILAND**  
THE WINNING BIDDER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REMOVAL AND CLEANUP. DUE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF FIRE, THERE WILL BE SOME RESTRICTIONS ON USING CUTTING TORCHES. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE JUDGE'S OFFICE AT (940) 459-2191.

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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 6238-42-001 for INSTALLATION OF RAISED PAVEMENT MARKERS in CHILDRESS County, etc will be opened on February 08, 2012 at 1:00 pm at the State Office for an estimate of \$391,834.00.

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: 38922

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.

# Benjamin News *By Gladene Green*

It's another Monday morning and it's drizzly with some light sleet and a few snow flurries greeting us as we get out & about. It's cold and some wind is blowing making for yet again, another pretty unpleasant day. But the weather folks say it will be better in a day or so before another cold spell Thursday.

We are glad to report no serious illnesses this week here in the community. There's lots of colds and "stuffed" up heads, but after a few days, that malady runs its course and things begin to improve from those suffering with it.

Word was received here Saturday of the death of Jack New. He was married to former Benjamin resident Katy Ressel. Jack had been in failing health for several years & suffered a stroke this past Thursday. He died in Hospice Care in Round Rock. He & Katy lived at Liberty Hill. Jack was my dear friend. We went all our high school days together (he transferred from Gilliland). I saw him June, 2010 & as was always the case, enjoyed my visit with him so much. My sincere sympathy to Katy, their girls & their families &

the rest of their family during this time.

### HERE 'N THERE

Barbara Ryder was in Abilene Thursday, to see her doctor. She has a terrible knee problem. She had it replaced (partial) a few years ago & it has now worn out again. She is awaiting a call from a Ft. Worth doctor as she will have to see one who specializes in that type problem. Needless to say, she's very anxious to get that taken care of.

There's a little more Christmas news this week. E. O. & Irene Reed said they spent a quiet Christmas at home.

Reyes Barrientez had several family members during Christmas & New Years. They were Sean Mary & Hannah Widmer of Coppell, Jr. & Virginia & Sara Barrientez of Stamford, a grand daughter Consuello & her family of Vernon, grand daughter Allie Barrientez who's in college in Denton, Michael Barrietez & his girlfriend of Canyon (Michael goes to West Texas State) & Jimmy & Michele Barrientez & family of Benjamin.

Randolph & Judy Barnett spent Christmas in Hawaii.

They were met there by his son, Rusty & his family of Anchorage, Alaska, and spent a wonderful 10 days on the island. They arrived back in Texas on New Year's Eve, and Judy said it was an experience of a lifetime. They had Christmas with family here before they left, so everything worked out fine.

Mike Young is going to the doctor every day for medication & blood check. He has a blood clot in his lung so is giving that much attention so it doesn't cause any more problem.

Sonny & Doris Bufkin had all 3 kids & all 6 grandkids home for Christmas. That's Debbie Goforth & Megan of Halton City, Mike & Lori Bufkin of Crowell, Michelle Brown, Kelsey & Emily of Benjamin, Joe Bufkin of Texas Tech & Josh Bufkin of Ft. Worth. Doris said it was a fun time.

Weldon Gideon received word last week of the death of his brother, James. James lived in Washington State and died in late Dec. We extend sympathy to Weldon during this time.

## Vernon College GED Testing Dates

Vernon, TX, January 6, 2012--Vernon College has scheduled 2012 GED test dates which will enable individuals to earn their high school diploma equivalency. The tests will be given on the Vernon campus on February 15, March 28, April 25, June 13, September 5, October 17, and November 14. Testing begins at 8 a.m. in the Testing Center, Room 213, east side of Wright Library.

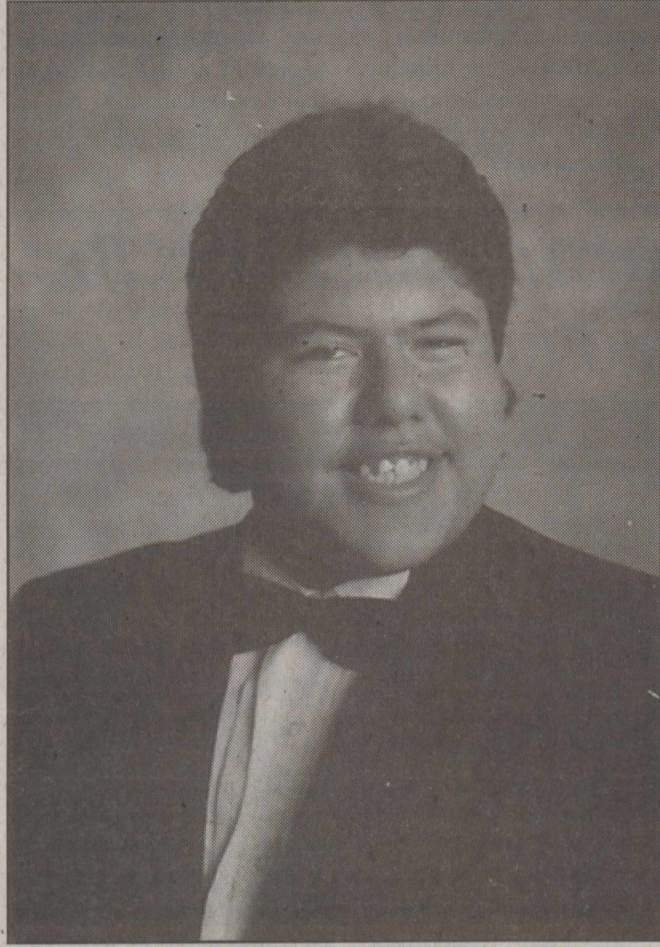
Pre-registration is required at least one week in advance. Seating is limited, so early sign-up is encouraged. The cost for the full battery of tests is \$75, and a re-test fee for an individual section is \$15. Cash, checks, or money orders in the correct amount made payable to Vernon College are acceptable. Payment for testing must be made at the time of registration in the Testing Center on the Vernon campus only during regular testing center hours. The Testing Center is open Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A Texas resident who is at least 18 years old (17 years old with signed parental permission), who has not graduated from high school and is not enrolled in high school, is eligible to

take the test or attend GED classes. Everyone taking the GED test must provide a Texas driver's license or Texas state issued picture ID, and a social security card. If a Texas driver's license or Texas ID is not available, a person may obtain one through the Texas Department of Public Safety Driver's License Division.

GED classes are offered by the Region 9 Education Service Center and Vernon College. The classes are divided into 10-week sessions as follows: January 10 to March 22, and March 27 to May 31. Classes meet from 6-9 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday in the Biggs Arts & Science Center Room 308. Participants will register the first night they attend class, but there is no charge for attending. The instructor is Leslie Taylor.

Participants may attend as many sessions as they choose. Subjects covered will be social studies, science, math, reading, and writing. For further information on testing or the classes, call Testing Coordinator Sharron Shelton, 552-6291 ext. 2317.



**LOOK WHO'S TURNING 37!**  
Happy Birthday, Ruben.  
Love, Mom, Eddie, Eric, Sandra & Jacob

## A Parent Fair

A Parent Fair for all Region 9 parents will be held on Wednesday, February 29, 2012, from 9:00-2:00 at Region 9 ESC in Wichita Falls (301 Loop 11). The keynote speaker for this event is Esmeralda Rodriguez, Grand Prairie Parent Center administrator. Breakout session topics include: Internet safety, Bullying, Financial Aid, Nutrition, Reading skills, Math and Science tips, Graduation requirements, STAAR testing information, College and career readiness, Parent tips, and many, many more. For additional information, please call Kristi Veitenheimer or Vicky Lopez at 940-322-6928. Registration for this event will be on site from 8:30-9:00.

## Food Protection Management Training

A two-day Food Protection Management training for food service managers in the Big Country area will be held February 6 & 13, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Taylor County Extension Office located on the Taylor County Expo grounds in Abilene.

The training will allow food establishments permitted by the Texas Department of Health to meet their certification requirements if they pass the exam. The exam being used is the National Restau-

rant Association's ServSafe exam. The class covers twelve food safety concepts related to personal hygiene, cross contamination, time and temperature, sanitation, pest management, foodborne illness and related areas. The course is sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension in Haskell, Jones, Nolan, and Taylor Counties and the Environmental Section of the City of Abilene.

Cost for the class is \$115, which includes the course book and exam. The

cost for the exam only is \$65. Registration deadline is Thursday, January 19. Registration information is available by calling the Taylor County Extension Office at 312-672-6048, Jones County Office at 325-823-2432, Nolan County Office at 325-235-3184 or Haskell County Office at 940-864-2546.

Educational programs of Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

## EQIP ranking period ends soon

Temple, Texas, Jan. 10, 2012--USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) District Conservationist, Charles Schur, reminds agriculture producers that the ranking period cut-off date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is February 3, 2012.

Producers interested in EQIP should submit applications to the Knox County NRCS office by the deadline so their applications can be considered during the first ranking period of 2012.

EQIP - one of the largest

programs in the Farm Bill - is a voluntary conservation program that promotes environmental quality and assists producers to meet local, state and federal regulations.

"EQIP is a valuable tool to help Knox County's agricultural producers implement conservation practices that provide environmental benefits to help sustain agricultural operations," said Charles Schur.

EQIP is a continuous sign-up program that allows landowners or operators to apply for financial

and technical assistance for the application of specific conservation practices; but the deadline for the first 2012 funding is February 3, 2012. Contracts are offered periodically depending on budgetary allocations. Applications made after the deadline will be considered in the next funding cycle. Higher priority will be given to those applications that address national, state and local priorities and provide higher cost efficiency.

For more information, including eligibility requirements, call the USDA Ser-

vice Center office in Knox City at (940) 658-3526X3. Service center locations and program information can be found on the Texas NRCS Web site at [www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov).

### Helping People Help the Land

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800)795-3272 (voice), or (202)720-6382 (TDD).

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## DID YOU KNOW?

Knox City, on State highways 6 and 22, Farm Road 143, and the Santa Fe Railroad, in a region known as Knox Prairie in southwest Knox County, was founded in anticipation of the arrival of the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway, which began service in 1906.

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# Texas Crop Weather



By Robert Burns

COLLEGE STATION – Many areas received rain, but the general consensus from weekly reports by Texas AgriLife Extension Service county agents was that more is needed to keep wheat and winter pastures going. The U.S. Drought Monitor backs up these observations. As of Jan. 3, the monitor still showed nearly 70 percent of the state as being under severe to extreme drought. However, this is an improvement over the situation at the beginning of October when 97 percent of the state was under severe to extreme drought. Two-minute MP3 Texas Crop and Weather Report for Jan. 10, 2012

The areas that have seen the most relief are the Panhandle and the central and northeast parts of the state, but even these areas remain mostly under moderate drought conditions.

Still, producers who have seen a lessening of the drought are grateful for the moisture and are capitalizing on it, according to AgriLife Extension agents. "The winter wheat crop has had a good shot in the arm with the recent moisture events, but it is a long time to spring," said Rick Auckerman, AgriLife

Extension agent for Deaf Smith County in the western Panhandle. "There is much discussion on what to plant for this spring: reduced corn acres and making up the acreage with cotton or possibly grain sorghum with the extended forecast being short on rainfall. Pastures for the stocker cattle are in very short supply, leaving cattlemen to supplement with hay or si-

lage if possible." "Winter wheat is trying to hold on, but more moisture is needed. Heavy supplemental feeding is being done on remaining cattle herds," said Kevin Brendle, AgriLife Extension agent for Dickens County, east of Lubbock. "Lots of producers sold most of their cattle in the summer."

"Wow! What a difference a little rain makes," said Philip Shackelford, AgriLife Extension agent for Austin County, west of Houston. "Since the beginning of December, Austin County has collected over 6 inches of rain countywide and more is expected through the end of Jan. 9. Cool-season grasses have really responded to mild temperatures and good soil moisture, while winter legume fields are looking very good and most cattle producers have turned in on them to graze. The sell-off and total liquidation of many cattle herds has come to an abrupt halt as ranchers take a wait-and-see attitude before selling."

"Conditions are still dry, despite recent rainfall over the past two weeks," said Randy Reeves, AgriLife Extension agent for Harrison County, north of Longview. "Winter pasture, as well as volunteer ryegrass, was making good to excellent growth with the mild temperatures. Cattle are in fair to good condition, and purchased hay as well as supplements continued to be fed."

"The county received about 0.25 inches of rain earlier this week," said Ron Holcomb, AgriLife Extension agent for Liberty County, northeast of

Houston. "We are still behind, but every little bit helps. There has been some winter pasture that was planted in late November and early December that emerged and is growing with the recent small rains. There is a slower herd reduction with the recent rains." 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:** Winter wheat and oats and cool-season grasses responded well to recent moisture. Runoff from the rains helped to partially fill some stock tanks and ponds. Livestock producers, however, were still heavily supplementing cattle due to lack of grazing. Volunteer ryegrass was in higher abundance than expected, possibly due to lack of competition from short warm-season grasses.

**West Central:** The region had unseasonably warm temperatures with cool nights.

Most counties remained dry, but a few had a little precipitation early in the week. The winter wheat crop continued to do well. Some producers were plowing fields for spring plantings. Where moisture was received, pasture and rangeland conditions improved as winter annuals greened up. Livestock producers continued heavy supplemental feeding of cattle. The pecan harvest was winding down with very disappointing yields reported.

# DAVID'S FISHING REPORT



1/7/12

Miller Creek

Water Clarity:

Stained

Water Temperature:

44 degrees

The weather seemed per-

fect for fishing until we felt the north breeze and remembered a cold front blew through early this morning, so fishing was really tough.

Sunday at Stamford was a different story for Jeremy

Eaton (pictured above) and his square billed crankbait in shad pattern and Firetiger. He hauled in a 10 fish stringer that weighed about 31 lbs.

God Bless and Good Fishin'

# COWBOY CHRISTMAS BALL WAS BIG HIT IN GOREE THIS YEAR!!



Courtesy Photos

# National Watermelon Promotion Board

AUSTIN, TX – The National Watermelon Promotion Board (NWPB) will hold a nomination convention in conjunction with the Texas Watermelon Association Meeting on Friday, January 20th, 2012 at 10:30 A.M. at Omni Austin Hotel Downtown, 700 San Jacinto Blvd., Austin, TX 78701 to nominate qualified watermelon producers and watermelon handlers to fill open positions as directors of the Board.

## District 6 - The state of Texas.

The NWPB encourages all women, minorities and persons with disabilities who qualify as watermelon producers and handlers to attend the meeting and run for nomination to the NWPB.

All watermelon producers and handlers in District 6 are encouraged to attend and vote to nominate their representatives to the NWPB. Nominations are submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Secretary of Agriculture makes the final appointments to the NWPB. The newly appointed Board members term of office will begin on January 1, 2013, and end December 31, 2015.

The Board members administer promotion and research programs for watermelon. The NWPB works to increase consumer demand for watermelon and expand domestic and foreign markets through its marketing, consumer public relations and education programs. The non-profit Board works with an administrative staff

to enact retail, foodservice and media promotions and research programs.

All Board members are required to attend two meetings each year to become familiar with and develop the Board's variety of marketing, research and education programs.

The NWPB represents about 2,200 commercial watermelon producers, handlers and importers that finance all of the Board's programs through assessments on watermelons as authorized by the Watermelon Research and Promotion Act. The 37-member Board is currently comprised of 14 producers, 14 handlers, 8 importers, and a member who represents the public.

## NATIONAL WATER

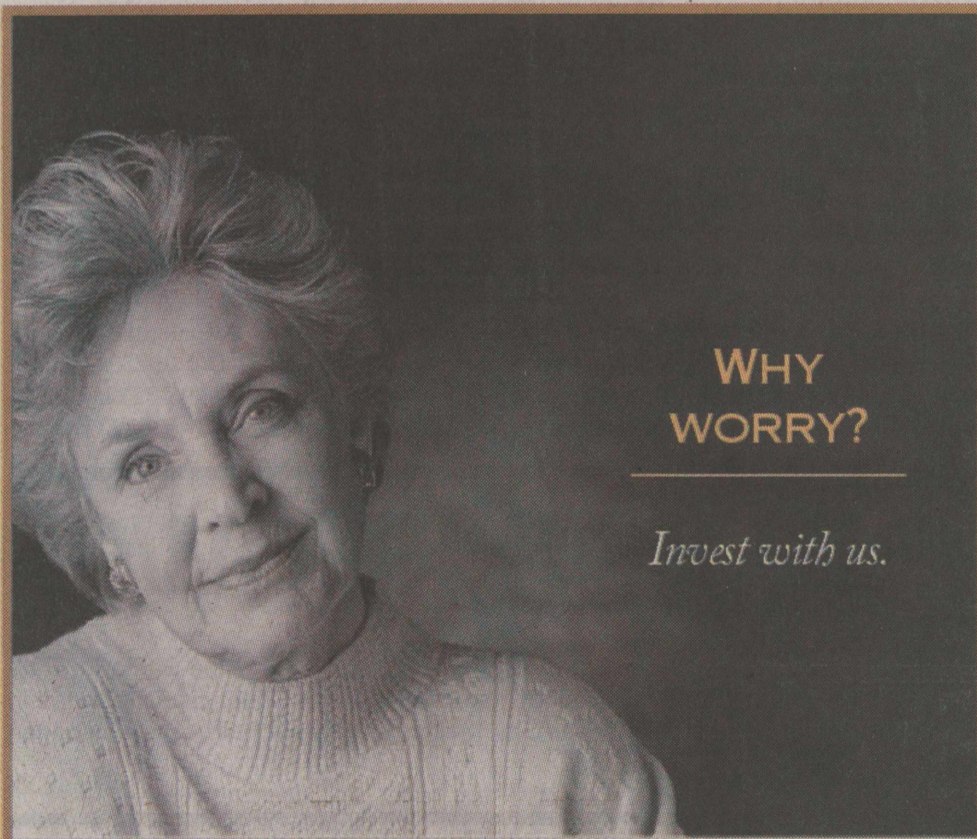
Board members are nominated by their peers, and nominations are submitted to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, who makes final appointments to the Board. These board members oversee all aspects of the Board, including setting policies and deciding how the Board's budget is invested in promotion, research and education programs. The USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service monitors the Board's operations. To be eligible for nomination, producers must grow 10 or more acres of watermelon, and handlers must be the first handler of watermelon, according to §1210.306 and §1210.308 of the Watermelon Research and Promotion Plan.

The NWPB will allow proxy voting for Board nominees. Individuals

wishing to vote by proxy should prepare signed, dated statements, including the proxy voter's printed name, address, telephone number, identity as an importer, and the name of the individual authorized to cast the proxy vote. These statements should be given to those authorized to cast the proxy vote, who will then provide the statements to the NWPB no later than January 19, 2012.

The producers and handlers appointed to the Board will represent the NWPB's interests throughout the district in meetings and other forums, and should be dedicated to supporting the Board's marketing, promotion, research and education programs.

Additional information regarding the elections and nomination procedures may be obtained by contacting NWPB Director of Operations & Industry Affairs Rebekah Dossett or Industry Affairs Manager Andrea Smith toll-free at (877) 599-9595.



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The "It's Only Another Beer" Black and Tan

- 6 oz. pilsner lager
- 4 oz. stout
- 1 heavy mug
- 1 dry martini
- 1 pickup truck
- 1 10-hour day
- 1 third wheel
- A few rounds with the guys

Mix ingredients. Add 1 sealed vehicle.

Never underestimate 'just a few'.  
Buzzed driving is drunk driving.