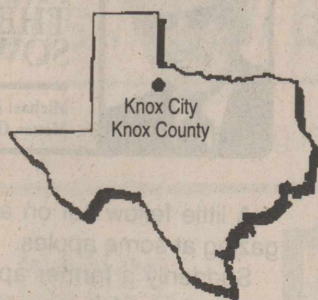


Congratulations to the Little League 11-12 year old All Star Team!

The Knox County News



"Since 1971, Knox County's Oldest Established Newspaper"

Volume XXIX - Number 39 • Thursday, July 13, 2000 • Periodical • USPS #903920 • Mailed At Knox City, Knox County, Texas 79529 • 6 Pages + 1 Insert • Price 50¢

12th Annual Watermelon Festival is July 29



EATING WATERMELON is what the Watermelon Festival is all about! Shown here during the 1999 Watermelon Festival, those attending appeared to enjoy the watermelon furnished by Johnson Melon Corp.



LARGE CROWDS always seem to enjoy the many vendor and food booths set up in the City Park for the annual Watermelon Festival.

Watermelon Festival to hold car show in conjunction with this year's activities

The first annual Watermelon Festival Car Show will be held in conjunction with the 12th annual Knox City Watermelon Festival on July 29 at the City Park.

This unique event is becoming a popular attraction to many festivals and trade days throughout the area.

Classes for the show include 1) cars pre '65, 2) cars '66 & up, 3) pickups pre '73, 4) pickups '74 and up, 5) street rods and race cars, 6) motorcycles, 7) antique cars, trucks thru '50, 8) antique tractors.

All entries will receive a dash plaque. First, second and third place trophies will be awarded in each class. The People's Choice,

selected by public, plaque will be presented and the Furthest Distance Traveled plaque will be presented.

Registration will be from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the Knox City Park. Judging will begin at 1:30 p.m. and trophies will be presented at 3:30 p.m.

The entire day, sponsored by the Knox City Chamber of Commerce, will feature vendors, kids tractor pulls, remote control cars, live music, free swimming, games, sand volleyball, golf tournament, horse shoe pitching tournament, Young Farmers brisket cook, the miniature train and the Texas-Oklahoma Watermelon Queen.



POPULAR WITH THE YOUNGER KIDS, the 'Watermelon Express' train will be providing rides around the park again this year.



THE SAND VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT provides a lot of hot and intense action for all who participate during the Watermelon Festival every year.



HORSESHOE PITCHING is very popular here in Texas, and the Watermelon Festival provides excellent competition for the many folks who attend every year at the City Park in Knox City.

Teams complete 'Walk Across Texas', eight week fitness program contest

Eleven teams comprised of approximately 80 individuals from throughout Knox County have just completed the "Walk Across Texas" program.

The eight week fitness program sponsored by the Knox County Extension Family & Consumer Sciences Committee was designed to get people involved in a daily physical fitness habit.

Teams of eight walkers or four runners / bikers were involved in a friendly race from Wichita Falls, TX to Brownsville, TX. Some teams far exceeded this goal while others met obstacles which put them a little short of the final destination.

In addition to the planned "Walk Across Texas" competition, Citizens Bank of Knox City and First National Bank of Munday, challenged each other in the race to Brownsville.

A total of 7,472 miles were logged by the participants from May 1 through June 24.

Results of the competition are:

- First Place - 1st team to reach Brownsville: Bodacious Biking Bankers (Biking Team) - Kathy Low - Captain, Ilene Redder, Doug Tidwell, Lyndle Reeves;

- 1st Walking Team to reach Brownsville: First National Bank - Happy Hikers: Ronnelle Cude - Captain, Shirley Angerer, Gay Yost, Linda Reddell, Mandi Brown, Beckie Hendrix, Tamara

Loftin, Bob McWhorter;

- Team Logging the most total miles (1,272 miles): Bulldog Trekkers (combination of bikers, joggers and walkers) John Livingston - Captain, Carol Jane Graves, Jonathan Graves, Jeffrey Hernandez, Judy Lain;

- Walking Team logging the most total miles (848 miles) - Citizens Bank Walkers Too: Barbara Rector - Captain, Lila Rector, Rick Gonzales, Judy Perdue, Anne Underwood, Billie McAuley, Leona Burkham, Will Vacek;

- Best Team Name - The Shapeless Shambles

- Best Record Keepers - Texercise Team, Ramona Helms, Captain

The following teams and their members are to be commended for their efforts in the program and committing to a healthy lifestyle.

Due to various circumstances some participants were unable to complete the entire program and substitutions were made.

The Bluebonnets: Sherry Ellis, Rita Houck, Rhondi Ainsworth, Pam Mongrain, Leisa Morrow, Rosa Richardson, Morris Houck, Rita Rosencranz.

Boadocious Biking Bankers: Kathy Low, Doug Tidwell, Ilene Redder, Lyndle Reeves.

Bulldog Trekkers: John Livingston, Carol Jane Graves, Jonathan Graves, Jeffrey Hernandez,

Judy Lain.

Citizens Bank Walkers: Sharon Cypert, Trudy Hunt, Tammy Gonzalez, Jean Carver, Clint Jones, Shavonne Magana, Wayne Pennartz, Tandy Roberts.

Citizens Bank Walkers Too: Barbara Rector, Lila Rector, Rick Gonzales, Judy Perdue, Anne Underwood, Billie McAuley, Leona Burkham, Will Vacek.

FNB Happy Hikers: Ronnelle Cude, Shirley Angerer, Gay Yost, Linda Reddell, Mandy Brown, Beckie Hendrix, Tamara Loftin, Bob McWhorter.

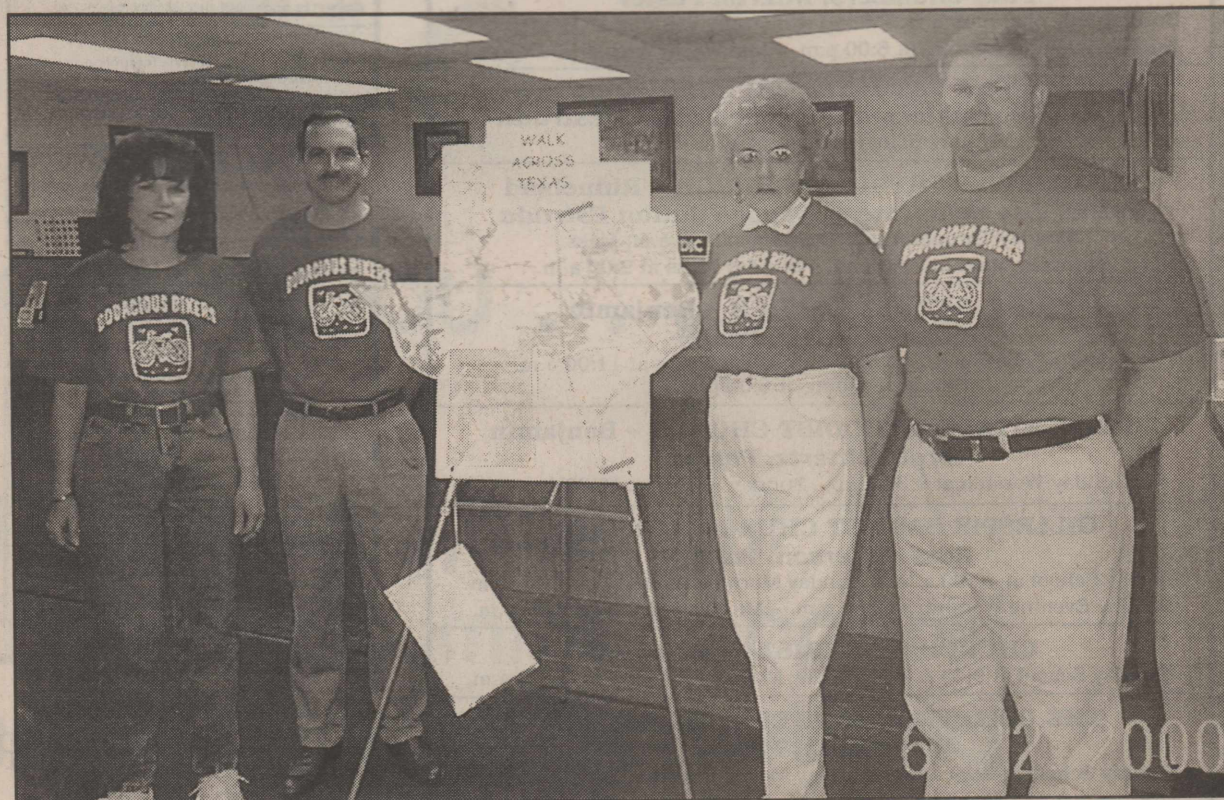
The Misfits: Jane Rowan, Kiel Rowan, Leta Mangis, June Locknane, Sheri Baty, Pat Miller, Charlene Brothers, Marie Darr.

Senior Center's Steppers: Susan Cockerell, Sandy Garcia, Jane Gideon, Barbara Wilson, Candace Brown, Ruby Cockerell, Kenny Cockerell, Auta Marion.

The Shapeless Shambles: Louise Hertel, Mitzi Ham, Bo Milson, Misty Jones, Philomae Roberson, Mary Jane Young, Sue Sheedy, Janet Reed.

Texercise Team: Ramona Helms, Carol Felts, Zo Felts, Johnny Helms, Jack Chambers, A.P. Denton, Sammy White, Charles Auburg.

Munday Lions Club: Jerome Hall, Charles Baker, Kenneth Baker; Weldon Smith, W.R. Moore, Jim Cowser, Richie Smith, Dwight Key, John Loftin.



FIRST PLACE TEAM TO REACH BROWNSVILLE in the eight-week 'Walk Across Texas' were these Bodacious Bikers of Munday. From left, are Kathy Low - captain, Lyndle Reeves, Ilene Redder and Doug Tidwell. (Courtesy Photo)

TEAM	TOTAL MILES	RANKING
Bulldog Trekkers	1272	1st
Bodacious Biking Bankers	1235	2nd
Citizens Bank Walkers Too	848	3rd
FNB Happy Hikers	813	4th
Bluebonnets	594	5th
Citizens Bank Walkers	564	6th
Munday Lions Club	543	7th
Shapeless Shambles	527	8th
Texercise Team	376	9th
Senior Centers Steppers	356	10 TH
The Misfits	344	11 th

Subscriptions to the News due by Aug. 1

The following subscriptions to *The Knox County News* are due by August 1, 2000.

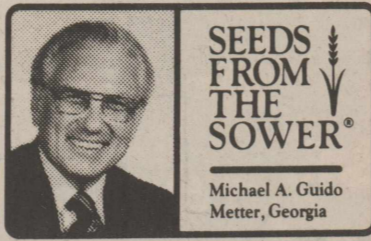
Local, in county and adjoining county subscription rates are \$18.00, elsewhere in Texas is \$21.00 and out-of-state is \$23.00.

Postal regulations require that subscriptions must be paid in advance.

Judy Anderson, Haskell
Earlene Austin, Rochester

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Jack Fisher, KC
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Pansy Hale, Rochester
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George Wall, Childress
Toby Whisenhunt, KC
Craig Wilde, KC



SEEDS FROM THE SOWER
Michael A. Guido
Metter, Georgia

A little fellow sat on a fence, gazing at some apples.

Suddenly a farmer appeared and asked, "Are you trying to steal my apples?"

"No, sir," answered the boy, "I'm trying not to, but my not to isn't too strong."

You and I live on a battleground in this world. The struggle between good and evil is constantly raging. The devil controls the evil and attacks the good. He's powerful, and no one is excluded from his attacks.

So be careful, and look to the Lord. Your "not to" isn't too strong. The Bible says, "Be strong in the Lord's strength, not your own. Get your power from Him."

You'll trust the Lord, won't you?

Benjamin news

By Gladene Green, Benjamin Correspondent

I begin my news today with the sad news of the death of a very, very dear friend. Louise Hertel passed away early today (Monday) after several weeks stay in Abilene Regional Hospital. She suffered a heart attack on June 6 and was taken to Abilene that night and was never able to come home. She will be missed by so many. She touched so many lives in so many ways. My heartfelt sympathy to her husband Don and sons Scott, Craig and Kent and their families and to the rest of her family.

Her funeral is Wednesday at the Methodist Church.

Other news is that Barbara Pierce is still a patient in Hendrick in Abilene. Her condition is somewhat improved but she's still in a lot of pain and has no idea when she may come home. She's had some surgery and is going to have more in a few weeks but before she does she has to finish about four more weeks of antibiotics for an infection.

Christine Patterson is now in the Munday Care Home and is doing better. She's had some pretty uncomfortable days but hopefully news concerning her will be more encouraging now.

Makes Dean's Honor Roll - Gina Bolanos has earned the distinction of being on the Dean's Honor Roll at the University of North Texas. Gina, a sophomore, has a GPA of 3.5. She is a member of honor societies, Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma. Membership gained by invitation only.

Gina is a psychology major, minoring in criminal justice.

She is a graduate of BHS and the daughter of Joel (Peppy) Bolanos and Esperanza Bolanos. Here 'N There - Kathy Bohannon and daughters of Canyon and Lonnie, Misty and Chance Bohannon of Fort Worth were here for a weekend visit with Betty and Roger Bohannon and to attend the Jackson reunion.

My daughter, Debbie Taylor of Childress, visited me today (Monday).

Sharon and Maretha Patterson spent several days last week "visiting around". Spent some time in Seminole, Tatum, NM and attended a family gathering of Maretha's sister and family, the Johnny Hertels near Fillmore, OK. They will be in Lubbock on Wednesday this week to be with Sharon's daughter, Suzanne Overton of Seminole, who will

undergo a cornea transplant of her left eye. We wish her well.

Tracy and Susan Cartwright and family returned home the last of the week from a vacation trip to Virginia and other places of interest.

Floyd and Mary Ratliff of Llano were weekend guests of Jonnie Williams and Mary Bohannon and attended the Jackson reunion.

Weekend guests of Kenneth and Jessie Roberts and Bea Parks and Lucy Mings were the ladies' sister, Polly Floyd and her son Mark and his sons Evan and James, all of Houston; and another of Polly's grandsons, Ben Lawson of Dallas.

New Arrival - Paige Boone of Trent wants everyone to know she has a new baby brother. Payton Landry was born Wednesday, July 5, 2000, at Hendrick Medical Center. He weighed eight pounds, six ounces, and his and Paige's parents are Phil and Rebekah Boone. Grandparents are Dennis and Pam Duke of Benjamin and Sherry Henderson of Mineral Wells and great-grandparents are Kenneth and Jessie Roberts of Benjamin and Alma Jean Boone and the late Clifford Boone of Vera.

Knox City Little League

players and coaches would like to take this opportunity to thank all the merchants and individuals that donated to help purchase the all-star uniforms.

Without your support, we would not have been able to purchase these good looking uniforms.

Once again, thanks so much to:

The Art Stall
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Knox City Area Church Directory

Local congregations welcome your attendance this Sunday

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - Knox City

Johnny Johnson, Pastor

* Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. - * Sunday Morning Worship at 10:55 a.m.
* Sunday Evening Worship at 7:00 p.m. - Mid Week, Wed. at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday Services telecast live on Cable Channel 6 in Knox City & O'Brien

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH - Knox City

Steve Pepper, Minister

Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Knox City

Vergil Ichtertz, Pastor

Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00 p.m.

FOUR SQUARE CHURCH - Knox City

Paul Chambers, Interim Pastor

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00 p.m. - Mid Week, Wed. at 7:00 p.m.

SANTA ROSA CATHOLIC CHURCH - Knox City

Father Leo Schloemer - Deacon Julian Estrada
Sunday Bilingual Mass at 11:00 a.m.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - Rhineland

Father Leo Schloemer - Deacon Julian Estrada
Monday Through Friday Mornings, 8:00 a.m. Mass
Saturday Mass at 7:00 p.m. - Sunday Mass at 9:00 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - Benjamin

John Gillispie, Pastor

Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning at 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening at 6:00 p.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Benjamin

Vergil Ichtertz, Pastor

Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.

GILLESPIE BAPTIST CHURCH - Gillespie

Ross Anderson, Pastor

Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 7:00 p.m. - Mid Week, Wed. at 7:00 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST - Benjamin

Sunday School at 9:45 A.M. - Sunday Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m.

THE BELIEVERS' CHAPEL - Highway 222

W.O. Smith, Pastor

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Mid Week, Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

FAITH CHAPEL - 8 Miles South Of Knox City

Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
Mid Week Bible Study, Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

O'BRIEN BAPTIST CHURCH - O'Brien

Bill Trice, Pastor

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 7:00 p.m. Mid Week, Wed. at 7:00 p.m.

"ABUNDANT LIFE" ZION FULL GOSPEL

Richard Palma, Mary Ann Palma, Pastors

Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00 p.m. Mid Week, Thurs. at 7:00 p.m.
Church location: 5 miles west of O'Brien Baptist Church

WEINERT FOURSQUARE CHURCH

Rob Harrison, Pastor

Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
Mid Week Bible Study, Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
The church is located at 200 West Guthrie in Wetnet

THIS CHURCH DIRECTORY IS SPONSORED BY THESE MERCHANTS

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The Knox County News

USPS 903-920

Established Oct 14, 1971

Phone & Fax Line: (940) 658-3142

Paper Number: 1-800-586-8045

(Punch In Callback Number)

Mobile Numbers: (940) 256-2234 & 256-2819

P.O. Drawer 9, Knox City, Tx. 79529-0009

Stacy Angle Thompson - Editor/Publisher
Dave Thompson - Assoc. Publisher
Billye Angle - Accounting

Entered as a Periodical (903-920) with postage paid at the Knox City Post Office, Knox City, Texas 79529.

Subscription Rates:

Knox County & Adjoining Counties - \$18.00
Elsewhere in Texas - \$21.00
Out of state - \$23.00

Postmaster:

Send address changes to:
The Knox County News
P.O. Drawer 9
Knox City, Tx 79529-0009

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing, or reputation of any person, firm, or corporation which may appear in the columns of this paper, will gladly be corrected upon notice of the same being brought to the attention of the publisher personally at the office.

NOTICES, ETC.

Notice of entertainments where a charge of admission is made, resolutions of respect, in memoriam poetry, proclamations, letters expressing political opinions, weddings, engagements, anniversaries, extended obituaries or obituaries with photographs, legal notices, legal documents, and all other matters not of general news will be charged for at regular advertising rates.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are encouraged. They must be signed by the author and include the telephone number for verification purposes. Only the writer's name will appear in print. Letters should be kept to a reasonable length, are subject to be edited for clarity, liable and for the purpose of only conveying a single point. Every attempt will be made not to change the meaning of letters. All letters are run "space available". Each letter is accepted on that basis.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Unsolicited photographs will be considered at a charge that will be determined after the picture is viewed.

ERRORS

This newspaper is not responsible for errors in more than one edition. Claims will not be considered unless made within 72 hours of publication. No allowance will be made when the error does not materially affect the value of the advertisement.

NEWS DEADLINE

All items intended for each week's edition must be received in the NEWS office no later than 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday morning. Items submitted after the deadline will be held over for the following week. All items submitted are subject to holdover for future editions, depending on size, content, and available space.

NO GUARANTEES OR ASSURANCES ARE MADE AS TO WHEN ARTICLES OR PHOTOGRAPHS WILL APPEAR IN PRINT

Member of the Texas Press Association Since 1971

The office of The Knox County News will be open as follows:
Monday thru Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., closed for lunch from Noon until 1:00 p.m.
Closed, Saturday, Sunday.
Note: Since we are a small business, these times may vary as we cover news & sports stories, take pictures, conduct business or handle family matters. Thanks in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

O'Brien happenings

By Audie Johnston, O'Brien Correspondent

"You're Drinking Way Too Much Coffee When . . ."

- Juan Valdez names his donkey after you.

- You haven't blinked in two years.

- The nurse needs a scientific calculator to take your pulse.

- You walk twenty miles on your treadmill before you realize it's not plugged in.

- Your life goal is to amount to a hill of beans.

- You channel surf faster without a remote.

- You name your cats "Cream" and "Sugar".

- You have a picture of your coffee mug on your coffee mug.

- You can outlast the Energizer bunny.

- You short out motion detectors.

- Your nervous twitch registers on the Richter scale.

- You think being called a "drip" is a compliment.

- Your coffee mug is insured by Lloyd's of London.

- You think CPR stands for "Coffee Provides Resuscitation".

- Your first-aid kit contains two pints of coffee with an I.V. hookup."

Here and There - Alton and

LaUna Hester and their daughter Brenda Robinson spent a few days in Red River enjoying some fishing.

Veeta Reid is spending a few days in Fort Worth visiting her daughter Angelia and husband and son Sam.

Visiting Bernice Rowan over the weekend were her son Lowell and wife and son David and lady friend of Denton and Debbie and Tres Burson of Haskell.

Paul Gothard of Blackwell spent Saturday with his father Dwight Gothard and they enjoyed a good meal together.

C.H., Linda and Reed Underwood and their daughter Beth and husband and daughter Faith of Roby vacationed in Ruidoso, New Mexico, over the weekend.

Gary Hewitt of Tyler spent a few hours with Adelle Herring last Friday.

We regret that the Chappells will be moving to new jobs in Canadian this coming year. They will certainly be missed from our church and the Knox City-O'Brien school district. We hope they will find time to come back and visit. They had lived around here for 15 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Guerrero who have been living in Haskell for a few months will be moving back to O'Brien this week some time. They've been missed.

Vivian Hendrix returned home Saturday after spending several days in Wichita Falls with her daughter, LeNear, who recently had surgery. She seems to be getting some better.

Zora Mathis of Rule and her friend Joe from Illinois visited with Billie Walker and son Joe. Zora became ill and was transported to the Knox County Hospital. She was kept overnight for observation.

Eugene and Jean Jones with daughter Paula visited with Billie and Joe.

Elmo Long of Paducah stopped by his cousin, Billie Walker's home as he traveled from Junction where he had visited his sister, Eula Bannowski.

John Lippard and Jonette Tibbets and granddaughter Leah, along with daughter Nancy and son Mark and family of Oklahoma were in Angel Fire, NM, over the weekend to attend a Lippard family reunion. They had a very good time and lots of food and relatives.

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Public Hearing Notice

Texas Community Development Program

The City of O'Brien will hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 13, 2000, at the O'Brien City Hall in regard to the submission of an application (or applications) to the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs for Texas Community Development Program funds. The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the citizen participation plan, the development of local housing and community development needs, the amount of TCDP funding available, all eligible TCDP activities, and the use of past TCDP funds. All citizens are encouraged to participate in the development of this application (or applications) and to make their views known at the public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to Mayor Charlene Brothers during regular office hours. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact Charlene Brothers to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact Charlene Brothers at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

A Golden Time

Brazos Valley
Care Home
658-3543
605 Avenue F, Knox City

A study in the Archives of Internal Medicine maintains that living wills can save about \$60,000 per patient in medical costs. Researchers studied 474 patients who died in a hospital during 1990-92. Bills for those without living wills were three times as high.

Currently only one medical school in the entire country, out of 126, has a full-fledged department of geriatrics: Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York.

Donations still needed for Veterans Memorial

Donations are still in need for the Knox County Veterans Memorial. These memorials may be sent to Veterans Memorial, Box 77, Benjamin, TX 79505.

Information is still needed for several veterans concerning their service time, branch of service and rank.

Service time is needed to know if a name should go under World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, etc. Rank and branch of service are needed so that information can go in the Veteran's Register which will be kept in the courthouse.

The names of those killed in

action are needed by July 31 so work can begin on the memorial arch which will hold those names. Other veterans names and information should be submitted by the day after the Labor Day holiday, so that names can be put on the list, engraved on the memorial, and the memorial finished by Veterans' Day in early November.

After names and information are submitted, spelling must be checked, alphabetical arrangement checked, service time checked, and then the list sent to the monument company for the engraving of over 2,000 names.

Clonts grandson performs in New York's Carnegie Hall

The Katy High School Symphony Orchestra and Katy High School Symphonic Band played the concert of a lifetime on June 10 on the hallowed stage of New York's Carnegie Hall. One of the violinists in the orchestra was William Balch, son of Burton and Diane Balch and grandson of Joe and Margie Clonts.

Preparation for the trip began two years ago with auditions, musical selection and preparation, and fundraising. The orchestra scheduled many practice sessions in addition to the student's regular activities.

The Carnegie Concert Hall is full of history itself. In 1891

Tchaikovsky conducted the first concert at that hall. Gustave Mahler conducted his last concert there.

Upon arriving in New York City the evening of June 8, the students and chaperones checked into the Grand Hyatt Hotel. Friday, the following day, the students departed for a bus tour of Manhattan which included a lunch in Chinatown. That evening the students saw a Broadway show.

On Saturday afternoon the students visited Grand Central Station and the Empire State Building. That evening they performed their Carnegie Hall concert to an audience of about 1,800 people, including William's family - Burton, Diane, and Martin Balch and Joe and Margie Clonts.

The final note was played, then there was silence. A moment later the audience responded with a standing ovation.

In a concert hall known for its acoustics, the experience was breathtaking for both the audience and the orchestra.

After the concert, the orchestra was treated to a dance and dinner cruise around Manhattan Island.

After the orchestra tour, William joined his family for a few extra days of sightseeing in New York City, Philadelphia, Washington DC, Williamsburg and Jamestown.

Immunization clinic to be in Knox City Thursday, July 13

The Texas Department of Health will conduct an Immunization Clinic at the Community Center/Housing Authority Bldg. in Knox City on Thursday, July 13 from 10:00-11:30 and 1:00-3:00.

Immunizations offered include DTaP, Hib, Polio, Measles, Mumps and Rubella and Hepatitis B for infants as well as all school immunizations. The Td immunization is available for all adults of having one in 10 years.

The Hepatitis series was required for Kindergarten entry this year and will be required for 12 years old on August 1, 2000. Parents are asked to check their child's immunization record for this series. The series takes from four to six months to complete.

The varicella (chickenpox) vaccine is available to anyone age one thru adulthood that has not had the chickenpox. If a child is in need of this immunization, parents are asked to call the office to reserve a dose as only the reserved amounts are brought to the clinic.

For those interested in the varicella vaccine, call 940-574-2159 to reserve a vaccine.

Participants are asked to bring immunization records and social security numbers. A parent, adult family member or legal guardian must accompany a minor.

All services provided by the Texas Department of Health are provided on a sliding fee scale but no one is denied services due to an ability to pay.

For more information on any of the immunizations, call 940-574-2159.

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5.5¢ Per Minute without connection fee

COCA COLA



12 Packs \$3.49

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••• WEDNESDAY SPECIAL -- STEAK FINGER BASKET - 4 PC. \$2.99 - 6 PC. \$3.99

••• THURSDAY ••• CHICKEN STRIP SPECIAL - 6 PC. Choice of potato log, mashed potatoes or french fries - biscuit or rolls - gravy - free small drink - \$3.99

••• FRIDAY - HAMBURGERS ••• \$1.75 - All Day !!!

••• MONDAY - CHICKEN FRIED STEAK SANDWICH ••• \$1.99

••• TUESDAY - HAMBURGER and POTATO LOGS ••• \$2.75



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J.P. Doodles is brought to you each week by your friends at

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in Rochester

Think Texas

Agriculture Commissioner SUSAN COMBS

When my dad ranched in West Texas, a new pickup truck cost less than \$2,000. By today's standards, that's a great bargain. And back then, that price was in step with the profits of Texas producers in the 1950s.

Today the cost of running a farm or ranch has skyrocketed while the producer's paycheck has stayed virtually the same. The disparity between operation expenses - like trucks and combines - and commodity prices is unmistakably clear. Many farmers and ranchers aren't earning enough to buy the tools they need to stay in operation.

In the 1950s you could buy a tractor for \$1,800. Today, a tractor costs \$116,000. Drastic technological improvements have been made over the years, but commodity prices have not kept up with soaring costs. Over the last 50 years, corn has increased only a dollar per bushel. Sure, the price of corn has doubled over the years, but a tractor is 50 times more expensive than it was in 1950.

Farmers and ranchers are finding themselves in a real crunch when it comes time to pay the bills. That's why we all must work together to promote Texas agriculture as a whole. While we can't control prices, we can work to increase markets and find other ways to help out our producers.

Aging center lunch menus

July 17th thru July 21th

Monday, July 17 - Chicken fried steak with gravy, buttered potatoes, mixed vegetables, salad, hot rolls, cobbler.

Tuesday, July 18 - Tacos, Spanish rice, whole kernel corn, salad, cookies.

Wednesday, July 19 - Chicken and rice casserole, peas and carrots, salad, light bread, gingerbread.

Thursday, July 20 - Bar-b-que brisket, pinto beans, mashed potatoes, cole slaw, cornbread, cobbler.

Friday, July 21 - Salmon croquettes, macaroni and cheese, blackeyed peas, salad, cornbread, pudding.

(All menus subject to change without notification. It is important to contact the site manager in order that meals can be prepared.)

Subscriptions are just like a letter from home . . .

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Fall 2000 Semester

July 15 is the date you must have all paperwork completed to be assured of having financial aid, if you qualify, at registration time.



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Receipts 2063 - Date 7/10/00 Receipts 2063 consisting of 580 packer cows and bulls Bred cows and cows and calves 362 yearlings and 1120 calves All packer cows were \$1.00 to \$1.50 lower Bred cows were steady Cows and calves were steady and still in good demand 200 to 400# heifers were fully steady 400 to 600# heifers were \$1.00 lower 600 to 800# heifers were steady to \$1.00 higher 200 to 400# steers were \$2.00 lower 400 to 600# steers were \$2.00 lower Bulls \$2.00 to \$3.00 lower 600 to 800# steers were steady bulls steady Our market started off slow and got stronger all the way through as our volume buyers started filling loads The quality of our cattle was excellent today with choice new crops The bulk of the cattle buyer attendance was good market Active with 7 loads leaving direct for Oklahoma, Kansas and the Texas Panhandle The hot dry weather is beginning to go farther north into Oklahoma and Kansas. Representative Sales - Raymond Matlock, Jackaboro 495# Blk Hfr @ \$102.00, 465# Blk Str @ \$105.00; 35 Clt Co., Archer City 3 Char Strs 558# @ \$97.50, 3 Red Strs 460# @ \$101.00; William Mills, Seymour 2 Red Hfrs 402# @ \$101.00, 4 RedW/Strs 443# @ \$95.00; Allen Stephens, Elbert 2 Char Strs 642# @ \$92.00, 3 Char Hfrs 653# @ \$90.00; Melvena Pennington, Palo Pinto 1125# Ctr Cow @ \$46.00, 220# BlkW/ Bull @ \$145.00; Binker Quillin, Seymour 4 Blk Strs 360# @ \$114.00, 3 Blk Strs 306# @ \$134.00; Mozelle Smith, Throckmorton 4 Char Bulls 488# @ \$105.00, 2 Char Hfrs 440# @ \$103.50; George London, Vernon 995# Ctr Cow @ \$44.00; Larry Gill, Trent 1020# Bred Brg Cow @ \$630.00, 940# Hfrette @ \$54.00; Jim Bob Coody, Breckenridge 360# Char Bull @ \$110.00, 320# Blk Str @ \$130.00; Daws & Coker, Throckmorton 4 Open Yng Blk Cows 990# @ \$57.00, 3 RedW/ Cows 1010# @ \$53.00; Gene Dozier, Graham 5 Yng Red Prs 871# @ \$84.00, 3 RedW/ Prs 1109# @ \$78.00; Stephen Hornaday, Wirthorst 5 Red Strs 504# @ \$97.00, 6 Red Strs 592# @ \$94.50; Jack Strain, Millsap 3 Blk Hfrs 440# @ \$102.00, 3 Blk Hfrs 560# @ \$94.00; W.A. Welch, Wichita Falls 775# Char Str @ \$86.00, 5 Blk Hfrs 570# @ \$90.00; Pat Boyd, Graham 2 Blk Strs 725# @ \$85.00; Don Bucklew, Olney 1150# Ctr Cow @ \$47.50, 865# Crn Cow @ \$37.00; Fred Sharp, Henrietta 475# Blk Bull @ \$108.00, 355# Blk Hfr @ \$105.00; Chris Hall, Bridgeport 630# BlkW/ Str @ \$96.00, 650# Blk Hfr @ \$87.00; Laverne Scott, Bellvue 1180# Ctr Cow @ \$47.00, 1245# Roan Pr @ \$78.00; Phil Taylor, Breckenridge 570# Blk Hfr @ \$91.00, 380# Blk Hfr @ \$114.00; Jim Underwood, Graham 330# Blk Hfr @ \$117.00, 435# Red Bull @ \$104.50; Sims Ranch, Baird 375# Blk Str @ \$105.00, 290# Blk Str @ \$125.00; Lewis Daniels, Mineral Wells 3 RedW/ Prs 1321# @ \$93.00

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For information or to consign cattle call: Jackie Bishop, Graham - 940-549-9016 Stewart Heichten, Graham - 940-549-4871 Gregg Sublet, Mineral Wells - 940-328-0625

The Family of Ruth Denton

wishes to thank all of the townspeople who supported us with your prayers, food and condolences during the loss of our precious mother.

A special thanks goes to Dr. Rao and Dr. Hamadeh for going the extra mile during the last days of her illness.

To each and everyone of you, thank you so much for your prayers, the phone calls, the beautiful cards and delicious food, and a special thanks to all of the personnel at Brazos Valley Care Home and Knox County Hospital, and the doctors at Hospital Clinic who all took such good care of Carl during his last few months of life. He will be greatly missed by us and by all who knew him during his life here in Knox City.

May God Bless you for all the support you have given to us.

The Family of Carl C. Shelton

Evelyn Shelton
Shari-Lynn Shelton
Carla and Bob Merton and
Carley and Matthew Merton

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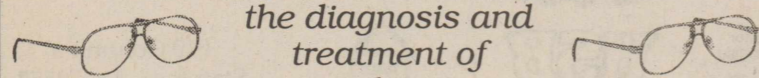
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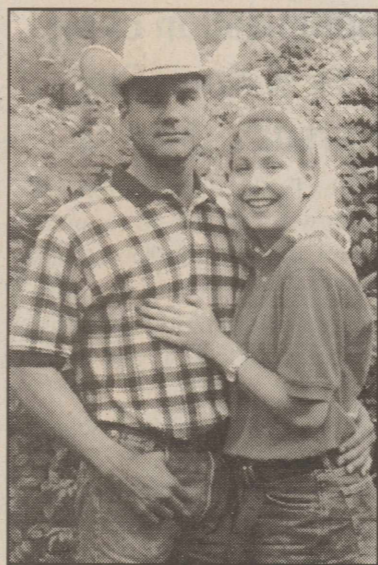
\$159

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Couple to wed in Munday September 9

Jim and Brenda Larned are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Mica Michelle to Jason Bowman of Munday, son of Don and Shirley Bowman, also of Munday.

The couple will be married on September 9, 2000, at 6:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Munday. - Paid Notice



MICA LARNED
JASON BOWMAN

Relatives, friends attend Ruth Denton services

Guests from out of town who attended the funeral of Ruth Denton and visited with her family were grandchildren Tim, Darlene, Tyson and Renae of Burnett, Tom Denton of Plano, Lt. Col. Kelly Pridgen, MD of Fort Campbell, KY; Kevin Pridgen, Eugene, OR; Randy Bruton of Austin, Nelson Bruton of Olney, Danny, DeLynn, Allison and Andrew of Flower Mound, Donny, Chrisy, Shelby and Christopher of Bedford, Elizabeth Denton of Austin.

Nieces and nephews were Joann and Glen Ellison of Canadian, Edwin and Faye Dowdle of

Fort Worth, Grace Dowdle of Azle, Gladys Meeke of Seymour, Evelyn and Carl Warner of Pampa, Connie Manguia of White Deer.

Cousins were A.C. and Mary Beth Sharp of Abilene, Barbara Jane and Becky Ratliff of Munday, Gene Denton of Rule.

Friends were Hortense Lees of Haskell, Sara and Kermit Jackson of Fort Worth, Betty Bruton of Haskell, Joe Ann Strapp of Fort Worth, Sandra Oringdorff of Fort Worth, Merle Upham of Olney, Margaret Urbanczyk of Goree.

VISITING HERE

Diane and Martin Balch of Katy are visiting Joe and Margie Clonts while William is attending Texas Tech Band and Orchestra Camp.

Thanks

to everyone for your visits, cards and phone calls for my 80th birthday party. It was a joyous occasion for me. May God bless each of you is my prayer.

A friend,
Mattie White

SNORING ISN'T FUNNY!

Did you know that sinus and allergies can cause nasal blockage at night, resulting in mouth breathing and snoring?

When mouth breathers turn on their backs, the tongue falls back in the throat and blocks the airway. This is called **OBSTRUCTIVE SLEEP APNEA** and it is **DEADLY!**

The most common time for heart attacks is between 3:00 am and 6:00 am, and over 60% of the victims have a history of snoring and sleep apnea.

If you or your loved one snores, don't ignore it. That sound is a warning of possible obstructive sleep apnea.

For consultation:

W. O. Akin, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Board Certified - Ear, Nose, Throat, Sinus & Neck Surgery
Member, American Academy of Sleep Medicine

702 Hickory St.
Abilene, TX 79602
(915) 677-2026



Wednesday rites are held in Benjamin for Louise Hertel

Funeral services for Louise Hertel of Benjamin were held Wednesday morning, July 12, 2000, at ten o'clock in the First United Methodist Church in Benjamin.

The Rev. Vergil Ichtetz, Rev. Dennis Duke and Rev. Larry Neal officiated. Burial was in the Benjamin Cemetery with Smith Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Hertel, 65, died Monday, July 10, at Abilene Regional Medical Center following a brief illness.

Born September 17, 1934, in Benjamin, she married Donnie Hertel on May 5, 1955, in Crowell.

She was the secretary to Knox County Judge David Perdue. She had also worked in the Knox County Clerk's office and the United States Post Office.

Louise was a member of the First United Methodist Church where she was church treasurer. She also served several years on the Benjamin School Board.

She was preceded in death by an infant son, Donald Dale in 1957.

Survivors include her husband, Don of Benjamin; her mother, Leola K. Isbell of Benjamin; three sons, Scott Hertel of Dallas, Craig Hertel of Gainesville and Kent Hertel of Coppell; and a granddaughter, Megan Hertel.

Pallbearers were Zeke Duke, Phil Boone, Tracy Cartwright, Ronnie Verhalen, Wyman Meinzer, Dickie McCanlies, Leroy West and Stanton Brown.

Honorary pallbearers were David Perdue, Bobby D. Burnett, Vic Lowry, Charles Durham, W.T. Cartwright, Jackie Young and Kenneth Roberts.

- Paid Notice

Youth Week - Pre-Teen Week

Monday - Friday, July 17 - 21
7:00 to 9:00 Nightly

Bible Study & Fun Activities

- Two classes will be held -
Pre-teen class will be just for sixth graders
Youth - Grades 7 - 12 (as of the past school year)

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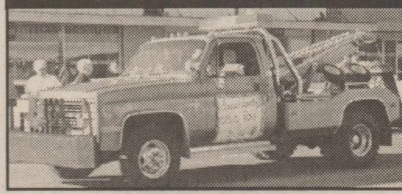
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The Knox County News

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Mobile (940) 256-2394
or (940) 658-5277

Bill Stewart
Owner - Agent
Counts Insurance Agency
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Knox City, TX 79529-0099

Knox County Hospital Clinic

712 South 5th Street (940) 658-3906

Dr. Shirley Barretto
Dr. Imran Rao
Dr. Feras Hamadeh
Mark Bingham, P.A.-C.

Twenty Four Hour
Emergency Service
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Knox County News Classifieds

Our customers know how fast these ads get results !! Call 658-3142 to place your ad

Prices: Minimum Ad: \$4.00 for 20 words - 20¢ for each extra word - \$1.00 Added per week if end-of-month billing is necessary - Deadline: Mondays at 5:00 p.m.

Real Estate

FOR SALE - Remodeled and reduced, four bedroom, two bath, new plumbing and a/c. 1106 South Fourth. Call Peggy, 658-3390. 5-25 tfc 20

HOUSE FOR SALE - Three bedroom, two bath brick home, central heat and air, 7 1/2 acres, ten miles west of Knox City on FM 2279. Call 337-988-3056. 6-8 tfc 29

HOUSE FOR SALE - Three bedroom, three bath, large den, large living area, inground swimming pool. Must see to appreciate! Shown by appointment only, 609 South Avenue E. 658-3268. 7-13 6tc 28

Garage Sale

GARAGE SALE - Starts at 8 a.m., July 13, 14, 15. Two miles north on Hiway 6, turn left on 1292. First house on left (Carters). 7-13 1tp

YARD SALE - Friday, July 14, 8 a.m. - ? ?; Saturday, July 15, 8 a.m. - noon. 304 S. Central. Furniture, household items, clothing, etc. 7-13 tlc 25

EVERYTHING MUST GO - Friday, July 14, 8:30 to 12:00. Cleaning out Garage Sale. Cheap! Clothes, framed art and frames, dishes, toys. 201 South Fourth. 7-13 tlc 24

THREE FAMILY Garage Sale - Motorcycle, old truck, truck jeep (body only), camper trailer, swing set, table and chairs, good clothes for kids, lots of misc. Thursday and Friday til 4. Behind gin office in O'Brien. 7-13 tlc 35

GARAGE SALE - Saturday, July 15, 8 to ? Two miles east on Munday Hwy. Lots to choose from. Eva Flores. 7-13 tlc 20

MOVING SALE - Saturday, 9 to ? Lots of stuff! 108 South Second. 7-13 tlc 12

For Sale

'YOU KNOW YOU'RE getting old when it takes you longer to rest than to get tired. You will rest better on a Spring Air Back Supporter mattress set from Kinney Furniture in Stamford. Special prices right now on Spring Air Avalon sets: full \$249, queen \$299, king \$449. No charge for delivery anywhere in the Big Country and free disposal of your old bedding. 7-13 1tc

FOR SALE - Kenmore dryer. Call 658-5359 or 658-3338. 7-6 2tp

'EXPERIENCE IS SOMETHING you don't get until just after you need it. Exceptional bargains throughout our store on sofas, sleepers, rockers, tables, lamps, bedroom and dining room furniture. Kinney Furniture in Stamford. Same family ownership since 1932. Call free: 800-256-2232 or 915-773-2232. 7-13 1tc

COOKWARE - We stopped doing dinner parties! Have beautiful new 17-piece sets left! Heavy, brilliant surgical stainless steel! 100% waterless! Was \$1600.00, now \$395.00! Lifetime warranty! 1-800-434-4628. 7-13 1tp

'WHY DO TOURISTS go to the top of tall buildings and put money into telescopes to see things on the ground? A La-Z-Boy recliner has better back support than any other recliner. Right now get 2 great La-Z-Boy recliners for one low price at Kinney Furniture in Stamford. Prices start at 2 for \$549. Large selection and special orders are welcome. 7-13 1tc

FOR SALE - Two person Buster boat with trolling motor, trailer and fish finder. \$1000.00. Call 422-4861. 7-6 3tc 16

For Sale

FOR SALE - Whirlpool dishwasher, convertible or under counter, excellent condition. Come by 1007 SE Fourth or call 658-8911. 7-13 1tp

Help Wanted

CITY ADMINISTRATOR CITY OF KNOX CITY

High school diploma required. Minimal requirements, strong computer skills, budgeting experience.

Prior supervisory experience and ability to work with public. Should possess or be able to obtain Class C Water / Wastewater license.

Position open until filled. Send resume to Mayor Tommie Reynolds, P.O. Box 128, Knox City, TX 79529. EOE 6-15 tfc 60

OWN A COMPUTER? Put it to work! \$25-\$75/Hr. PT/FT 1-888-788-1106, www.e-pkg.net 6-22 4tp

HELP WANTED - The Texas Department of Human Services is accepting applications for a Texas Works Advisor Trainee position in Knox City. Salary is \$1812 per month. Minimum qualifications require 60 semester hours from an accredited college or university. Some professional experience may be substituted.

We do not accept resumes or faxed applications. Please pick up application and copy of the job posting at 606 E. Main or a Texas Dept. of Human Services office located in your area. To ensure consideration, applications must be in the Abilene Human Resource office no later than July 17, 2000. Mail your application to P.O. Box 6635, Abilene, Texas 79608. Questions regarding this position may be directed to our Abilene Human Resource Services office at 915-690-2216. We are EOE. 7-13 1tc 132

Bid Notice

NOTICE TO BIDDERS:

The Knox City - O'Brien CISD is accepting proposals for the following:

1. Property & Casualty Insurance.
2. Student Accident Insurance
3. Group Health & Life Insurance
4. Workers' Compensation.

These proposals should be addressed or delivered to Mr. Louis Baty, Superintendent, at 606 East Main, Knox City, Texas 79529. The District will accept proposals until 12:00 noon, August 4, 2000. Proposals will be reviewed by the Superintendent and presented to the Board at the first board meeting following the deadline.

The District reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals, to accept any proposal deemed most advantageous to the Knox City - O'Brien CISD and to waive any informalities in proposals.

Specifications or additional information may be gathered by contacting the Administration Office at (940) 658-3521. 7-6 1tc 136

Services

MONTY BOOE General Contractor - Roofing, Remodeling, Repairs, New Construction. Phone 940-422-5527, P.O. Box 438, Munday, TX 1-7 tfc 18

GRAVEL OR SAND Hauled to your location in surrounding area. 12 yards per load. Gravel, \$80.00 per load; Sand, \$60.00 per load. Kenny Groves, 940-422-4861 or 940-256-8524. 7-6 3tc

Lost & Found

DOG FOUND - Owner please call to claim. If not claimed, will give away to good home. 658-3333 after 5:00 p.m. 7-13 2tc 21

DAVID COUNTS REAL ESTATE

We have a list of houses, lots, commercial buildings and farms for sale in our office.

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Legal Notice

LEGAL NOTICE - THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 30.05 OF THE PENAL CODE OF TEXAS - (CRIMINAL TRESPASS SENATE BILL III LEGISLATURE), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ALL LANDS OF THE W.T. WAGGONER ESTATE ARE POSTED - SAVE AND EXCEPT WHERE WRITTEN PERMISSION IS GIVEN TO COME UPON THE SAME.

GENE W. WILLINGHAM
A.B. WHARTON 52

LEGAL NOTICE - THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 30.05 OF THE PENAL CODE OF TEXAS - (CRIMINAL TRESPASS SENATE BILL III LEGISLATURE), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ALL LANDS OF THE SPIKE BOX RANCH AND CACTUS FARMS ARE POSTED - SAVE AND EXCEPT WHERE WRITTEN PERMISSION IS GIVEN TO COME UPON THE SAME.

MIKE SHEEDY
10-29 tfc 52

For those who were out-of-town last week and missed our

50% OFF SALE . . .

here it is - just for you . . .

This Thursday and Friday only, we will once again offer 50% Off on our summer apparel. So, if you missed it or wanted to get something but didn't . . . do it now because after Friday it's over !!

All Sales Final • No layaways • Visa and MasterCard Accepted

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THE KNOX COUNTY NEWS

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of God's Faithfulness
Psalm 119:90

Dive into becoming a Christian!
Come join us at Vacation Bible School!
JULY 17-21, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
• Registration Monday at 8:30 a.m.
Four years - 5th Grade (as of last school year)
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calls using up your
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offering**

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* This offer is limited to rate plans that require a one year contract with a monthly access fee of at least \$39.99 or higher. The 3600 Free incoming minutes are available at 300 minutes per month for a 12 month contract. Phones and accessories are available at normal purchase prices with the various rate plans that qualify for this promotional offer. Incoming and outgoing calls are rounded and billed in full minute increments from the time the network begins to process the call through the termination of the call. Standard features normally included with each plan apply. Credit check required to establish eligibility for all new contract applications.

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COMPLETING AN OUTSTANDING SEASON for the Knox City Little League were these All-Stars who won the area tournament last week in Seymour by defeating both the clubs from Seymour and Munday. They traveled to Graham Monday night of this week for district competition and were defeated in the first round by Wichita Falls 6-0. Team members, front row from left, are Dylan Smith, Grant Lewis, Zac Stephens, Donald Taylor, Amos Lerma and Cody Wainscott. Middle row, from left, are L.B. Thompson, Derrick Magana, Quentin Spells, Daniel Rodriguez and Kylin DelValle. Back row, from left, are coaches Chuco Magana, Danny Wainscott and Fred Ledesma. Not pictured is team member Andy Shaver. (NEWS digital photo)

SEEDS FROM THE SOWER
Michael A. Guido
Metter, Georgia

There was a law student who was walking away from God. One night he was awakened by a lightning flash. He reversed his direction. He began walking toward God.
Then he made a great feast and invited his close friends. Just before midnight, Martin Luther said, "This is the last night you and I shall meet as boon companions. Tonight I enter the convent. Tomorrow I'll be a monk."
His old life was gone - forever. A new life had begun.
Right now the Lord calls you. He says, "Follow Me!" Dare you?

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www.knoxcity.net

**Knox City Lions Club
Sixth Annual
Wild Hog Golf Scramble**

**Saturday,
July 15, 2000
3 Person Scramble
1:30 PM
Knox City
Country Club**

**\$20.00 Per Person for 18 holes of golf
~ includes 2 Mulligans ~
Proceeds to benefit Texas Lions Camp**

All the wild hog sausage you can eat,
plus free drinks.
Get yourself a team, or just show up
and we will assign you to a team.

Nice prizes for:
• Closest To Pin •
• Longest Drive for Men •
• Longest Drive for Ladies •

To enter, contact:
**Carol Felts at 940-658-3066
or Will Vacek at 940-658-3509**
Deadline for entries is July 15, 2000 at 1:00 p.m.

**Knox, Haskell
band together to
protect resource**

(Editor's Note: Knox and Haskell counties were featured in the Tuesday, July 11, Abilene Reporter-News WaterWoes feature with a report by Ken Ellsworth, staff writer)

By Ken Ellsworth
Reporter-News Staff Writer
Unlike most Big Country counties, Knox and Haskell counties have the enviable position of sitting atop a huge underground water supply - the Seymour Aquifer.

"We're very fortunate," Knox County Judge David Perdue said. "I guess in some places you could get out there with a shovel and find water. We've got something no one else in the area has."

Residents are grateful for their plentiful supply, but realize that their water resources are limited and need to be protected. To that end, residents of the two counties voted last year to create the Haskell-Knox County Underground water District, hoping to preserve their liquid assets. Underground water districts have the authority to implement regulations that restrict and conserve increasingly precious water supplies in aquifers.

And conserving those supplies will become increasingly important in the future, said Mike McGuire of Haskell, who is president of the district's board.

"The next wars will be fought over water," he predicted. He was speaking figuratively, but making the strong point that competition for water will increase in Texas as the result of a growing population and demand.

"And the idea that we've got more water than we need is not necessarily correct," McGuire said of the Seymour Aquifer. "The aquifer has fallen 2.6 feet in the last 13 months. Because of the drought, it is now being replenished. So this is a situation where it is prudent that we take care of our water."

The Texas Legislature enacted the authority to create underground water districts years ago. So far, about 50 such water districts have been created. Many of those are in the Panhandle on land over the Ogallala Aquifer.

Baylor County, which sits over the rest of the Seymour aquifer, may join the Haskell-Knox group. If it does, another portion of the aquifer would acquire legal protection. Baylor County voters must approve joining the district.

Underground water districts may levy property taxes. The tax rate of the Haskell-Knox district is 3 cents per \$100 valuation. If Baylor County joins, it may make operating the district more efficient by providing a single administrative office that could cover three counties instead of two. That could permit a lower tax rate, McGuire said.

"Underground water districts are just a management tool to see that everyone is treated fairly," said state Rep. David Counts of Knox City. Counts said legislators "all over Texas are talking about changes," but no formal legislation has been proposed.

Calling water "the oil of the future," Pickens has been buying the underground water rights to hundreds of thousands of acres in Roberts County with long-range plans to pipe and sell the water to faraway municipalities.

"That's alarming to me," Counts said. "Now, don't misunderstand me. What he's doing is perfectly legal. But what he's doing could affect the whole aquifer."

And, Counts added, if Roberts County created a water district, Pickens still could not be stopped. "He'd be grandfathered in," he said, "with the perfect right to take as much water as he wanted."

Counts said the ability to mitigate the effects of the rule of capture is one of the reasons water districts such as Haskell-Knox are so important.

If the competition for water becomes so great that its monetary value substantially increases, agricultural users could find it more profitable to sell their water than use it to grow crops and water livestock. That would mean the demise of many farmers and ranchers, he said.

"Then you would lose your community of interest - the tractor dealers, the gins, the feed stores," Counts said. Eventually, he added, entire communities could die.

Water districts, by limiting water exports, sales and their own usage, can help ensure the survival of those communities, he said.