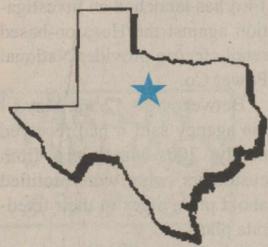


WEDNESDAY, MAY 21	THURSDAY, MAY 22	FRIDAY, MAY 23	SATURDAY, MAY 24	SUNDAY, MAY 25	MONDAY, MAY 26
High/Low 93°/73° 20% Chance of Rain	High/Low 94°/71° 20% Chance of Rain	High/Low 93°/69° 20% Chance of Rain	High/Low 91°/69° 30% Chance of Rain	High/Low 93°/67° 20% Chance of Rain	High/Low 93°/68° 20% Chance of Rain



THE

KNOX COUNTY NEWS

Proudly Serving Knox and King Counties

Volume XXXVII Number 30 Thursday, MAY 22, 2008 Knox City, Texas 8 Pages + 1 Insert Price 75 ¢

Looking Ahead

•Baccularte

Baccularte will be held Sunday May 25th at 7:00 PM in the Knox City auditorium.

•Knox County Retired School Personal

The final meeting of the Knox County Retired School Personnel will be at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 27th, in the Fellowship Hall of the Knox City First Baptist Church. This will be a pot-luck dinner. Spouses plus members, new retirees, school administrators and invited guests are encouraged to attend.

•KC Elementary Track and Field

Girls and boys Kindergarten through 4th Grade at Knox City Elementary will participate in the Elementary Field Day which will be held on Wed. May 28 beginning at 9:00 at the Football Field. All students will rotate through ability stations followed by individual races. Students will eat a sack lunch at the stadium before returning back to the campus. For more information call 657-3147.

•Elementary Awards Program & Pre-Kindergarten Step - Up

Pre-Kindergarten "Step-Up" and 4th Grade "Send-Off" is scheduled for Tuesday, May 27. Beginning at 10:00 in the Baker Auditorium. An Elementary Student Recognition Ceremony will also be held at this time. Achievements in attendance, Honor Roll, UIL and other special school events will be highlighted. The program will last about an hour.

•Junior High Graduation

Junior High Graduation will be held Friday May 30th in O'Brien.

•High School Graduation

High School Graduation will be held Saturday May 31st in the Knox City High School auditorium.

•KC - O'Brien

Ex- Students Homecoming The homecoming will be the first weekend in June on the 6th & 7th.

Blackburn Media Group Buys The Knox County News

The Knox County News was purchased by Blackburn Media Group, Inc., last week.

"Knox County and Knox City have been just wonderful," says Christopher Blackburn, owner, BMG.

"Even though Brandy Wise and Amy Strickland have been at the News a short time, I'm confident they are the right people for the job," Blackburn continued. "They are both dedicated and hard-working and with some guidance, they'll put out an excellent product."

Blackburn said visible changes to the News would be coming shortly.

"I am studying the newspaper's history and the local business climate to understand as many factors as possible," Blackburn added. "I'd like to offer our readers color on the front and back of each issue, but it will need to be paid for with color advertising."

Blackburn is a fourth generation newspaperman beginning with his great-great uncle, Wilbur Hawk, who was publisher of the Amarillo Globe in the 1920s and 1930s.

Blackburn and his wife, Sharon, have two sons, Jackson, 4, and Sutton Hawk, 2.

The couple formed Blackburn



Christopher Blackburn is the new publisher of the Knox County News. (Knox County Photo)

Media Group in 2005 and now own The Childress Index, Hall County Herald and the Hollis News, a week-

ly in Western Oklahoma. The also own Blackburn's Family Clothier in Childress.

TWC Adds Online Bill Payment to UI Debit Card Transactions

AUSTIN - The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has enhanced the TWC Unemployment Insurance (UI) Debit Card with the option of online bill payment.

The added feature enables customers to pay bills electronically with their TWC UI Debit Cards, eliminating the need to use other forms of payment, such as cash, checks or money orders.

"This added convenience of secure online bill payment through our Unemployment Insurance Debit Card complements TWC's mission to provide streamlined, efficient services to our customers," said TWC Executive Director Larry Temple.

To use online bill pay, TWC UI Debit Card customers can visit the JPMorgan Chase Web site, www.myaccount.chase.com, to perform such transactions as:

- Paying anyone, anytime, anywhere within the United States
 - Tracking past, future and open payments
 - Scheduling payments up to one year in advance
 - Reviewing their debit card account
- Each online payment transaction

is 50 cents.

TWC has partnered with Chase for the debit card to offer secure, convenient and fast access to UI funds for Texas workers who have become separated from their jobs through no fault of their own.

In addition to online bill pay, TWC UI Debit Cards may be used for purchases and to receive cash back. The cards can be used at any merchant that accepts Visa, and cash can be obtained from automated teller machines (ATMs) and at Visa-member banks and credit unions nationwide.

Once claimants receive and activate their debit cards, cash benefits will be automatically deposited to debit card accounts each payment period, eliminating mail delays and claimant costs associated with cashing, and/or depositing traditional paper checks.

Claimants can call Chase toll-free at (866) 865-1273 with any questions about the TWC UI Debit Card or to check the status of their accounts.

For questions about benefits, cardholders may visit the TWC Web site at www.texasworkforce.org or contact the TWC UI Tele-Center at (800) 939-6631

Texas Unemployment Rate Returns to Record Low

AUSTIN - The April state-wide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 4.1 percent, down from 4.3 percent in March and 4.4 percent in April 2007, once again matching the record low.

The 4.1 percent April unemployment rate in Texas remains far below the U.S. unemployment rate of 5.0 percent. Seasonally adjusted nonagricultural employment in Texas grew by 15,400 jobs in April.

"Texas continues to outpace national trends with its record low unemployment rate," said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken.

"Texas employers now have added 262,000 jobs in the past 12 months."

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) experienced the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 2.4 percent (not seasonally adjusted).

The Amarillo and Odessa MSAs were second at 2.8 percent, followed by the Lubbock MSA at 3.0 percent.

Financial Activities gained 6,900 positions in April, which represent more than half the annual

job growth of 12,700 for that sector.

Leisure and Hospitality added another 4,200 jobs last month, for a total of 41,300 positions added in the past 12 months.

"Business in Texas continues to expand with an annual job growth rate of 2.5 percent," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ron Lehman.

"Industries like Professional and Business Services and Natural Resources and Mining recorded annual growth rates of 5.0 percent or above."

Construction increased by 3,000 jobs in April, for a gain of 23,200 jobs over the year. Education and Health Services grew by 2,800 positions this month, with 40,800 jobs added in the past 12 months.

"Texas workers are finding jobs across many industry sectors," said

TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton.

"Our record low unemployment rate gives job seekers many choices and more chances to find a job."

Knox County Sales Tax Up For 2008

AUSTIN - The total for Knox County sales tax is \$34,797.92 - for April; down 4.18 percent. So far in 2008, the total is \$149,335.65; up 5.40 percent. Texas Comptroller Susan Combs announced the state collected \$1.7 billion in sales tax revenue in April, down 1.8 percent compared to April 2007.

"This was a slight decrease compared to the dramatic growth seen in April 2007," Combs said. "For the eight months of fiscal 2008 to date, state sales tax collections are up 6 percent compared to the previous year."

As expected, the slower expansion of the Texas economy in 2008 is translating into sales tax growth below the double-digit pace of the past two years.

Combs said local governments will receive \$554.4 million in May sales tax allocations, up 2.2 percent compared to May 2007. So far this calendar year, sales tax allocations to cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts are up 5.4 percent compared to a year ago.

Comptroller Combs sent May sales tax allocations of \$377.7 million to Texas cities, up 1.4 percent compared to May 2007. Calendar year-to-date, city sales tax allocations are up 4.9 percent compared to the same period last year. Texas counties received sales tax payments of \$32.4 million, up 0.8 percent compared to one year ago. Calendar year-to-date, county sales tax allocations are 5.2 percent higher than last year.

In addition, \$18.6 million went to 127 special purpose taxing districts throughout the state, up 13.9 percent compared to last May. Ten local transit systems received \$125.5 million in sales tax allocations, up 3.4 percent compared to a year ago.

May's sales tax allocations to local governments represent March sales that were reported to the Comptroller in April by monthly tax filers and January, February and March sales reported to the Comptroller in April by quarterly tax filers.

For details of May sales tax payments to individual cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts, locate the Monthly Sales and Use Tax Allocation Comparison Summary Reports on the Comptroller's Web site at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/allocsum/compsum.html.

Below is a breakdown of local sales tax of cities by county in Knox County and the surrounding areas.

- * Benjamin - \$1,435.37 - monthly; up 44.90 percent; year-to-date - \$4,916.39; up 46.39 percent.
- * Goree - \$492.72 - monthly; down 46.80 percent; year-to-date - \$3,503.59; down 9.28 percent.
- * Knox City - \$19,582.73 - monthly; up 5.41 percent; year-to-date - \$84,113.88; up 3.25 percent.
- * Munday - \$13,287.10 - monthly; own 16.03 percent; year-to-date - \$56,801.79; up 7.17 percent.
- * Seymour - \$20,631.64 - monthly; up 6.11 percent; year-to-date -

\$79,526.75; up 2.26 percent.

* Crowell - \$8,748.53 - monthly; up 45.67 percent; year-to-date - \$31,839.18; up 21.29 percent.

The monthly total for Haskell County is \$42,152.98; down 26.15 percent; year-to-date - \$174,142.57; down 2.97 percent.

* Haskell - \$38,208.17 - monthly; down 6.67 percent; year-to-date - \$159,988.26; up 4.28 percent.

* O'Brien - \$189.03 - monthly; down 4.84 percent; year-to-date - \$463.25; down 32.43 percent.

* Rochester - \$787.85 - monthly; down 20.24 percent; year-to-date - \$2,919.78; down .78 percent.

* Rule - \$2,475.21 - monthly; down 2.39 percent; year-to-date - \$9,038.12; down .16 percent.

* Weinert - \$492.72 - monthly; down 96.03 percent; year-to-date - \$1,733.16; down 87.05 percent.

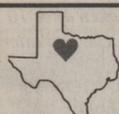
* Aspermont - \$14,779.16 - monthly; down 19.42 percent; year-to-date - \$78,135.01; down 3.76 percent.

The monthly total for Throckmorton County is \$10,861.41; up 1.96 percent; year-to-date - \$49,570.77; up 12.05 percent.

* Throckmorton - \$10,428.86 - monthly; up .39 percent; year-to-date - \$47,870.54; up 10.89 percent.

* Woodson - \$432.55 - monthly; up 63.42 percent; year-to-date - \$1,700.23; up 59.21 percent.

* Vernon - \$158,512.58 - monthly; down 13.80 percent; year-to-date - \$692,320.76; up 1.16 percent.



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TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital HIGHLIGHTS



By Ed Sterling

AUSTIN - Records obtained via the Texas Public Information Act reveal that in the first 19 days following the April 3 raid of the YFZ Ranch near Eldorado, the state spent close to \$7.5 million.

The Austin American-Statesman on May 16 reported a breakdown of the expenditures, unaudited figures obtained from the governor's office.

Here are rounded estimates of those unaudited costs:

¥ Department of Family and Protective Services: \$2.2 mil-

Estimates Show Early Costs Of YFZ Case Close To \$7.5 Million

lion

¥ Health & Human Services Commission: \$1 million

¥ Department of Public Safety: \$970,000

¥ Department of State Health Services: \$930,000

¥ Other state agencies: \$192,000

¥ Volunteer groups: \$60,000

¥ Vendors: \$1.2 million

¥ City/county governments: \$944,000.

Gov. Rick Perry, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and House Speaker Tom Craddick, R-Midland, authorized state agencies to spend money from their 2009 budgets to fund the YFZ operation.

State agencies entered the polygamist sect's 1,700-acre ranch compound on April 3 and removed more than 400 children who resided with their parents there.

On May 19, state district

courts in San Angelo will begin to conduct hearings for YFZ families who wish to retrieve their children from foster care.

In other news, a ranch woman first thought to be an under-aged mother has since been identified as 22 years old.

She gave birth to a healthy baby boy in a San Marcos hospital in late April.

Wilson Sounds Nasdaq's Bell

Part of Texas Secretary of State Phil Wilson's job is to drum up business for the Lone Star State.

Wilson and a delegation of Texas companies, chambers of commerce and economic development groups recently traveled to New York, N.Y., to do just that.

And, on May 14, Wilson was given the honor of presiding over the closing bell ceremony of the NASDAQ stock market.

There are more than 160 Texas-based companies listed on the NASDAQ exchange with a total market value of nearly \$120 billion, Wilson's office stated.

"Over the past several years, Texas has received numerous accolades as the top state in the nation to do business," Wilson said. "As the rest of the U.S. experiences an economic slowdown, Texas' economy continues to outpace the rest of the nation."

Fewer Texans In Ranks Of Jobless

On May 16, the Texas Workforce Commission reported the April statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 4.1 percent, down from 4.3 percent in March and 4.4 percent in April 2007.

The 4.1 percent rate in Texas remains far below the U.S. unemployment rate of 5 percent.

Another statistic: Texas' seasonally adjusted nonagricultural employment grew by 15,400 jobs in April.

"Texas continues to outpace national trends with its record low unemployment rate," said Texas Workforce Commission Chairman Tom Pauken.

"Texas employers now have added 262,000 jobs in the past 12 months."

Memorial Honors Fallen Officers

Twenty-five Texas law officers lost their lives on duty during the past two years.

All were honored May 13 in a memorial service at the DPS academy in Austin.

The officers were employees of many entities, including the Department of Public Safety, Parks & Wildlife, county sheriffs' departments, city police and port police.

Puc Investigates Power

Company

The Texas Public Utility Commission announced May 14 it has launched an investigation against the Houston-based retail electric provider National Power Co.

Between May 12 and May 14 the agency said it had received nearly 200 complaints from customers who were notified about price hikes in their fixed-rate plans.

Storms Hit State Capital Too

On May 15, swaths of high winds, heavy rains and hail hit Texas, including Austin.

About 40,000 capital city residences lost power and storm-felled trees and debris littered the Capitol grounds.

Attorney General Greg Abbott warned residents to exercise caution when seeking contractors to help with storm related damages.

COW POKES

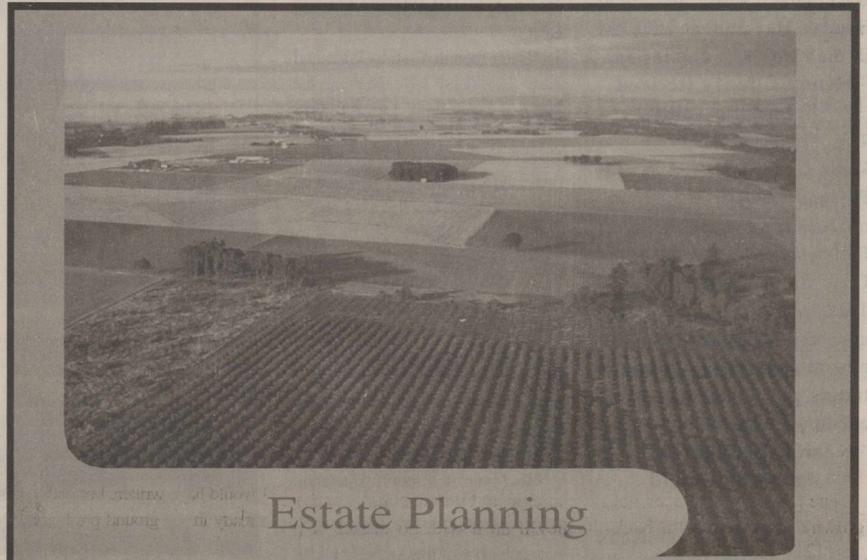
By Ace Reid

http://www.cowpokes.com



© ACE REID 5/18/08

"I hear a lot about the population explosion, but the only thing that has multiplied around here in forty years has been rabbits and coyotes!"



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Within Knox County & O'Brien: \$26/Year
Within Texas: \$28/Year
All others: \$30/Year

DEADLINES - The deadline to submit news and advertising is 5 p.m. on Mondays. Exceptions may be granted only by permission from the Editor.

CHRISTOPHER BRANDY WISE
BLACKBURN Editor
AMY STRICKLAND SHERI BATY
Reporter Sports

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

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

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

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

ACROSS

- 1 TX Greer Garson film: "Blossoms in the ___" (41)
- 5 TXism: "got misery ___ my armpits"
- 6 TXism: "run off at the mouth"
- 7 dieter's selection
- 8 nickname for TX born prez DDE
- 9 TXism: "tenderfoot"
- 16 TXism: "get your built" (settle down)
- 18 TXism: "tickles ___" (tastes good)
- 21 TX Roy Orbison's "___ Pretty Woman"
- 22 TX Ginger Rogers' "Twist of ___" ('54)
- 23 female deer
- 24 El ___ TX
- 30 attachers
- 34 ___ "Bum" Phillips
- 35 wedding role: "___ Honor"
- 36 TXism: "hit the ___ on the head"
- 37 TX Swayze '90 film
- 39 TXism: "___ ___ boot"
- 43 exclamation of surprise
- 44 genetically copied
- 45 TXism: "put up ___ shut up"
- 46 organ. for some TX teachers (abbr.)
- 47 this Basinger was with TX Tanya in "Hard Country" ('81)
- 48 TXism: "he'd ___ wrestle King Kong" (brave)

DOWN

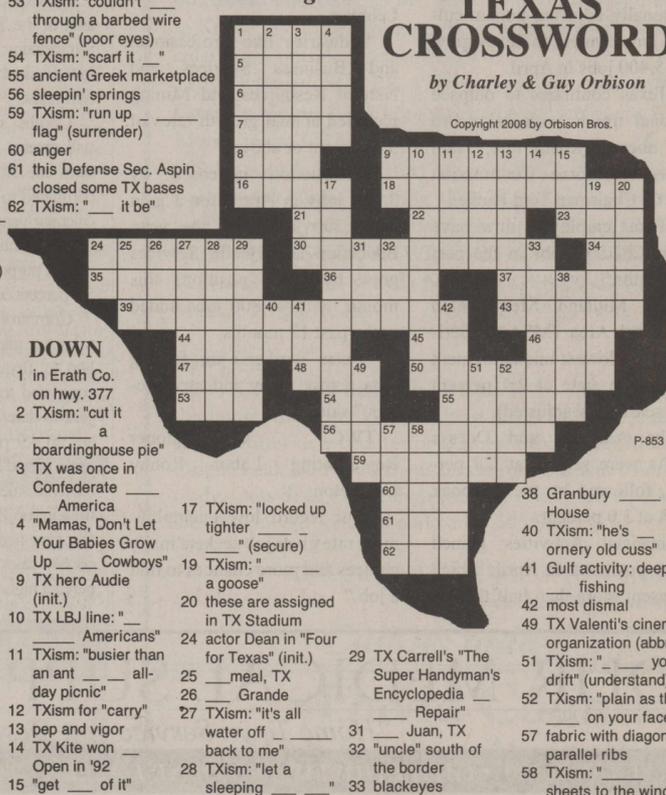
- 1 in Erath Co. on hwy. 377
- 2 TXism: "cut it ___ a boardinghouse pie"
- 3 TX was once in Confederate ___ America
- 4 "Mamas, Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up ___ Cowboys"
- 9 TX hero Audie (init.)
- 10 TX LBJ line: "___ Americans"
- 11 TXism: "busier than an ant ___ all-day picnic"
- 12 TXism for "carry" pep and vigor
- 13 TX Kite won ___ Open in '92
- 15 "get ___ of it"
- 50 hot dogs
- 53 TXism: "couldn't ___ through a barbed wire fence" (poor eyes)
- 54 TXism: "scarf it ___"
- 55 ancient Greek marketplace
- 56 sleepin' springs
- 59 TXism: "run up ___ flag" (surrender)
- 60 anger
- 61 this Defense Sec. Aspin closed some TX bases
- 62 TXism: "___ it be"
- 17 TXism: "locked up tighter ___ (secure)"
- 19 TXism: "___ a goose"
- 20 these are assigned in TX Stadium actor Dean in "Four for Texas" (init.)
- 25 ___ meal, TX
- 26 ___ Grande
- 27 TXism: "it's all water off ___ back to me"
- 28 TXism: "let a sleeping ___"
- 33 blackeyes
- 38 Granbury ___ House
- 40 TXism: "he's ___ ornery old cuss"
- 41 Gulf activity: deep ___ fishing
- 42 most dismal
- 49 TX Valenti's cinema organization (abbr.)
- 51 TXism: "___ your drift" (understand)
- 52 TXism: "plain as the ___ on your face"
- 57 fabric with diagonal parallel ribs
- 58 TXism: "___ sheets to the wind"

The Original

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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Aging Center Lunch Menu

May 26th to May 30th

Monday, May 26th - Closed
Monday For Memorial Day
Tuesday, May 27th - BBQ

Chicken, Great Northern Beans, Broccoli / Cheese Sauce, Cornbread, Peaches / Topping
Wednesday, May 28th - Chicken Fried Steak / gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Biscuit, Cobbler
Thursday, May 29th - Beef Stram, 7 Minute Cabbage, Cornbread, cookies
Friday, May 30th - Chili Dogs, Potato Wedges, Pork & Beans, Jello / Fruit

Alternate Desserts for Diabetics
Call in Orders by 10:00 a.m.
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Orders can not be taken after 10 am and need to be picked up after 11 am
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(Menu subject to change)



BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

HORSE SLAUGHTER BAN A YEAR LATER

"You can die of good intentions"

That is the best summary I can give of an editorial I read recently about the bill to ban horse slaughter that was passed last year.

The editor and I had discussed the issue when it was a hot topic. At the time she could not imagine "a horse being dragged across a kill floor with chains around its legs." A gruesome description that elicits a sickening feeling in the heart of any sensitive being. But a few short months later, some of the bill's supporters are taking a new look.

One of the factors that hastened the disintegration of the bill's good intentions has been America's economic pinch. Most horses in civilized countries today are luxury hobbies. Backyard horses are an expensive pet, easily thousands of dollars a year for most owners. Today, gas is over three dollars a gallon.

Food is up. Essentials like cell phones, I-Pods, computers, big screen televisions, video games, golf course fees, and movies are up.

A triple-shot large latte 5 times a week now costs over twenty dollars! And you have a real estate license and have been trying to sell your house for a year!

The kids have gone or outgrown the horse in your backyard. The hay, fly control, regular vaccinations and worming continues and the vet says your

18 year-old equine has ring bone (diagnosis including radiographs, nerve blocks and advice was \$325). You'd love to sell the horse, but people aren't stupid. You make a call or two to the horse rescue and retirement pasture. They're either full or they want money from you to feed it. The thought of a professional euthanasia, then a winch truck or front end loader to haul it to the dump... "a chain around the horse's legs being dragged across the field."

The editor said all the reader response to her editorial was negative. On her follow up she found the majority of callers she talked to didn't own a horse! Couldn't afford it! But they thought slaughtering horses was cruel and you shouldn't eat them.

Good intentions, no responsibility. We see it a lot. Critics, columnists, movie stars, reporters, politicians. We've now gotten into the mess the good-intentioned created and it's getting worse. And where are they now? Offering to pay your euthanasia and burial fee? Offering to take your horse and care for it? Not a peep.

It's no secret whose going to be cleaning up after them. The same people who always clean up after the well-intentioned. In this case, the real animal lovers; the humane, the sympathetic and the practical...and they'll do it with no thanks or recognition. That's not why they do it. They do it for the horses.

Knox City Elementary Teachers Receive Staff Development

All faculty and staff at Knox City Elementary as well as education specialists from Haskell Knox Shared Services Arrangement attended Staff Development Tuesday, May 13, following student's early release from school. A behavior specialist from Region 9 ESC in Wichita Falls along with a behavior specialist from Region 14 ESC in Abilene conducted the three hour in-service. Topics for the afternoon included Characteristics of Challenging Behaviors followed by

Assessing and Planning Behavior Support in Schools.

Teachers participated actively in discussions involving such topics as effective interventions that are suitable to specific behaviors, managing challenging behaviors and implementation and monitoring of interventions followed by completing an assessment of effective behavior support systems currently in place in their school. Further training in this area will continue during summer staff development.

A Heart-Felt Thank You

By Jan Carver



Left to Right: Mike Carlson, Dean Homstad, Jan Carver, Brian Williams, Danny Wainscott and Boots O'Neil.

I would like to let everyone know how much I appreciate those who came to my retirement reception. I feel very blessed to

have served our county and thankful for the friends and co-workers that have allowed me to be a part of their lives. I want to thank Danny

Wainscott, Brian Williams, Dean Homstad, Mike Carlson and Vonnie Ivie for their kind words and the walk down memory lane.

A special "thank you" to Sharon Wainscott, and Kathy Williams and Vonnie Ivie for the decorations. They were beautiful.

Thornberry Votes YES As Farm Bill Finally Passes House

Washington, DC - Congressman Mac Thornberry today voted in favor of the 2008 Farm Bill.

"A year after this bill should have been passed the Democratic Leadership in the House finally allowed the bill to come to a vote," said Thornberry.

"This is clearly not the Farm Bill I would have written, but with crops already in the ground producers deserve the certainty this bill provides."

Thornberry, a rancher from Donley County, noted that, "As fewer and fewer Members of Congress are personally involved in agriculture, or represent Districts where agriculture is the dominant industry in the economy, more provisions that have nothing to do with production agriculture have crept into the Farm Bill.

This is a bad precedent for future Farm Bills."

Thornberry cited special interest earmarks benefiting the salmon fish-

ing industry, a ski resort in Vermont, and other non-agricultural interests as problems with the conference committee report on the bill.

"We had a good group of Members from Texas and Oklahoma working on this bill, producers by-and-large favored it and I think given the election year politics in Washington this was as good a bill as we were going to be able to pass," concluded Thornberry.

"This bill will help give farmers and ranchers the tools they need to stay on their land to keep producing America's food and fiber in a very competitive world market.

However, I remain concerned that, despite today's high commodity prices, farm margins remain tight due to skyrocketing input costs, particularly costs related to oil and energy.

The House Leadership must take action on energy; getting gas prices down will help farmers, ranchers and all of us who live in rural America."

Come Join Us At 11 - County Camp

Knox County 4-H is gearing up for 11 - County Camp. What in the world is 11 - County Camp, you ask? Kids from counties including Briscoe, Hall, Childress, Motley, Cottle, Dickens, King, Kent, Stonewall, Knox and Foard are invited to a day full of fun and recreation on Monday, June 30, 2008 at the Roaring Springs Community Center.

The camp begins at 10:30 AM with registration. There will be interesting workshops on exciting topics such as photography, chemical energy, crafts and nature and wildlife followed by lunch and then swimming at the Springs. In the evening there will be a dinner and dance. The day concludes at 9:30 PM.

The cost of the camp is \$10.00 which covers two meals, workshops and the dance. All 4-H'ers are wel-

come. All you need to bring is your swimsuit, towel and signed release form that you can pick up at our office! If this sounds like a great way to spend a summer day, give us a call (940-459-2651) at the Knox County Extension Office by June 6, 2008 so we can have an accurate count of how many will be attending and make plans for transportation. Adult chaperones are also welcome and appreciated.

Educational programs of the Texas Cooperative Extension are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in a meeting or program are encouraged to contact the Knox County Extension Office.

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Save on energy efficient electric appliances this Memorial Day Weekend

AEP Texas urges electricity users to consider shopping tax-free this Memorial Day Weekend. That's right, as part of legislation passed in Texas (energy provisions in House Bill 3693), a sales tax-free holiday has been set up for certain ENERGY STAR® appliances and systems purchased over the three days.

This significant "tax-free" event offers you the opportunity to take advantage of savings on these ENERGY STAR certified energy efficient products only: refrigerators (with sales price not to exceed \$2,000), dishwashers, clothes washers, ceiling fans, dehumidifiers, incandescent or fluorescent light bulbs and programmable thermostats. Central and room air conditioner units also are eligible if the sales price does not exceed \$6,000.

The tax-free appliance sales apply only to eligible purchases made between 12:01 a.m. Saturday, May 24 and 11:59 p.m. Monday, May 26 (Memorial Day) per the legislative restrictions. The ENERGY STAR program is a joint venture of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE). AEP Texas is proud to be an ENERGY STAR partner.



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Texas Agriculture Production Sets Record at \$21.8 Billion

COLLEGE STATION — Texas agricultural production for 2007 was a record \$21.8 billion due to higher crop and livestock prices, according to a Texas AgriLife Extension Service report.

Add another \$20.8 billion worth of purchased items, such as tires, fuel and other agribusiness supplies used to produce a crop, and the total economic impact to rural Texas tops \$42.6 billion, said Dr. Carl Anderson, professor emeritus and AgriLife Extension economist.

"The economic impact to these rural communities is quite substantial, and even more so when you look at how much of an economic driver agriculture overall is to the state of Texas," said Anderson, who led the study.

The 2007 production mark topped the \$16.9 billion recorded during the drought of 2006 and \$18.4 billion recorded in 2005, Anderson said.

"Higher crop prices and strong livestock prices have contributed to a substantial increase in economic activities across the rural areas of Texas," Anderson said.

Increased demand for grain used in ethanol production pushed grain prices "up to the highest level in memory," Anderson said.

Crop values in 2007 totaled \$10 billion — an increase of more than 50 percent from 2006, according to the annual AgriLife Extension survey of estimated agricultural production values for Texas counties.

"Crop yields, forage production and grazing conditions were excellent in 2007," Anderson said. "Corn, grain sorghum, wheat and hay prices were up sharply, with cotton moderately higher."

The following are major crop values and those recording gains in excess of 100 percent for 2007:

- Wheat, \$779 million — more than double in 2006.
 - Corn, \$1.1 billion.
 - Sorghum, \$818 million.
 - Hay production, \$1.2 billion.
- Values by commodity groups for 2007:
- Food grains totaled \$889 million (an 87 percent increase).
 - Feed crops totaled \$3.3 billion (135 percent increase).
 - All cotton (dryland, irrigated), \$2.8 billion (a 51 percent increase).
 - Oil crops totaled \$206 million (59 percent gain).
 - Vegetable crops totaled \$397 million (a 6 percent increase).

-Fruits and nuts totaled (\$183 million (14 percent increase).

-Miscellaneous crops, \$2.2 billion (11 percent increase).

-Nursery crops, \$1.9 billion.

Meanwhile, livestock values increased 14 percent to \$10 billion, matching 2007 crop values, Anderson said.

"The largest increase was 54 percent for \$1.2 billion in milk sales," he said.

Poultry values rose 12 percent to \$1.2 billion, while beef cattle totaled \$7.1 billion (11 percent increase), according to the report.

Other meat animals (hogs, goats, sheep and other animals) rose to \$375 million (2 percent increase) and livestock products of honey, mohair and wool declined 7 percent to \$12.2 million.

Ag related activities (aquaculture, fishing, furs and pelts, horses, hunting leases, outdoor land-based recreation, timber, Christmas trees, and miscellaneous activities) advanced only 4 percent to \$1.9 billion. Timber accounted for about 42 percent, hunting about 26 percent, horses around 18 percent, and other ag related about 14 percent.

Rural land as an investment continues to be a growing trend, Anderson said. "Uses include weekend retreats, rural residences, outdoor recreation and part-time agricultural operations continue to be things we are seeing across the state," he said.

According to the first quarter 2008 survey of agricultural conditions by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, dryland crop values increased 20 percent from 2007 and irrigated land rose 15 percent and rangeland rose 11 percent, Anderson said.

"With increasing demand for food and fiber worldwide, agriculture is destined to play an even greater role in the future," Anderson said. "A large area of productive soils and excellent export and transportation facilities favor farming and ranching operations."

Wildlife management used to improve hunting income continued to expand over most rural areas of Texas.

"Land with quail, dove, turkey, pheasant, waterfowl, deer, wild hogs and nature trails for bird watching is in strong demand from non-farm owners," Anderson said.

Many ranchers have reduced or removed cows in favor of increasing the amount and quality of wildlife, he said.

Renewing the War on Cancer

By Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

In 2008, it is projected that 1.43 million Americans will be diagnosed with cancer. Nearly 96,000 Texans will receive this sobering news.

And 35,000 Texas patients will lose their battle against cancer this year.

Since the War on Cancer was declared in 1971, we have amassed a wealth of knowledge on the disease.

Some of the greatest strides have been made in prevention and early detection, with a heavy emphasis on screening, including mammographies and colonoscopies.

Behavior modifications, like smoking cessation, better eating habits, regular exercise, and sunscreen use, have helped prevent cancer.

But increases in information and prevention measures haven't always translated into meaningful progress for those with cancer. In the 37 years since the War on Cancer was declared, the cancer mortality rate has decreased only 6 percent.

By comparison, since 1970, age-adjusted mortality rates have sharply declined for heart disease (by 56 percent) and stroke (by 66 percent). Today, cancer is the second leading cause of death in the U.S., surpassed only by heart disease.

Within the next decade, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) forecasts that cancer will become the leading killer of Americans. And it will impact millions of us.

One in two men and one in three women will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetimes.

To reduce those numbers, we

must identify and remove barriers that obstruct our progress in cancer research and treatment. First, we must improve access to early detection measures and cancer care.

Lack of health insurance and other impediments to healthcare providers can prevent many Americans from undergoing routine screening for some of the deadliest forms of cancer.

With early screening, the chances of catching the disease at a treatable stage are greater, and improve the rate of survival. We must focus on decreasing the number of uninsured and providing screening to underserved populations.

Patients diagnosed with cancer often need someone to help them navigate the health care system, assess treatment options, and coordinate their care.

The Patient Navigator Program, which I authored and was signed into law in 2005, provides these beneficial services and should be expanded.

We need to raise awareness about clinical trials so that more cancer patients know they are available.

Clinical trials expand treatment options and also serve as a critical resource for the discovery of new prevention, diagnostic, and treatment methods for researchers. Yet, less

than five percent of the 10.1 million adults with cancer in the U.S. participate in clinical trials.

Disincentives to enrolling in clinical trials in the health insurance market must be eliminated.



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Noriega Calls on Cornyn for Relief for Texans Facing Record Gas Prices

Cornyn's Record on Gas Prices is Running on Empty

Houston, TX — Gas prices soared to their highest recorded prices yet this week, hitting a whopping \$3.67 in Texas and a national average of \$3.76, according to AAA's fuel gauge report. U.S. Senate candidate Rick Noriega (D-Houston) is committed to delivering immediate relief to Texans feeling the squeeze at the pump, as well as addressing the root of America's energy problems.

Noriega is calling for comprehensive and commonsense energy reform. In addition to providing immediate relief to Texans facing runaway energy costs, Noriega believes in developing alternative sources of energy, creating high-tech environmental jobs, taking on global warming and freeing the country from its dependence on foreign oil are paramount to a successful national energy policy.

"Voters want real solutions to our soaring gas prices and dependence on foreign oil, but Senator Cornyn is running on empty. Texans are demanding better," said U.S. Senate candidate and Texas State Representative Rick Noriega.

"Texas families are working hard to make ends meet in the face of skyrocketing energy costs and stagnant wages. Instead of funding special interest giveaways at the taxpayers' expense, I will put Texas families first with real solutions to address our state's energy needs now and in the future."

This week U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) reiterated his opposition to commonsense solutions that will deliver immediate help to Texas families, as well as comprehensive measures that will reduce America's dependence on foreign oil.

Cornyn confirmed his support to drill for more fossil fuels and to do nothing to address the root causes of high gas prices or protect consumers from price-gouging by co-sponsoring the American Energy Production Act, S. 2958.

Oil prices have quadrupled and gas prices have more than doubled during Senator Cornyn's time in the Senate. John Cornyn has stood idly by while Texans struggle to fill a tank of gas. For example, Texas Prison Guards in rural counties testified recently before the Texas Senate Committee on Criminal Justice that they cannot afford to drive to work.

"John Cornyn's record for helping Texas families with rising gas prices is running on empty. Texans just can't trust John Cornyn when it comes to helping Americans who are paying more and more every day at the gas pump."

For the last five years, Cornyn's answer to our energy crisis has been to drill for more fossil fuels and drill deeper into Americans' pockets. Rick Noriega is committed to putting consumers first, and to fixing the root causes of high gas prices so we have real solutions that bring real relief to Americans, now and for the future," said Tony Gray, campaign spokesperson for Rick Noriega for Texas.

Cornyn: A History of Failure on Solutions to Soaring Gas Prices

Cornyn Voted for \$5 Billion in Tax Breaks for Big Oil. In 2006, Cornyn voted for the conference report on H.R. 4297, which included \$5 billion in tax breaks for big oil. Cornyn voted for the conference report, even though Republicans added back in two tax loopholes that have allowed the oil industry to avoid paying their fair share of taxes.

The conference report passed H.R. 4297, Vote #118,

5/11/2006]

Cornyn Voted Against Temporary Windfall Profits Tax on Oil Companies. In 2005, Cornyn voted against implementing a temporary 50 percent tax on oil company profits from the sale of crude oil.

Funds collected from the tax would be used to provide a consumer tax credit for petroleum products. Both Senators Obama and Clinton voted for the windfall profits tax. The motion failed 35-64. [S. 2020, Vote #331, 11/17/2005]

Cornyn Voted Against Temporary Release of Oil from Strategic Petroleum Reserve. In 2005, Cornyn voted to kill an amendment that would have urged the president to release one million barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve everyday for thirty days and would have urged the president to encourage OPEC to increase their oil production. Both Senators Obama and Clinton supported releasing the additional oil and voted against killing the amendment.

The motion to kill the amendment passed 57-39. [H.R. 6, Vote #147, 6/22/2005]

Cornyn Voted Against Energy Bill Aimed At Increasing Fuel Economy Standards by \$13B in Subsidies for Major Oil and Gas Companies. In 2007, Cornyn voted against a motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the Reid, D-NeV., motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment with an additional amendment to the bill that would require new Corporate

Average Fuel Economy standards of 35 miles per gallon for cars and light trucks, and require the production and use of 36 billion gallons of biofuels by 2022. It would direct the Energy Department to set new energy efficiency standards.

The additional amendment would strike a provision that would require utilities to produce 15 percent of their electricity from alternative sources by 2020.

It also would increase to \$21.8 billion a package of tax incentives that would be offset in part by eliminating or reducing \$13 billion in subsidies for major oil and gas companies. The motion was rejected 59-40. [CQ.com; HR 6, Vote #425, 12/13/07]

Texans are Paying Heavy Price for Do-Nothing Energy Policy

\$3,261 more per household per year. Households in Texas are paying \$3261 more per year for gasoline than when President Bush took office.

Texas families now pay on average \$5246 per year. [Department of Energy, Household Vehicles Energy Consumption 2001, Table 5.2, August 2005]

A \$2.18 — or —164 percent per gallon increase in gas prices. Since President Bush took office, gas prices in Texas have increased by \$2.18 per gallon, an increase of 164 percent. [EIA Petroleum Marketing Monthly, May, 2001; AAA Fuel Gauge Report, 5/6/08]

\$2.1 billion more per month. Families, businesses, and farmers in Texas will spend \$2.1 billion more on gasoline in May 2008 than they spent in January 2001. [Department of Energy, Motor Gasoline Consumption, Price, and Expenditures 2002]

If prices remain at current levels, \$24.6 billion more will be spent on gasoline in Texas this year than was spent in 2001. Texas consumers, farmers, and businesses are on track to pay \$39.5 billion for gasoline this year. [Department of Energy, Motor Gasoline Consumption, Price, and Expenditures 2002]

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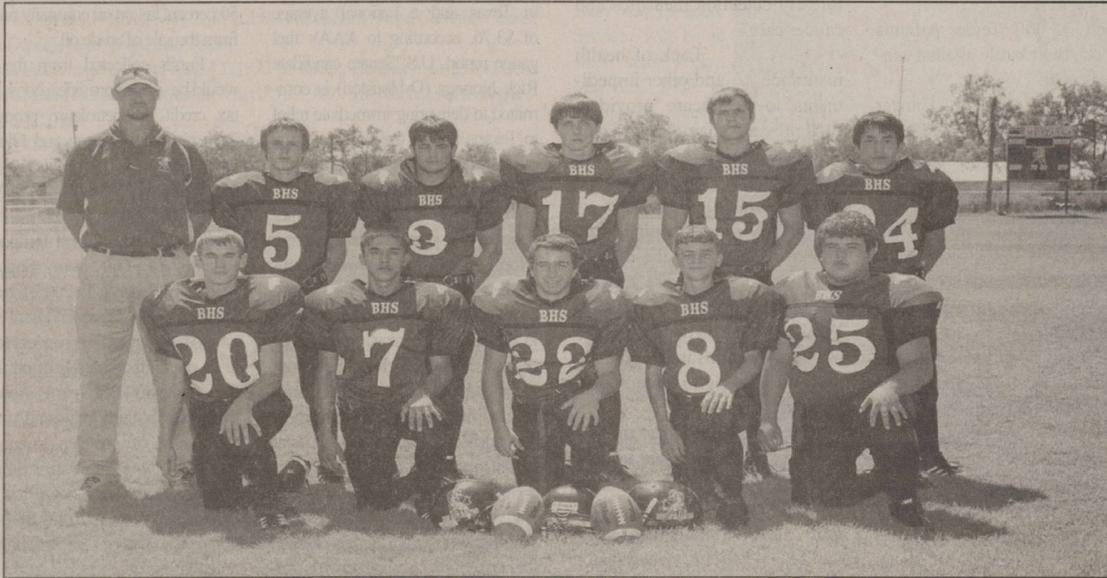
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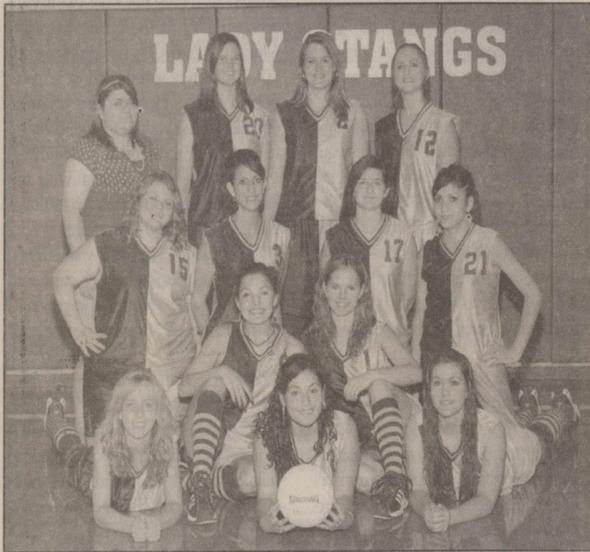
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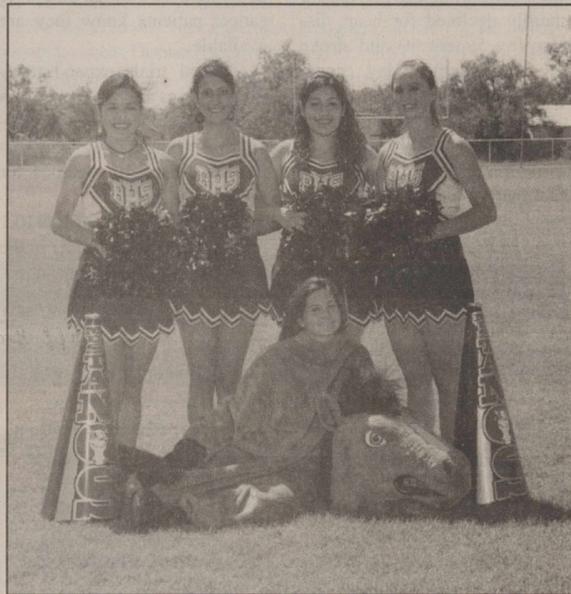
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Back: Coach Copeland, Dylan Benson, Kyle Wilson, Dusty Stevens, Lucas Cartwright, Roberto Acevedo
Front: Cody Propps, Gilbert Nevarez, Derrick Northrup, Damon Gideon, Eddie Rivera



Back: Samijo Russell, Jessi Vanderpol, Teri Miller, Karla Benson middle: Shelby Russell, Nafeesa Ebraheim, Leah Vanderpol, Raquel Acevedo Front: Brittany Coop, Julia Acevedo, Judit Acevedo, Tina Siemens, Devon Jones



Back row: Julia Acevedo, Nafeesa Ebraheim, Judit Acevedo, Karla Benson Front row: Leah Vanderpol

BENJAMIN NEWS

By Gladene Green

After another busy week and weekend we are settling into the beginning of a new one. The bright sunny sky and warm temperatures remind us that the days of summer can't be too far off.

With only 2 weeks of the school year left, many are ready for a break from the every day routine of the past few months. The graduating Seniors are already packing their bags getting ready for their much anticipated trip to Hawaii.

They plan to leave a day or two after graduation (I'm not sure of the exact day) and will be gone about a week, returning with lots of memories of their last activity as a class.

Regarding our Ill

Our friend, Bobby Roberson, was taken by helicopter to Wichita Falls Saturday morning. Bobby suffered a stroke at his home around 4 A.M. and last reports are that he is being monitored closely in CCU in United Regional.

His left side is affected and it will be a few days before it is known just how much damage has been done. I solicit your prayers for Bobby and his family at the this very difficult time for them.

Bobby Hudson had his cataracts surgery one day last week and is doing well. He has to be careful for a few days but thinks all's gonna be o.k. for him. That's great news.

Loraine Powers returned home Friday after several days in Midland seeing her heart doctor. She has a June 9th appointment in Houston and will likely have some surgery. She feels pretty well and is very anxious to get this matter taken care of.

I extend sympathy to the family of James Patterson today. Brother James passed away Friday A.M. in Abilene where he and his wife resided the past few years.

His funeral is today (Sunday) in Knox City Methodist Church where he was pastor several years.

I had an opportunity to visit with his family on Saturday night. It was good to see them all.

Here 'n There

Friday afternoon, Jan Carver was honored with a retirement party in the assembly room of the Courthouse.

Jan had been a part of the Knox County Sheriff's Department since the mid 70s.

Her retirement marked the end of 33 years of service as dispatcher, deputy, jail administrator and all around "Jack of all trades."

She has not worked steady for a while but always stood ready to fill in when needed. The party was well attended by family, co-workers and former co-workers, members of the law enforcement and numerous friends who joined in wishing her the very best.

Several related stories about their working relationships as well as the personal side of their lives. J.P., Vpnnie Ivie presented Jan with a plaque to serve as a reminder of her "employment days". Cake and punch were served to guests from a beautifully decorated table.

It was a fitting tribute to one who had given so many years to a very worth-while service.

On the subject of Jan, she and Fred had a lot of company this weekend.

Her brothers, Jerry Anderson and his wife, Barbara of Hermit and Dennis Anderson of Abilene (Dennis's wife, Evelyn came later in the day) were here for her party, as were her daughters, Stasia Antilley and family of Wingate and Tammy Lyles of Benjamin.

Also Jacy Collins and family of Munday, Tyler Collins and Cassie Lyles of Seymour and Ryan Antilley of Abilene. Weekend guest of Jan and Fred were Ricky and heather Carver and Children, Jissica, Bella and Ashburn of Santa Rosa, California and Steve McAnally and Will of Glenrose.

Rickyand family were here for the funeral of his grandfather, James Patterson

I attended the wedding of Margaret Siemens and Sal Silva in Knox City on Saturday afternoon.

Jane Gideon was in Wichita Falls Tuesday to see her heart doctor.

She enters the hospital in early June for an angiogram to check the artevas to her stomach, heart and kidneys. She's having a few problems so doctors want to know what's causing them.

I had a nice visit with Barbara Johnston McGaughey on Monday.

She still lives in Stamford and says she reads my news every week and enjoys it, so thanks, Barbara for your kind words.

The High School Baccalaureate is Sunday night at 8:00 P.M. at the First Baptist Church here. A reception will follow.

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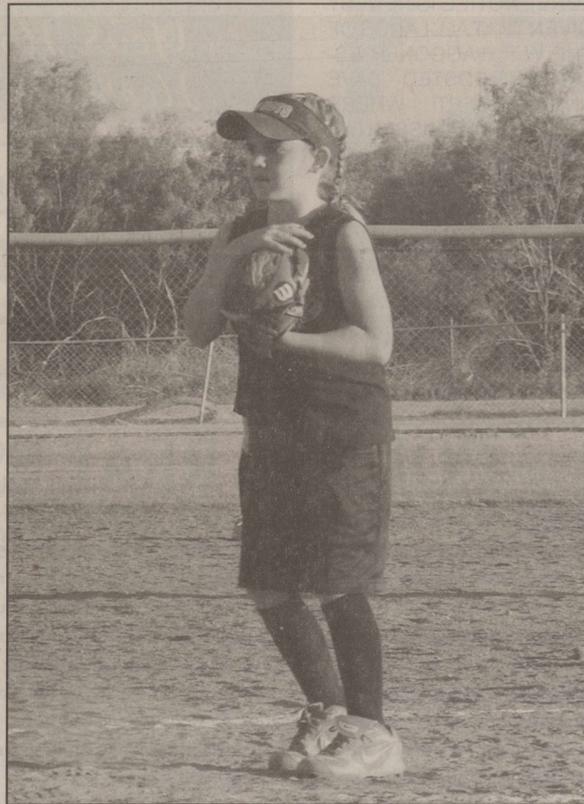
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