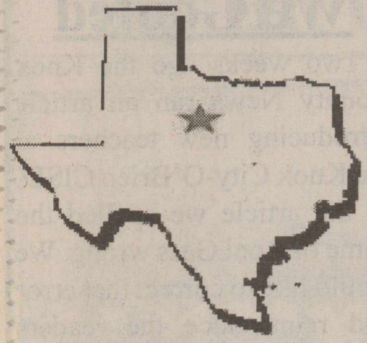


Wednesday September 14th High/Low 94°/68° Isolated T-Storms	Thursday September 15th High/Low 91°/67° Partly Cloudy	Friday September 16th High/Low 92°/68° Partly Cloudy	Saturday September 17th High/Low 94°/66° Sunny	Sunday September 18th High/Low 92°/64° Sunny	Monday September 19 High/Low 91°/63° Mostly Sunny
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THE Knox County News

Proudly Serving Knox and King Counties

Volume XXXIV Number 46

Thursday, September 14, 2005

Knox City, Texas

10 Pages +

1 Insert

Price 75¢

Visioning Team

The Knox County Visioning Team met at the community center in Knox City on September 6th at 5:30 PM. The meeting had a turnout of eight (8) members. The visioning team is seeking input from the community to help decide the best day and time to hold future meetings in order for the meetings to be as convenient as possible for all interested parties. County Judge Travis Floyd would like anyone with suggestions to contact him.

The team discussed the Community Goals further and decided they do not need any changes as of this time.

Barbara Rector, the chairperson for Goal #2 has started assembling her committee. Barbara and Amanda Bibb will be attending training in the next couple of weeks on how to retain and expand businesses in the community.

The committee will begin meeting when they return from training to develop some short term and long term goals.

Dwayne Bearden, the chairperson for Goal #3 has also started assembling a committee to work on long term and short term goals. The committee will begin meeting in a couple of weeks and Dwayne will continue to assemble his team.

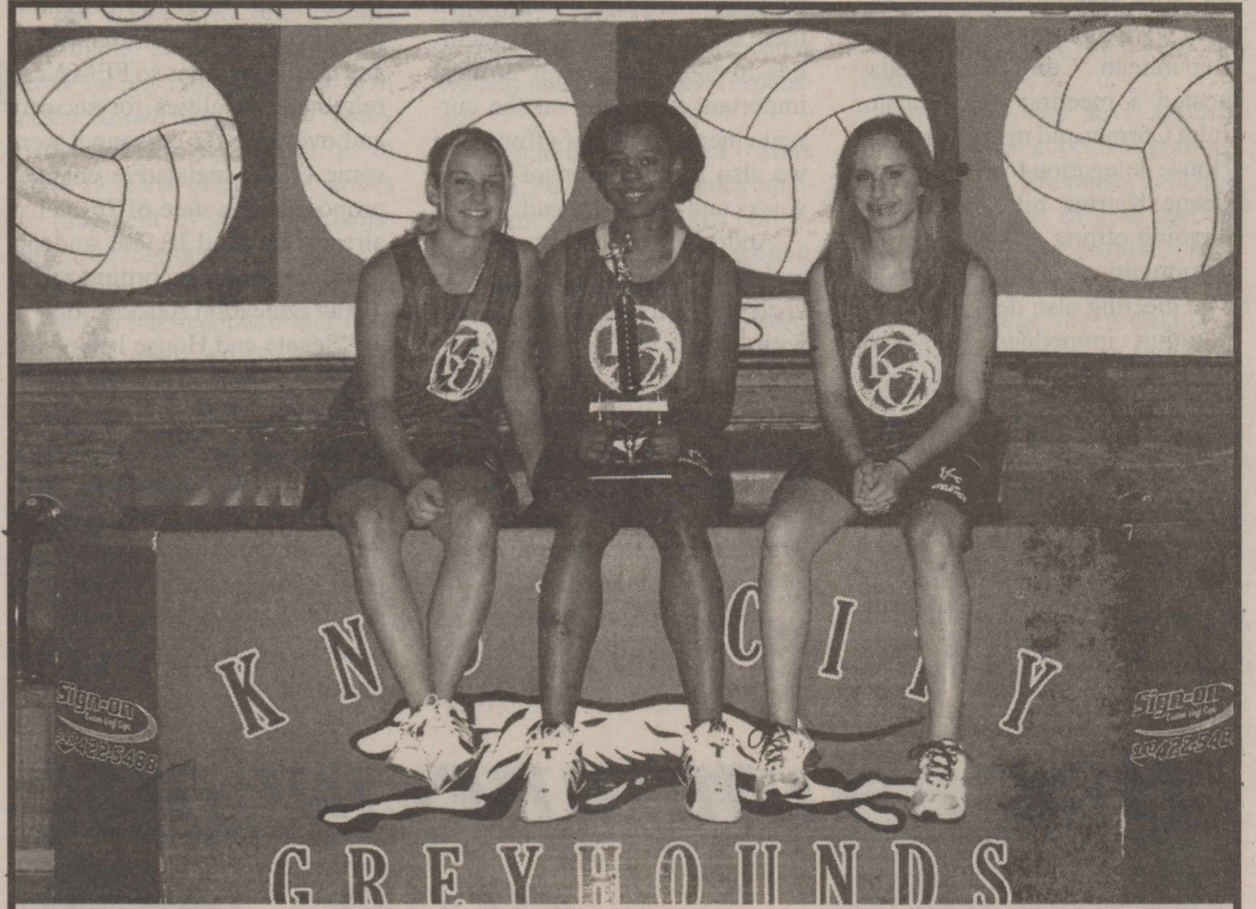
A chairperson is still needed for Goal #1. Several people were discussed and the committee is waiting to receive more nominations from the community for the position of chairperson. If you know anyone that is outgoing, with good communications skills (verbal & written), possesses good people skills, and has organizational skills, please forward their name to Judge Floyd. This person does not have to be a

Area Men Arrested On Drug Charges

The Knox County Sheriffs Department, The Knox City Police Department, and DPS Officers, served a search warrant at 310 South Aspen Street in Knox City Saturday night. Two area men were charged with the possession of cocaine, a state jail felony. Billy Ray Lerma age 47 and Billy Ray Conreras age 28. Both men were charged with possession cocaine and were released after each posted a \$2000 bond.

member of our team today, it can be anyone in the community that you feel could do this job and would take this responsibility.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 26th at 1:00PM at the Community Center in Munday. Barbara and Amanda will have returned from their training by that time and will be able to share some information with us.



LtoR Nikki Moss, Kayla Martin, Marni McLemore

Three members of the Houndettes Volleyball team were named to the all tournament team during the tournament held last weekend. Kayla Martin was also named most valuable player.

September Business of the Month Stanfield Hunting Outfitters



L to R: Jeff Stanfield, Michelle Stanfield, Kursten Stafford, Luke Musgrove

As hunting season begins across the rolling plains it seems appropriate to spotlight Stanfield Hunting Outfitters. Our featured business of the month is Stanfield Hunting Outfitters. It has been in business for 13 years and is one of the largest outfitters in America. People come from all over the world to hunt with one of the nine guides on staff. Big Honker accommodates weekend business tycoons, down home hunters, and major league baseball players. Mark Molder, pitcher for the Cardinals, has enjoyed our home town hospitality in his spare time.

Big Honker is owned and operated by Jeff Stanfield. Jeff is married with three kids. His wife,

Michelle, takes care of all meals, and is in charge of the kitchen. Greyhounds quarterback, Andy Shaver is a senior this year and the oldest, Zach Shaver is in the 7th grade, and Payne Stanfield is in 2nd. Jeff has been involved in several community services over the years. He started a youth football league and coached it for one year. He has coached little league, was president of the booster club, and was a member of the city council. He coaches a 7 on 7 summer football league for the high school players and gives golf lessons. Some of his students include our very own coaches, Wayne Hutchinson, and Mitch McLemore.

As of right now, he is not involved with anything other than hunting, but stays busy enough with that. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family, traveling, and taking the money of coach Hutch, coach McLemore, and coach Fisher on the golf course. Jeff is a small town guy that travels to every corner of the world, but when it comes down to it, in his own words, "I love living in Knox City. There are so many good people here and I wouldn't want to be anywhere else."

Stanfield Hunting Outfitters offer's guided hunts for duck, geese, dove, pheasant and turkey. Stanfield Hunting Outfitters can be reached at 940-658-3172.

Knox City Council Meeting Tax Rate Increased, Police Department Solution Proposed

The Knox City Council met in regular session on September 8, 2005 with Mayor Charles Lankford presiding.

City Council members present were Tommy Mangis, J.M. Emerson, and Darren Clark also present were Barbara Rector, Knox City Police Chief Aaron Lewis and Knox County Sheriff Dean Homstad.

After a short discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Mangis and seconded by Mr. Clark to adjust the tax rate from the current .7644 to this year's effective rate of .7835. All voted aye. The council discussed nominating or appointing members for The Knox County Appraisal District Board. Mrs. Rector explained to the council that the Knox County District Appraisal Boards paperwork will not be available till

Oct. There will be five members on the board who will be in service for a two year term. With each election, the current members have to run for reelection. Mrs. Rector also suggested that the council start thinking of prospects to nominate for this important position. A motion was made to table this item for the next agenda. All voted aye.

Next on the agenda was the police department update. Council discussed the options of hiring another officer or contracting with the Knox County Sheriffs Department. The council discussed the advantages and disadvantages of having the county cover on Chief Lewis' day's off. A motion was made by Mr. Emerson and seconded by Mr. Godsey to go into contract with the county. There will be a 90 day

probation period to work out any problems.

Next on the agenda was the Knox City Police Department report. The Knox City Police Department received a total of 112 calls and tasks that required attention for the month of August. This total included 2 actual criminal offenses. Two charges were filed. Calls of the month from Central (911) totaled 28, Sheriff's Office 16 and City Hall 6. Chief Lewis reported to the Council that the Department has received several complaints regarding under-aged kids driving vehicles in and around town. Citations will be given if they are caught driving without a license. A motion was made by Mr. Mangis and seconded by Mr. Godsey to accept the Police Department report. All voted aye.

Blood Drive To Be Held September 21

A community blood drive will take place on Wednesday, September 21. The Meek Blood Center Bloodmobile will be at Knox County hospital from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. The blood drive on July 21 resulted in 22 pints of blood, according to Frances Baker, Meek Blood Center donor recruiter. Those who gave blood at that drive are eligible to give blood again on September 21. Meek Blood Center supplies blood to Knox County Hospital as well as sixteen other area hospitals.

Blood donors must be at least

17 years old, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds, and in good health. Most over-the-counter and prescription medications are acceptable. There are some restrictions regarding medical conditions, travel areas outside the U.S. and certain medications. "I would advise anyone who has an eligibility question to call Meek Blood Center at 325-679-2798, said Baker.

Each donor will receive a T-shirt. A complimentary total cholesterol result will be available three business days after the blood drive.

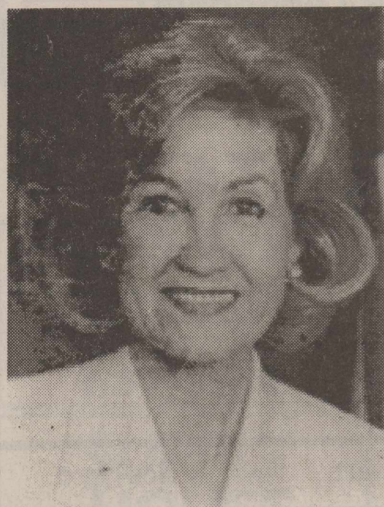
Knox City Elementary Conducts Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund

Knox City Elementary is conducting a Coin Drive sponsored by the American Red Cross. All proceeds are to benefit the Hurricane Relief Fund. The event began Wednesday, September 7 and will continue through Friday, September 16.

If you are interested in donating to the American Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund, contact any Elementary School student. You may also call 657-3147 or stop by the Elementary Main Building where a special container has been set up.

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Kay Bailey Hutchison: Benjamin ISD Welcomes New Ag Teacher

SENATOR HUTCHISON HOSTS DELEGATION MEETING TO DISCUSS HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS IN TEXAS

WASHINGTON, DC -- Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), Vice Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference, today hosted a meeting with Senator John Cornyn and members of the House delegation to discuss Hurricane Katrina relief successes, ongoing efforts and problems in communities throughout Texas. The meeting also dealt with pinpointing immediate legislative fixes to bureaucratic roadblocks that may hinder relief efforts.

"Texas communities have opened their doors to help their neighbors who have suffered significant losses. We can best meet their needs and those of Texas communities caring for them by working as a team," Sen. Hutchison said. "Texans

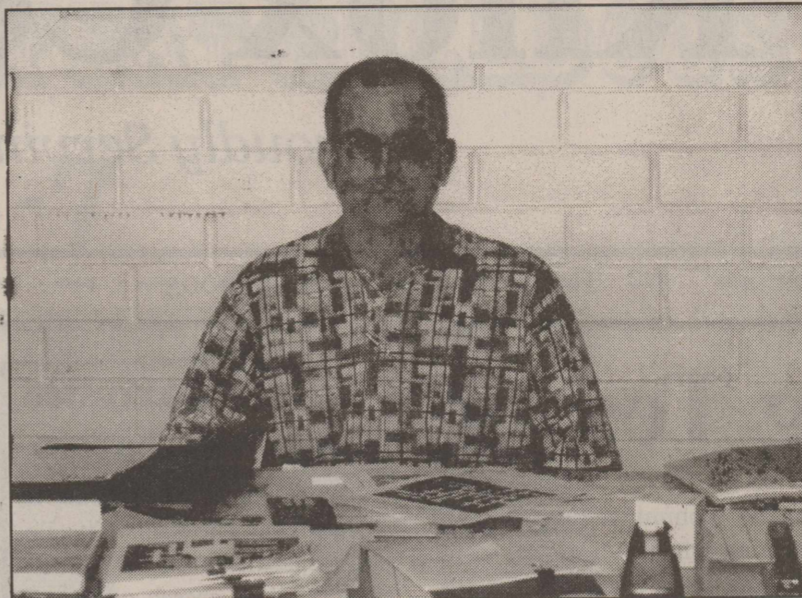
must be assured they will receive significant support as they open their schools, homes and facilities to the evacuees. It is most important we focus on the current emergency relief efforts, but we also need to prepare for the weeks and months ahead."

Addressed at today's meeting and during a September 7 conference call Sen. Hutchison hosted with leaders of Texas communities impacted by the hurricane relief efforts were potential legislative changes to help communities more swiftly address the needs of dislocated victims and ensure Texas communities are adequately compensated.

Amending the definition of costs which can be reimbursed by FEMA for education expenses,

allowing Texas to enroll evacuees in their Medicaid programs and receive full reimbursement and clarifying rules so FEMA can reimburse localities for security and overtime for personnel were some of the legislative changes proposed. The state of Texas has already enrolled 10,900 students from Louisiana according to the Texas Education Association.

"Senate and House leadership members have given me confidence that Texas and other states helping during this challenging time will be reimbursed," Sen. Hutchison said. "We want to help communities provide long-term education and health care support knowing they won't be burdened with the heavy cost of their services."



Paul Weiser

Benjamin ISD would like to welcome their new Ag teacher, Paul Weiser. This is Paul's first teaching job, even though he has had his teaching certificate for over 10 years. Instead, he took the position of County Agent, first in Falls County for 2 years, and then he transferred here for an additional 7 1/2. He graduated with both a Bachelors and

Masters in Agriculture Education from Texas A&M. He originally comes to us from Giddings, which is about 60 miles east of Austin, and says that he likes this small town life. His wife Misty is a substitute teacher for Benjamin concentrating mostly on 1st and 2nd grade. They have two kids, a son Sean who is 8, and a daughter Brenn who is 6.

We Goofed

Two weeks ago the Knox County News ran an article introducing new teachers at the Knox City-O'Brien CISD. In the article we spelled the name of Roni Gass wrong. We would like to correct that error and reintroduce the readers to our new 7th and 8th grade math teacher.

Roni Gass graduated from Midwestern University in 2004, and has returned to Knox City to teach algebra, 7th and 8th grade math, and math models. She has been happily married to Quentin Gass for three years and has two kids, a girl Jaedon, who is 3 years old, and a boy Ryder, who is 4 months. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her kids and husband.

Donations to the Knox City Cemetery Fund

Donation to the Knox City Cemetery Memorial Fund made by Alice Wilson of Knox City, and John Lee and Rosie Wilde of Munday, for the Frank McAuley Family.

Donation to the Knox City Cemetery Memorial Fund made by Judy Anderson of Haskell, for the families of Merle Bishop, Frank McAuley, and Marion Perdue.

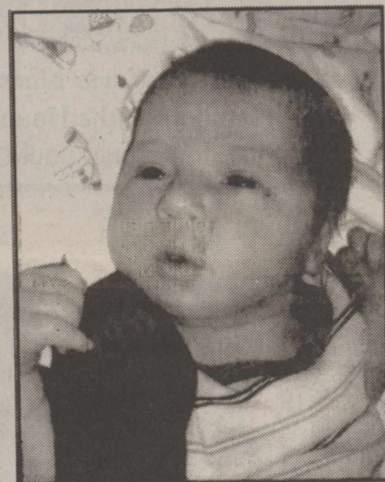
Birth Announcements!



Daniel James Johnson and Devon Lane Martinez

Daniel James Johnson was born June 28th at 5:13 p.m. in Abilene. He weighed 7 lbs. 8 oz. and was 21 1/2 in. long. Daniel was welcomed home by his parents James and Monica Magana Johnson of Abilene. Maternal grandparents are Chuco and Vallia Magana of Knox City. Paternal grandparents Brian and Shirley Johnson of Gwinn, Michigan.

Devonn Lane Martinez was born July 20th at 8:20 p.m. in Abilene. She weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz. and was 19 in. long. Devon was welcomed home by her parents, Anthony and Shavonne Martinez, and big sister and big brother, Klarisa and Anthony Jr. of Knox City. Maternal grandparents are Chuco and Vallia Magana of Knox City. Paternal grandparents are Jose and Dolores Martinez of Kingsville, Texas.



Jordan Lee Casillas

Justin and Stephanie Casillas are pleased to announce the birth of their son Jordan Lee Casillas. Jordan came into this world on August 26, 2005 at 10:26 a.m. weighing 7 lbs. 7 oz. and was 20 inches long.

Proud brother Aaron Arrieta and proud sister Anna Casillas were there to welcome their baby brother into this world.

His maternal grandmother is Connie Pedroza of O'Brien and his Aunts and Uncles include Rocio Pedroza of O'Brien, Melissa Larance of Anson, Michael Pedroza of O'Brien, Sophia Pedroza of O'Brien, and Mark Arrendon of O'Brien.

A Message From The Espinosa Family



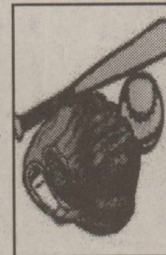
UPDATE on Christopher!

He's improving a little every day. Christopher has really been a trooper through it all. Post-op MRI shows no additional need for surgery. Oncology reports is due back Wednesday. Please keep the prayers coming. Everyone's support has been so touching!

God Bless You!

Robert, Sandy, Ashley, Cara, CHRISTOPHER and Aaron

Christopher is being treated at Cook Children's Medical Center
801 7th Street
Ft. Worth, Tx
Room 4216



An Account has been set up at Citizen's Bank in Knox City. The account # is 700623 for 6 year old Christopher, to help defray cost of extra expenses.

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IT'S THE PITT'S

Quality Time (Best Of)

by: Lee Pitts

Isn't it amazing that with everything we eat trying to murder us these days that man is living longer than ever? In the Roman days the average life span of a human being was only 25 years and that was before they even knew about cholesterol. It couldn't have been all those sex orgies that did them in at such an early age. Could it?

If you are a man in today's society I have exciting news for you on how you can increase your life expectancy by two whole years: Have a sex change operation because women live two years longer than men on the average. There is, of course, a good reason why women outlive their spouses: So they can throw out our stuff, watch whatever they want on TV and collect on our life insurance.

One would think that animals would live longer than man because they eat whole grain cereals and "natural food" all the time. They don't drive cars or smoke cigarettes, except of course for lab mice.

So, I was shocked recently while glancing through the encyclopedia (yes, that's how boring my life's become lately) that I could find only one species of animal that lives longer than man.

That's right, it's the turtle. One even lived to be 152 years old, which is 22 in dog years. Turtles live so long because they never get in a hurry, don't fly in airplanes or eat anything with monosodium glutamate in it. And, get this, adult turtles never meet their offspring! No wonder they live so long!

Actually, man has a pretty good thing going for him in comparison to most animals when it comes to life expectancy. I don't know the May fly got its name because it certainly doesn't live a month. Within hours it is born, has sex and dies shortly thereafter. I guess it figures life couldn't get any better so why go on living?

The housefly and the mosquito only live six weeks on the average because they go around pestering people all

the time. That should be a lesson to PETA members and the folks who knock on my front door all the time.

The butterfly lives only eight weeks which proves my theory that the uglier you are the longer you live. With my face I figure I've got at least sixty good years left.

Canaries live twenty years and crows thirty. Just think how long they would live if they were meat eaters! Camels live 28 years which is also the life expectancy of anyone who smokes them.

The mouse used to have an average life expectancy of 6 years but that was before they started eating three truckloads of saccharin a day and scientists started breeding them to die at the drop of a hat. And by the way, if chicken is so good for you and beefsteak so bad, how come chickens only live to be 6 years old and cows ten? Not that I am complaining, six years is entirely too long for a chicken anyway.

If you were to die and come back as a goldfish... you'd sure surprise you're mother-in-law. Not only that but you'd only live ten years in your new life. Dogs also live ten years on

average, sheep 13 and squirrels, cats, goats and monkeys all live to the ripe old age of fifteen.

Horses and jackasses only live to be 20 and they eat tons of oat bran and alfalfa sprouts.

Then there is modern man. Despite the fact that we already live on average to the ripe old age of 74 years we continue to worry ourselves to death about living even longer. If we don't quit all this worrying about living longer I'm afraid we'll be survived by our wives, kids, the May fly, mosquitoes and cocky capons.

The only other animal that even comes close to living as long as humans and turtles is the goose. The goose is also known for being more intelligent than those people who actually spend the winter in Canada. I'd suggest that we could probably learn a thing or two about living longer from the goose and the turtle: fly right, develop a thick hide, honk if you're happy, slow down, mate for life and when life gets too difficult crawl into your shell and take a long nap.

BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

PERSISTENCE

Persistence in the face of adversity, a sign of inner strength, a thick skull, or desperation.

We were driving back to see the folks in Oklahoma and passed a snap shot of persistence in the face of adversity. A well-used pickup was parked on the edge of a lawn next to the road. There was a homemade "For Sale" sign on the windshield and the hood was up. A man dressed in sweat pants and a tee shirt was attaching jumper cables to the battery. Another man, possibly a potential buyer, looked on, arms crossed and a scowl on his face. He didn't look impressed. You could almost hear the owner saying, "Like new, one owner, rebuilt engine, good tires" then leaping in the cab, the slow grind then clicking into silence. As we drove by, my wife said sympathetically, "What a drag."

I had a hard day last week, spilled a sack of popcorn in the suburban, had a flat tire on the wheelbarrow, let the stock tank run over, and didn't get a thing done I had planned that morning. But I was going roping so I hooked up the trailer, saddled my horse and started to load him. Suddenly I noticed he was limping. "What a drag."

We have a motto here at the ranchito. "Nada es facil" Nothing is easy.

Yesterday we were putting up Mexican clay tiles on the shop roof. Lacking 3 lines to finish I drove an hour to town only to find they only had pans, no covers, bottoms, no tops. The

whole town was out of them, so I bought 80 bottoms, which means we had to drill holes in 40 to use them as covers. That ruined my masonry bits so back to town. Persistence.

Dig a 3-foot posthole by hand, then find it's one foot off the property line. Cuss, exhale, and dig another one. Save your best heifer, breed her to the neighbor's best bull. Keep her with the small bunch closer to the house.

Watch her bag up, then find her and her new calf both dead one mile from the house. "What a drag."

Bow yer neck and keep goin'. That has been the name of the game in farming and ranching since Noah planted the first row of corn. I've watched hard workin' folks push through, around, over and by obstacles, shoulder to the wheel, nose to the grindstone, third down and ten. Get knocked down - git back up.

Little things like runnin' out of staples two hours from the hardware store, or big things like floods, hurricanes, blizzards and Parkinson's disease.

We all enjoy seeing fellow humans win the lotto, survive a wreck unscathed, or make a good bronc ride. But it is our resilience, our quiet courage, our persistence in the face of adversity that gets children raised, wars won, and lets good guys finish first now and then.

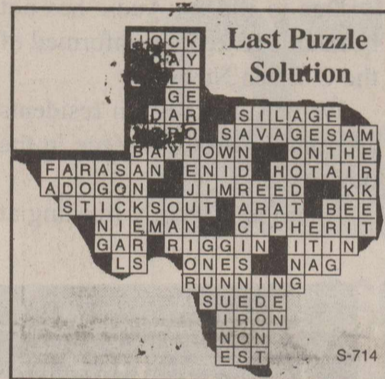
The human spirit is made of rawhide, the heat of battle makes it hard, tears make it soft.

COW POKES

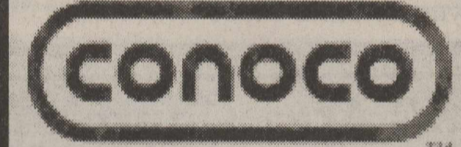
By Ace Reid



"All I said wuz, 'No, I don't want to extend my notes. I want to pay 'em off!'"



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Vernon College Fall GED Test Dates

Vernon College is offering students an opportunity to take the GED test to earn their high school diploma equivalency. The test will be given on the Vernon campus October 25 & 26 and November 15 & 16. Testing will start at 9:00 a.m. each morning in Room 409 of the Sumner Applied Arts Building.

Pre-registration is required in advance of the test. There is limited seating and tests, so students are encouraged to sign up early.

All first-time examinees must sign-up in person and arrive at 8:30 p.m. on the first day of testing to fill out the required Demographics booklet.

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

Everyone taking the GED test must provide a Texas driver's license or Texas Department of Public Safety ID card, and social security card at registration and at each testing session.

If a 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.

The full battery of tests costs \$65, and a re-test for an individual section is \$15.

Cash, checks, or money orders made payable to Vernon College are acceptable. Prices are subject to change. Payment is to be made in the Business Office, and a receipt must be shown in the Student Services Office prior to testing.

Free Region IX GED classes are being offered to anyone interested in taking the GED test. Classes started September 5 and will continue on Monday's and Wednesday's until December 22. Classes begin at 6:00 p.m. and are held in the Sumner Applied Arts Building Room 427, on the Vernon campus.

For further information regarding the GED exams or special accommodations, please contact Jackie Polk at 940-552-6291 ext. 2312.

Keep Benjamin Beautiful Group Receives Award



pictured l to r: Reba Morrill, Kathy Rainwater, Dennis Duke, not pictured Mitzy Welch, Leory West, Fred McGregor

CHILDRESS - The Community of Benjamin is looking beautiful these days and the Keep Benjamin Beautiful group can be thanked for that.

At the Benjamin Chamber of Commerce meeting on Tuesday, September 6, 2005, Kathy Rainwater, Keep Benjamin Beautiful member, accepted a Keep Texas Beautiful Award on behalf of the Keep Benjamin Beautiful

Group. This award was a certificate for placing Honorable Mention on the Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) Governor's Community Achievement Award application "Benjamin has placed two years in a row for this award", said Barbara Seal, Childress Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Adopt-a-Highway Coordinator. "If they keep up the good work, they should have

a good chance of winning this award in the future". The Governor's Community Achievement Award is awarded to nine communities in Texas who are affiliated with Keep Texas Beautiful.

The winning communities share a \$1 million grant, funded by TxDOT. The amount of the award is determined by population, the smallest population category (under 1,000) receives \$60,000 in projects; the largest population (over a quarter of a million) receives \$265,000. The money can then be used for landscaping on state maintained highways only.

"Each year the winning communities, one from each of nine population categories, are chosen for their achievements in community leadership and coordination, education, public awareness, litter prevention and cleanup, illegal dumping enforcement, beautification and property improvement, and solid waste management", said Barbara Seal, Childress TxDOT Public Information Officer. "Keep Ben-

jamin Beautiful has a winning attitude and I am sure that will sustain them to receive this award in the future", said Seal.

Keep Texas Beautiful was started in 1967 by a group of Texas leaders, who had a vision to make Texas the cleanest, most beautiful state in the nation.

KTB's mission is to empower Texans through education to take responsibility for enhancing their community environment.

"The award honors collaborative efforts between citizens, businesses, local government, and youth to improve and enhance the appearance of their communities," said Gary Mizer, TxDOT Munday Area Engineer. "These winners exemplify what volunteer efforts can accomplish".

The community of Benjamin is very lucky to have a group with such a winning attitude and a great commitment to preserving the beauty of Texas.

For more information contact Barbara Seal, Childress District TxDOT Public Information Officer at 940-937-7145.

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Knox City

John Wade, Pastor
Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH - Knox City

Tex Cox, Pastor
Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.

FOURSQUARE CHURCH - Knox City

Paul Chambers, Pastor
Sunday School at 10:00 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 Ben Vasquez
Sunday Bilingual Mass at 11:00 a.m.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - Rhineland

Father Leo Schloemer - Deacon Ben Vasquez
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 of 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 of Benjamin

John Wade, 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 10:00 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 11:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00 p.m. ~ Mid Week, Wed. at 6:00 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST - Benjamin

Bible Study at 9:00 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

THE BELIEVERS' CHAPEL - Highway 222

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

O'BRIEN BAPTIST CHURCH - O'Brien

Jim Reid, Pastor
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00 p.m. Mid Week, Wed. at 6:00 p.m.

WEINERT FOURSQUARE CHURCH

Rob Harrison, Pastor
Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.

THIS CHURCH DIRECTORY IS SPONSORED EACH WEEK BY THE FOLLOWING

Lewis Paint & Body Shop 658-3342
Knox County Hospital 657-3535
O'Brien Co-Op Gin 658-3631

O'Brien News

Update on Audie Johnston!! Ms. Johnston is our correspondent from O'Brien who provides the O'Brien news.

Due to illness, Audie has not been able to keep us informed of the O'Brien News.

We're sure O'Brien residents are missing Audie's piece in the newspaper.

Audie is presently residing at

the Garrison Care Center Rehab Facility in Lubbock, Texas.

She needs the assistance of a wheel chair, but is doing rather well. If you would like to drop her a line ore two or to call her.

This is her present address and phone number: Audie Johnston, Room 5058 c/o Garrison Care Center, 37104 4th St. Lubbock, Tx 79415. Phone number is (806) 657-9760.

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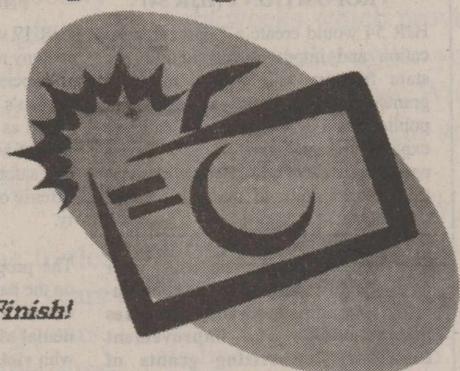
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NEW HOURS:
 11 am to 5:30 pm Wed - Fri
 1 pm to 5 pm Saturdays

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Local government Code 152.013 (b) notice is hereby given that the state supplement of the Knox County Judge will increase by \$5000.00 on December 1, 2005 contingent upon the governor's signature on HB11. No county funds are applied to this increase.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Local Government Code 152.013 (b) notice is hereby given that the state supplement of the Knox County Attorney will increase by \$3883.33 on December 1, 2005 contingent upon the governor's signature on HB11. No county funds are applied to this increase.

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HOME MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

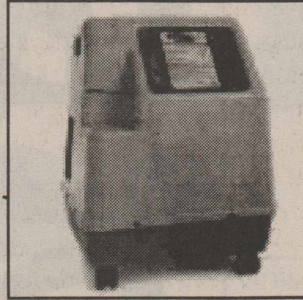
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PUBLIC NOTICE

BRIEF EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS OF PROPOSED
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
SPECIAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 8, 2005

PROPOSITION 1 (HJR 54)

HJR 54 would create a Texas rail relocation and improvement fund in the state treasury and would authorize grants of state revenue and issuance of public debt to relocate, rehabilitate, and expand privately and publicly owned passenger and freight rail facilities and to construct railroad underpasses and overpasses.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment creating the Texas rail relocation and improvement fund and authorizing grants of money and issuance of obligations for financing the relocation, rehabilitation, and expansion of rail facilities."

PROPOSITION 2 (HJR 6)

HJR 6 would provide that marriage in Texas is solely the union of a man and woman, and that the state and its political subdivisions could not create or recognize any legal status identical to or similar to marriage, including such legal status relationships created outside of Texas.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing that marriage in this state consists only of the union of one man and one woman and prohibiting this state or a political subdivision of this state from creating or recognizing any legal status identical or similar to marriage."

PROPOSITION 3 (HJR 80)

HJR 80 would provide that local economic development program loans or grants (other than debts secured by a pledge of ad valorem taxes or financed by the issuance of any bonds or other obligations payable from ad valorem taxes) do not constitute or create debt. Any provision of state constitutional law that may prohibit or limit the authority of a political subdivision of the state to incur debt does not apply to those loans or grants.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment clarifying that certain economic development programs do not constitute a debt."

PROPOSITION 4 (SJR 17)

SJR 17 would authorize a district judge to deny reinstatement of bail or new bail to a person accused of a felony, if the person's bail had been revoked or forfeited as a result of the person's violation of a condition of release related to the safety of a victim of the alleged offense or to the safety of the community.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the denial of bail to a criminal defendant who violates a condition of the defendant's release pending trial."

PROPOSITION 5 (SJR 21)

SJR 21 would authorize the Legislature to exempt commercial loans from state usury laws that set maximum interest rates. "Commercial loans" are loans made primarily for business, commercial, investment, agricultural, or similar purposes and not primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment allowing the legislature to define rates of interest for commercial loans."

PROPOSITION 6 (HJR 87)

HJR 87 would increase the size of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct from eleven to thirteen members by increasing from four to five the number of public members and by adding a constitutional county court judge. The additions would ensure that the commission has an odd number of members, which is required by another provision of the state constitution.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to include one additional public member and a constitutional county court judge in the membership of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct."

PROPOSITION 7 (SJR 7)

SJR 7 would authorize new options for reverse mortgage agreements for senior homeowners allowing them to draw advances at unscheduled intervals, if and when needed, and only in the

amounts needed, during the loan term. These are in addition to options that would allow a lump sum payment after settlement or regular periodic, predetermined equal amounts over a term of years or the lifetime of the homeowner. Additionally, SJR 7 would: (1) prohibit the agreement from requiring the use of a credit card, debit card or similar device to obtain an advance; (2) prohibit the charge or collection of a transaction fee solely in connection with any debit or advance, after the time the extension of credit is established; and (3) prohibit the lender or holder from unilaterally amending the extension of credit.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing line-of-credit advances under a reverse mortgage."

PROPOSITION 8 (SJR 40)

SJR 40 would clear individual land titles by relinquishing and releasing all claims of state ownership interests, including mineral interests, in two local areas, namely, a roughly 4,600 acre area located roughly 14 miles southeast of Gilmer, Texas, and a separate 900 acre area located north of Tyler, Texas.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing for the clearing of land titles by relinquishing and releasing any state claim to sovereign ownership or title to interest in certain land in Upshur County and in Smith County."

PROPOSITION 9 (HJR 79)

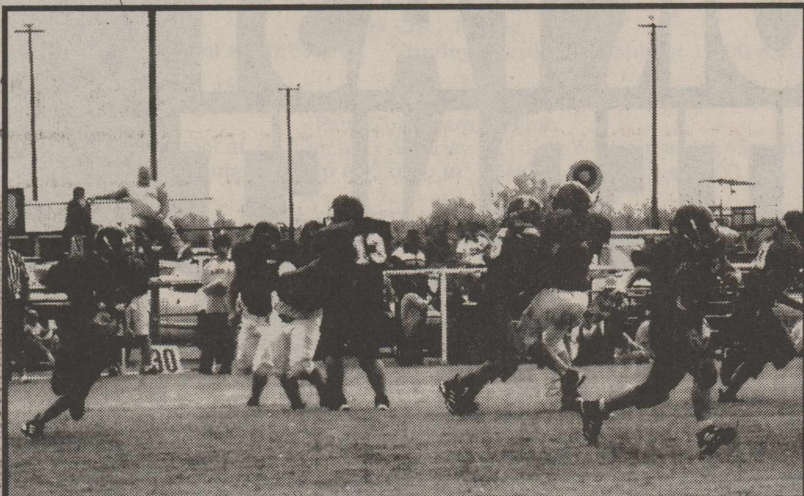
HJR 79 would authorize the Legislature to provide staggered six year terms of office for board members serving on regional mobility authorities, with no more than one-third of the board positions being appointed every two years.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for a six-year term for a board member of a regional mobility authority."

Published by Secretary of State Roger Williams, www.sos.state.tx.us, 1.800.252.8683.

Benjamin and Guthrie Sports

Benjamin Mustangs Win 58-2 Over Paint Creek Pirates



Mustangs working as a team blocking for Tomas Acevedo as he makes his way for a touchdown.

In a 58-2 victory over the Paint Creek Pirates, the Benjamin Mustangs improved their record on the season to 2-1.

Tomas Acevedo led the Mustangs with four touchdowns racking up 261 yds. and was no slouch on defense posting 10 tackles with 8 being solos.

Carlos Rodriguez would add a couple of touchdowns as well and booted 5 PAT's for the night.

Sean and Kyle Wilson each would add touchdowns of their own.

The defense was quite impressive not allowing any first downs for the Pirates. The Pirates had 70 yds on 20 carries. One carry

was a 60 yd. run, with the remaining 19 only adding up to a mere 10 yards.

The game was called with a little over a minute left in the third quarter.

Coach Copeland had this to say about his Mustangs, "We didn't play well the first quarter, but became more aggressive the remainder of the game. Our defense started attacking and the offense made some key blocks that allowed us to get the ball in the end zone."

The Mustangs will be off this week but will kick off district play against Patton Springs on September 24 at Patton Springs.

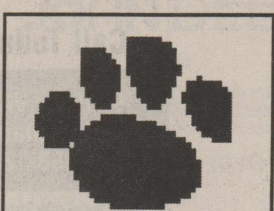


Mustang's planning their defense.

2005 High School Football Schedule Guthrie Jaguar

Aug. 13	McLean^	Guthrie	TBA
Aug. 18	Ropes^	Ropesville	6:00
Aug. 25	Paint Creek	Guthrie	7:00
Sept. 2	Spur	Spur	7:30
Sept. 9 H.C. #	Jayton	Guthrie	7:30
Sept. 16	Open		
Sept. 23 *District	Northside	Guthrie	7:30
Sept. 30 *District	Chillicothe	Chillicothe	7:30
Oct. 7 *District	Crowell	Crowell	7:30
Oct. 14 *District	Patton Springs	Guthrie	7:30
Oct. 21 *District	Motley County	Matador	7:30
Oct. 28 *District	Benjamin	Guthrie	7:30
Nov. 3 *District	Paducah	Paducah	7:30

^ SCRIMMAGE # HOMECOMING * DISTRICT



2005 Junior High Football Schedule Benjamin Mustangs

Sept. 8	Paint Creek	Here	5:30
Sept. 15	Patton Springs	Here	5:30
Sept. 22	Jayton	Here	5:30
Sept. 29	Motley County	There	5:30
Oct. 6	Chillicothe	Here	5:30
Oct. 13	Paducah	Here	5:30
Oct. 20	Northside	There	5:30
Oct. 27	Guthrie	Here	5:30
Nov. 3	Crowell	There	5:30

Head Coach-Danny Copeland
Principal-C.H. Underwood
Superintendent- Ben Grill

Home-940-459-4032
School-940-459-2231



Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

Sunday afternoon brought in spring-like weather, thunder and some showers. Didn't really amount to much, but was enough to remind us there's still moisture to be had. It helped to cool things off, thus making for a pretty pleasant afternoon. Fall is definitely in the air and thankfully the constant extremely hot days are probably gone for awhile. This is my favorite time of the year and October has always been my favorite month.

Each day brings a varied report on Leroy West. Some days he seems better than others but we do know he still has a long way to go before he's feeling like his old self. With new problems showing up pretty often the existing ones he already has plus all the medication he has to take just seems to have a lot to deal with. Some days when we talk to him he's in a pretty good spirits, other days he's sort of down but always says, "Please tell the people to keep praying for us" they have been in Ft. Worth almost a month and no indication of when they may come home.

It was a pretty good week this past week for the athletes and fans over this way. On Tuesday night the Volleyball girls traveled to Bryson and the varsity team, I understand, had a good game. The JV team won on Tuesday night. Jr High football got underway when the Colts roasted the Jr. High team from Paint Creek. Benjamin won by a score of 41-12 and on Friday night the

High School team were in Paint Creek and they too were victorious in their endeavors. Good to be in the winning column. This weeks the Volleyball games are at Leuders-Avoca Tuesday beginning at 5:00 p.m. Jr High plays Patton Springs here on Thursday night. The Varsity team has an open date this week and on the 23rd District play begins when they go to Patton Springs.

It is a new baby girl for Dustin and Rhonda Sheldon of Sidney Iowa. Fallon Ann was born September 1, 2005 in Nebraska City Hospital, Nebraska. She weighed 6 lbs. 14 oz. and was 21 inches long. She has a big sister 2 1/2 years old who is very proud of her new playmate. Grandparents are Judie and Jack Whitten of Benjamin and Bill and Sharon Sheldon of Sidney, Iowa. Judie and Jack were there for Fallon's arrival and spent several days getting acquainted with her before returning home Wednesday.

Cayden and Cheyenne Conner of Lubbock visited grandparents Judy and Randolph Barnett last Monday night. Randy said when his grandchildren Pete and Elisa from Colorado visited earlier they went fishing.

He said he didn't get to fish much as he was busy taking fish off and rebaiting the kid's and Judy's hooks. But the end results was the same, and all enjoyed a fish fry at Omiteen Barnett's and Corrine Parish joined them for the meal.

Jan Carver and her daughters,

Tammy Lyles an Stacia Antilly visited Stacia's daughter Callie at Guthrie, Oklahoma this past weekend. They took Tammy on a tour of the Lazy E Ranch where Callie works. She said it is so pretty and green up there.

Labor Day weekend Jan and her brother and sister in law Dennis and Evelyn Anderson of Abilene visited in Waco with another brother and his wife, Jerry Don Lord and Barbara Anderson. Said they had lots of fun, visiting playing cards, and shopping. Sounds like my kind of weekend.

Jay Whitten of Lewisville visited his parents, Jack and Judy week before last and got in some bird hunting. No report on whether or not he shot any.

Debbie Moorhouse was in Childress Friday afternoon for the elementary student's grandparent's tea. She was there for her four grandchildren and played Grandma to her niece Ashlee as her grandmother was unable to attend.

Lynn Rogers of Snyder spent the weekend with her family Mike, Debbie and will Moorhouse.

FormerresidentLacyHendrick is a patient in the Throckmorton Hospital. Lacy is now a resident of the throckmorton nursing facility. He has lived in Knox City may years prior to going to Throckmorton. His condition is described as doing pretty well given the fact he's 98 or 99 years old.

ACROSS

1 public FM/TV station in Dallas

5 TX Ivory Joe Hunter's "Since You Baby"

6 "You don't tug on Superman's _____"

7 Dallas FM station

8 TXism: "we ironed out _____ differences"

9 award-giving country music group (abbr.)

12 TXism: "spittin' _____ of"

17 Route 66 in TX was built along the "Santa _____"

19 west TX Indians

21 2nd flag over TX: _____ is _____

22 Ector Co. seat

23 Rocksprings newspaper: "Texas _____ Weekly"

28 TX critic Rex

29 in '93 this Cowboy Leon touched a ball he shouldn't have

30 this Tom starred with TX Zellweger in "Jerry Maguire"

31 TX millionaire maker

35 TX hill country food: _____ wurst

36 TX Pecos Bill sweetheart (3 wds.)

42 TXism: "can't carry _____ bucket" (bad singer)

44 TX Clay Allison was a _____ gun

The Original

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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46 TX Carroll Shelby was noted for this (2 wds.)

48 TX Ginger Rogers line: "Cigarette me, _____"

49 TXism: "_____ horn" (amateur)

50 golf ball elevator (2 wds.)

51 type of show pig

52 Gable of TX-based "Boom Town" (init.)

53 TXism: "plain as the top line _____ eye chart"

54 barn rodents

DOWN

1 first chance for a Cowboy or Texan TD? (2 wds.)

2 Dallas Jewish group

3 Temple _____ paper: "Abilene _____ News"

4 _____ gallon hat

9 TX Bruce McGill film: "Handle with _____"

10 mid-life crisis film made in TX

11 strong beer

12 O.J.'s judge Lance

13 in Ellis Co. on 287

14 former Cowboy RB Tommie

15 rush of wind

16 _____ Bernard, TX

18 "you'll _____ the day you did that"

20 "Alamo City" letters

23 TX Ranger film "Lone Wolf _____ Quade"

24 TXism: "got knocked down a peg _____ two"

25 TX Steve Forrest character in "The Yellow Canary"

26 TX counties must comply with '90 "Clean _____"

27 noted Comanche medicine man

32 TXism: "sort _____"

33 TXism: "fair _____ middlin"

34 TX Audie film: "_____ Hell and Back"

36 TX Nash's "I Can _____ Clearly Now"

37 TX Whelchel of "Facts of Life"

38 AC _____

39 UT frat. "_____ Nu"

40 TX film "_____ Cowboy"

41 national equality commission (abbr.)

43 Louis L'Amour birth state (abbr.)

45 prefix meaning "two"

47 one who denies the excellence of TX?

48 TC partnership: "Orbison _____"

55 NM ski destination for some TXns

Museum News

Volunteer interest and help has been growing in all museum fund raising projects. The future fund raisers planned are the annual February meal with silent auction and quilt drawing, historical Knox County 2006 calendar, bake sales and Knox County Heritage Cookbook, available in October. This year the proceeds from the Veterans Day hamburger meal will go to the museum where all the Veterans Memorial records and memorabilia will be preserved.

Memorials to the museum fund in lieu of flowers have also increased. Over \$1,000, in memorials, have been donated in memory of Benjamin mayor, Linda Cox and her mother, Odessa Cox.

A Knox County organization recently donated \$3,500 from projects covering 30 years or more of work.

Then, there's the new one, a Knox County lady has worked out. Remember the scene in a Civil War movie, (was it "Gone with the Wind")? Where elegantly dressed ladies and men at a great ball were asked to donate to the "cause", and rings, gold watches, and beautiful necklaces were taken off and dropped into baskets which overflowed with jewelry.

Her donation wasn't that dramatic, but it did include a gold class ring so worn you couldn't see the school name, some nice "fashion jewelry" for the silent auction, and even one never used gold tie clasp with what has been evaluated as a small diamond. None of the jewelry had been worn in years and all came from different kin at different times. But it will help the Knox County's museum "cause" move on, instead of gathering dust in a closet corner.

Please all and you will please none.
—Aesop

Opportunity Knocks,

The citizens of Knox County are very fortunate to have a group of people interested in and dedicated to the survival and growth of each of the communities within the county.

The Visioning Committee, comprised of representatives from each community, is working hard to enhance the quality of life within the county. Not only are they working on new ideas for growth, but they are also working to retain current businesses. We as individual citizens of this county can help in this process. We need to contact representatives of the committee and share any ideas that we may have. Good ideas can spring from almost anyone with a vision.

This doesn't mean that every idea will be put into action, but ideas tend to serve as building blocks for other ideas. It will be up to each and every one of us to be open minded and receptive to new and different approaches, and all of us must work together to solve our communities' issues.

Yes, that may mean we must do away with some of our preconceived notions or personal prejudices. As residents of Knox County, we owe it to ourselves and to each of our respective communities to seize this opportunity by considering creative ways to maintain what we already have and create growth for our future well being. So get out of your recliner and off your behind, get excited and let's make it happen.

Aging Center Lunch Menu

Week of September 19th to September 23rd

- Monday, September 19th**
Chicken/Rice Casserole, Asparagus, Glazed Carrots, Hot Rolls, Cake
 - Tuesday, September 20th**
Beef Spaghetti, Garden Salad, Garlic Toast, Dessert
 - Wednesday, September 21st**
Fish/Tarter Sauce, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Hush Puppies, Cobbler
 - Thursday, September 22nd**
Mexican Casserole, Garden Salad, Spanish Rice, Crackers, Ice Cream
 - Friday September 23rd**
BBQ On A Bun, French Fries, Cookies & Fruit
- Call in Orders by 10:00 a.m.

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

Knox City Elementary

PTO Meeting
(Parent Teacher Organization)

**Wednesday, September 14th,
at 5:30 p.m.**

Baker Auditorium

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Candidate must be at least 21 years of age, possess a CDL with air brake, tanker and hazardous material endorsement. No more than two moving violations in the last five years and have a High School Diploma or equivalent. Must be able to pass a DOT medical exam. Sunoco offers medical and dental insurance, 401K and a generous hourly wage for qualified persons.

If interested, please go to sunocologistics.com to fill out on-line application. For any questions please call 325-672-4888. EOE,M/F D/V

Notice of Application for Fluid Injection Well Permit

Cholla Petroleum, Inc. 5949 Sherry Ln., Suite 850 Dallas, Texas 75225
(Company Name/Address)

is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Strawn Formation
(Formation Name)

F. W. Thorman Lease, Well Number 3. The proposed
(Lease Name)

injection well is located 11 miles west of Knox City
(Direction) (Nearest Town)

in the Knox City (Strawn) Field, in Knox
(Field Name)

County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 5150 to 5160 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).

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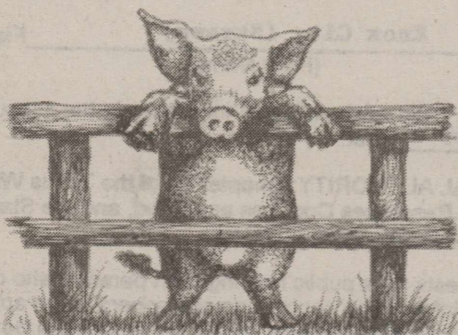
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Big Hit Of The Week



back row: Pablo Sanchez, Kylin Delvalle, Brandon Grimsley, Orrin Myers
front row: Derek Magana, Thomas Myers, Ryan Harrington, Ty Chisum, Andy Shaver, L.B. Thompson, Jeremy Saxton, Cody Wainscott

The Knox City Greyhounds defeated the Stamford Bulldogs with a final score of 24-7.

This week's featured players are Derek Magana and Thomas Myers with the Big Hit award, Ryan Harrington got Big Block.

Ty Chisum and Andy Shaver had the Big Play.

L.B. Thompson and Jeremy

Saxton were the Special Teams standouts.

Relentless Effort went to Cody Wainscott.

Pablo Sanchez and Kylin Delvalle and Brandon Grimsley had the Best Techniques.

And Orrin Myers was this week's Scout Team. The Greyhounds take on the Anson Tigers Friday night at 7:30.

Big Hit of the Week is Sponsored by:

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Truth never damages a cause that is just.

—Gandhi

ROLLING PLAINS RAMBLINGS

Decision Time

The past week has been important in the history of our United States of America.

Our nation can take pride in people's response to the tragedy of Katrina. The people of Texas have been at the center of helping the homeless hordes from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

The recent flooding in the Knox County area certainly helps you to identify with the Katrina evacuees.

People in all 50 states have opened their homes to Gulf evacuees. Donations have flowed to the Red Cross, Salvation Army, and other aid groups. Church, medical and other volunteers have flocked to Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama to rescue people, treat their injuries and help in other ways.

Still much remains to be done. Recovery operations continue; we will not know total casualties for some time.

Some suggest we should not rebuild New Orleans. New Orleans must be rebuilt. The nation must have a port city at the mouth of the Mississippi River. Wheat, corn and other export products from the Rocky Moun-

tains to the Appalachians flow down the Ohio, Missouri and Arkansas rivers to New Orleans. New Orleans is also the port which receives the natural gas and oil production of the Gulf of Mexico.

New Orleans, with its French Quarter, is also where jazz originated, America's only popular native music. The Mardi Gras is a unique celebration in the United States. We need New Orleans.

The tragedy in New Orleans highlights some serious problems facing America. We will never know exactly how many people died unnecessarily in New Orleans because of errors in judgment by those in charge of protecting the area.

(My credentials for critiquing what has happened are that I am a retired urban and state planner. I did a Natural Disaster Plan for the State of Oklahoma and a Civil Defense Disaster Plan for the City of Norman, OK.)

Katrina impacts were disastrous, tragic and, many, unnecessary. Of the many problems stemming from Katrina, I want to emphasize three:

Governments ignored expert

professional warnings;

Governments had unqualified personnel in critical places;

Katrina emphasized the problems facing our growing poor.

Professional Warnings. Professional planners prepared a plan, Coast 2050, for dealing with known threats to the entire Coastal area. Costs would be \$14 billions. The Bush administration turned down the proposal as being too expensive. Estimates of Katrina recovery costs are already nearing \$100 billions.

The City of New Orleans had an emergency response plan on its web site. This plan was not followed. A plan not followed is a useless plan. Many questions remain about the states' responses.

Unqualified Personnel - Mike Brown, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) director, obviously was not qualified. His primary qualification for his job was apparently that he was a college roommate of a friend of President Bush.

How many others also were not qualified for their jobs we do not yet know. Political patronage should not be a factor in critical jobs.

Impact on Poor People - Poor people, white and black, in New Orleans suffered most. Many died due to the lack of effective

planning and failures to make critical, timely decisions.

This brings into focus the fact that this land of equality is not fulfilling its promise. Our nation has a widening gap between those in the upper and upper middle class and the rest of us. The lower class is sliding further behind and our middle class is also slipping. This income gap is becoming a serious and growing problem.

Last year in 2004, we wasted a great chance for a national presidential debate on real problems facing the nation. We squandered that opportunity by refighting the Viet Nam War; the tragedy of Katrina is a part of the result.

Next year, we have another chance in the 2006 Congressional elections. We must challenge every candidate, of both parties, about the critical problems facing our America. In 2008, we must challenge the presidential candidates, as well as the Congressional, to deal with those serious problems.

That's what a democracy is supposed to do. We have betrayed our responsibilities. Katrina is just a portent of problems facing us.

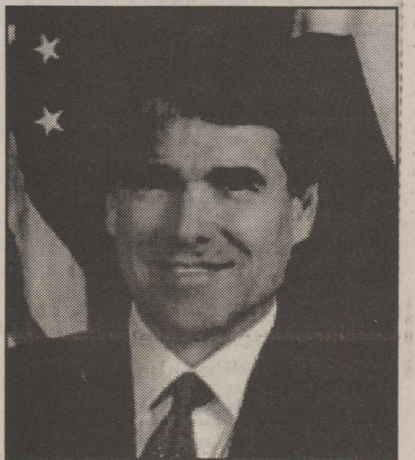
An independent commission must evaluate the Katrina tragedy.

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Rick Perry

Gov. Perry Awards \$6.5 Million in Grants Statewide To Drug and Violence Prevention Programs



Texas Federation of Teachers Unhappy With Governor Rick Perry

From Texas Federation of Teachers

Governor's executive order merely diverts attention from real problems

Governor Rick Perry's executive order mandating that 65 percent of education funds be spent on "direct classroom" instruction does little more than distract attention from the governor's failure to achieve anything meaningful on school finance over the course of two regular sessions and three special sessions.

"This order is a smoke-and-mirrors gimmick designed to divert attention from the fact that nothing meaningful has been accomplished to address the lack of adequate state funding for public schools," said Linda Bridges, Texas Federation of Teachers president. "Instead of tackling the problem of inadequate funding in a simple and direct way, the governor proposes a bureaucratic non-response to the problem."

Perry issued an order for Commissioner of Education Shirley Neeley to develop requirements for 65 percent of funds to be spent on so-called "direct classroom spending." Districts that failed to meet the requirements would face what he called "special accreditation investigations" and unspecified "tough sanctions."

Bridges cited a few elements crucial to education that are targeted by the governor's gim-

mick:

§ School security

§ School nurses

§ Social workers

§ Transportation

§ Counselors

§ Speech therapists

§ Support staff who track attendance

"What the governor fails to understand is the programs he's proposing to shortchange—food, health, and transportation, to name a few—are directly related to classroom instruction," Bridges said. "Any teacher will tell you that you can't work with a student who is hungry or sick or not even able to make it to school for lack of transportation. Safe and well-maintained facilities are important as well."

"So do we cut school nurses? Do we cut security? Do we cut back on food?"

Bridges continued, "Ironically, if taken seriously, this idea could create a whole new layer of bureaucrats whose job would be to document that the 65-percent standard has been met."

Background:

According to TEA, here is how school money was spent in

Texas in 2002-2003.

Debt Service and Capital outlays--11%

Operating Expenses --89%

Under Operating Expenses, the 89% includes:

Money going directly to classrooms--51.8%

Librarians, media specialists, VCRs, etc.--3.2%

School principals and school clerical staff--5.0%

Counseling and diagnostic services--4.2%

School buses, drivers, mechanics, fuel, etc.--2.4%

Feeding students--4.6%

Central Administration --3.3%

Sports and other extra curricular activities-- 2.2%

Cleaning, repairing and maintaining schools-- 9.1%

School security-- 0.6%

Curriculum development and staff development-- 1.4%

Data processing -- 1.0%

Payments by small school districts to co-ops, plus payments by districts that go only through the elementary grades to other districts that provide high school to those students -- 0.3%

The Texas Federation of Teachers represents more than 51,000 teachers, paraprofessionals, support personnel, and higher-education employees across the state. TFTA is affiliated with the 1.3-million-member American Federation of Teachers.

AUSTIN—Gov. Rick Perry today announced the award of \$6,522,046 in grants to 114 drug and violence prevention programs. These grants are awarded under the federal Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Fund and are distributed by the Governor's Criminal Justice Division (CJD).

The Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act promotes programs dedicated to preventing and reducing violence in schools and communities as well as developing a drug-free environment for youth. These programs foster healthy and safe learning environments which support academic achievement, including alternative education programs and intervention services for children with behavior or substance abuse problems. The programs also support services for children who are family violence or child abuse victims.

"Giving our students the opportunity to learn and grow in a protected environment is essential to the development and productivity of Texas youth," Perry said. "These grants help promote safe communities and schools through aiding youth on the path of self-destruction, find their way back on the road to becoming good citizens."

Within the school system, these funds will provide counselors and school resource officers with training on substance abuse issues and school safety, promoting greater interaction with students. The funds will also support school safety hotlines and mandatory background checks on school employees.

Each year, CJD awards more than \$130 million in grants to help Texans at the forefront of the fight against crime. CJD funds a variety of programs for juvenile justice, crime preven-

tion and victim services grants — all aimed at making Texas a safer place.

The awards include:

\$23,000 to Adolescent Development and Achievement Program of Tyler, Inc., to provide an after-school and summer program to at-risk students in the City of Tyler which provides counseling services, conflict resolution workshops, drug and alcohol prevention education, and interpersonal skills development.

\$88,408 to Alamo Area Council of Governments to provide criminal justice education classes to at-risk and rural students in Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Medina and Wilson counties in an effort to present students with educational alternatives to crime, violence, drug abuse and underage drinking.

\$4,262 to Association of Boys Club and Camp Fire of Cooke County to provide a violence prevention, and gang awareness and resistance program to at-risk youth in Cooke County.

\$31,920 to the City of Aubrey for a school resource officer who will educate at-risk students in Aubrey Independent School District on drug abuse and violence prevention as well as conduct and coordinate investigations, provide counseling services and maintain Aubrey High School campus security.

\$42,544 to the City of Aubrey for a school resource officer and summer-time juvenile officer with Aubrey Police Department that will provide instructional teaching in drugs and negative behavior, offer referral services and serve as truancy officer at middle schools in Aubrey Independent School District.

\$21,250 to the City of Austin

to provide mentoring, truancy prevention, youth safety training, community service programs, after-school academic enrichment programs, a job fair, junior safety fair and bicycle safety training to at-risk youth in Travis County.

\$28,165 to Bastrop County Women's Shelter to provide a school-based counseling program that will provide individual therapy to Bastrop County youth who have been victimized by family violence, sexual assault, child abuse or are displaying inappropriate behavior.

\$32,459 to the Behavioral Health Institute to provide academic assessment, educational programming and aftercare assistance to juveniles attending boot camp in McLennan County.

\$57,465 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of El Paso, Inc., to provide child safety and abuse prevention training to high school mentors, teachers and parents who will match up with at-risk elementary school children to develop a mentoring relationship in an effort to discourage gang involvement and illegal drug use.

\$14,893 to Black Christians Against Substance Abuse to provide a curriculum-based training program to at-risk minority youth in the City of Austin that includes conflict resolution training, violence prevention activities and self-improvement projects that enhance personal responsibility and respect for others.

\$63,565 to Boys & Girls Club of Abilene, Inc., to encourage at-risk young men in Taylor County to adopt positive developmental skills through group mentoring activities, sports games, outdoor activities and awareness workshops.

\$5,773 to Boys & Girls Club.

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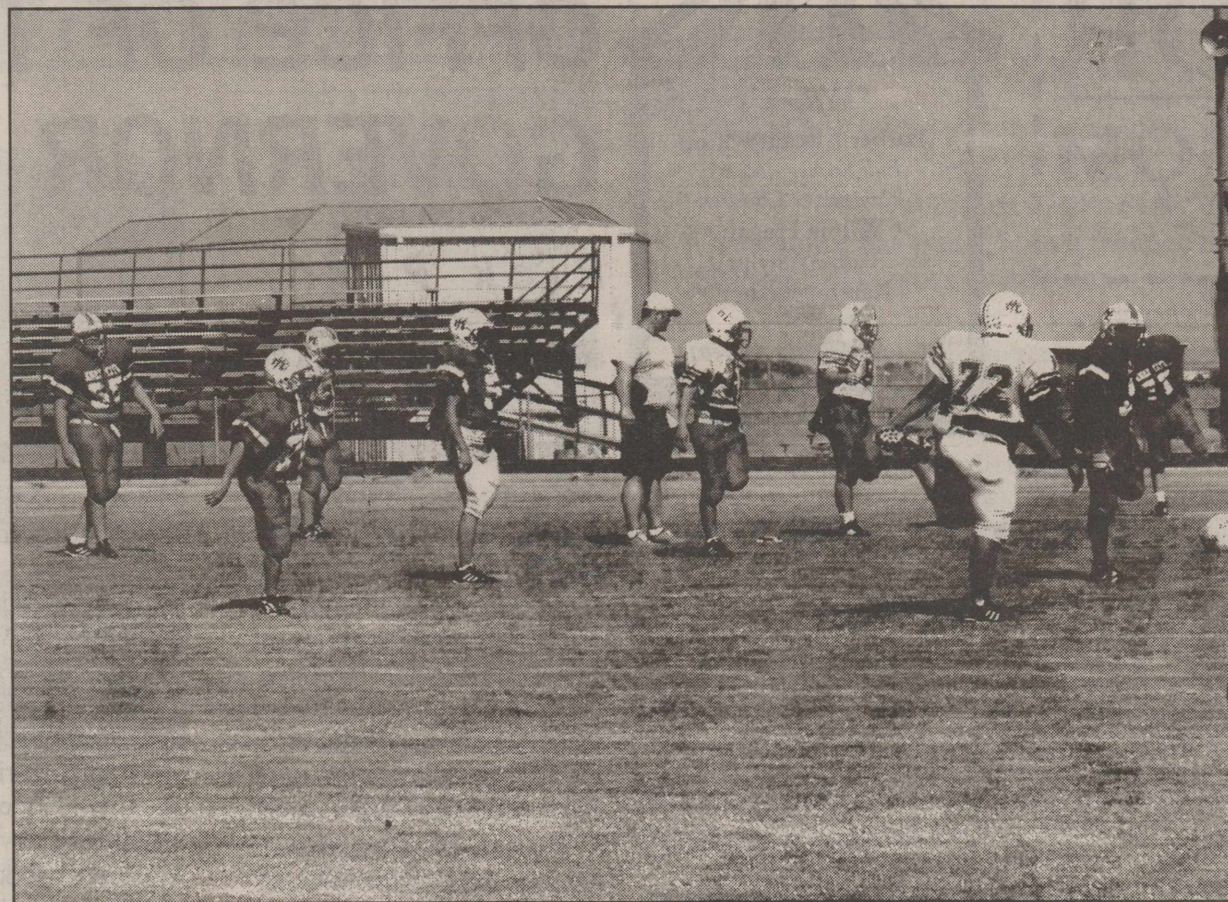
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GREYHOUNDS DEFEAT BULLDOGS
24-7



Knox City Greyhounds practice hitting during practice Tuesday afternoon.



Knox City Greyhounds warm up before practice on Tuesday afternoon.

Area Football Scores

- Crowell - OPEN
- Aspermont VS. Highland - Aspermont lost 60-14
- Haskell VS Ranger - Haskell won 52-14
- Munday VS Seymour - Munday lost 13-9
- Guthrie VS Jayton - Guthrie lost 28-8
- Rule VS Newcastle - Rule won 77-32



Knox City Greyhounds
2005 High School Football Schedule



Aug. 13	Crosbyton	There	10:00 a.m.
Aug. 19	Archer City	Here	TBA
Aug. 26	Roby	Here	7:30
Sept. 2	Memphis	Here	7:30
Sept. 9	Stamford	There	7:30
Sept. 16	Anson	Here	7:30
Sept. 23 H.C.	Baird	Here	7:30
Sept. 30	Open	Open	
Oct. 7 District	Albany	There	7:30
Oct. 14 District	Munday	There	7:30
Oct. 21 District	Hamlin	Here	7:30 Field House- 940-657-3115
Oct. 28 District	Rotan	There	7:30 High School-
Nov. 4 Ditric	Haskell	Here-	7:30 940-657-3565

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