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THE

# KNOX COUNTY NEWS

PROUDLY SERVING THE KNOX COUNTY AREA

8 PAGES PLUS INSERTS  
 VOLUME XXIX

KNOX COUNTY, TEXAS  
 THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2010

75 CENTS  
 NUMBER 20



### History of the Gilliland Baptist Church

In the year 1910 the Gilliland community was being rapidly settled.

Several families that had been active in the Baptist faith elsewhere were meeting in their homes or traveling long distances to attend a church services. The believers began discussing a need for a local church and invited others to join them in making plans for a place of worship.

A tent was put up in the pasture north of Gilliland, east of the Hess Baird house. Blocks of mesquite, cut to the proper height with boards spanning them, served as the pews. On March 23, 1910, the first meeting was held with Otis Carter of Red Springs officiating. The church organized and charter members joined. They were: Shade Dixon, Mrs. R.A. Dixon, Mr. and Mrs. Mattie Smith, Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Collier, Arthur Collier, Mrs. Abbie Parris, Mrs. H.C. Jones and J.C. McDonald. Bro. Carter agreed to come from Red Springs until a pastor was found.

According to the Knox County deed records, the Gilliland Baptist Church land has been owned by several families. W. A. Cure, the owner of the land, conveyed a portion on July 16, 1913 to the church for the sum of one dollar. This remains church property until it ceases to be used for "church purposes."

Raising money for a building turned out to be difficult so the church body decided to borrow \$500.00 from the State Mission Board. With the land already purchased; with the deed in hand and the money borrowed, the building was completed with much of the work being done by members. J. T. Strange of Seymour was the visiting preacher for the successful summer revival of 1913 during which the debt on the building was retired.

A storm hit Gilliland in 1915 and the schoolhouse and Baptist church were damaged extensively. The church was repaired by Grandpa Chilcoat and his son for \$205.00.

This church building stood approximately where the community center now stands. The church membership grew, and all seemed to prosper for a time. Over the next several years money got tighter. Some members passed away and others had to move to find new jobs.

All of the area congregations and denominations witnessed a reduction of active members. For a few years, the Gilliland Baptists disbanded. 1925 saw a new beginning. When the Dolph Martin family returned to Gilliland in 1925, the Baptist Church building was run down. The front door was off the hinges, some window panes were out, several big holes were in the floor, and clutter was everywhere.

Jossie Martin, Ima Stone, Mrs. Lee Stone, Grandma Stone and daughter Lena, and Mrs. Jack Robinson went early one morning to sweep and clean the Baptist building. The men made the repairs and the church became active again. Deacons were Dolph Martin, Olie Ilseng, Abb Ilseng, CM. Scifres, W.L. Capps, Hewitt Simmons, M.E. Ryder, Jess Rutherford, Charlie Tucker, Willie New, Sam Stone, J.J. Collier, and Mattie Smith.

The building stood until 1929 when it was torn down and replaced with a new church on the same spot. This new church, completed in 1930, was a much larger building.

Continued on page 6

### Knox City firefighters attend fire school in Hawley

On Saturday, February 27, 2010, two Knox City volunteer firemen, Adrian Soto and Michael Demboski, better known in these parts as "Ski," traveled to Hawley, TX to participate in the 1st Annual Clear Fork Wildland Fire Control Conference.

The first four hours of the conference consisted of classroom instruction on how to create fire breaks.

Fire breaks can be created in many different ways. Breaks can be made using simple hand tools, by using machinery such as dozers and graders, or simply by wetting the ground with water or foam. Breaks can also exit naturally in the form of a creek or river, stock tanks, or even a stretch of county road or highway. However, these breaks don't always stop a fire from advancing. Depending on wind speed and direction, fires can often jump a fire break, just as the training fire at the conference did.

Fire can also be fought with fire. A small controlled fire can be set in front of the



Adrian Soto and Michael Demboski attended a fire school held in Hawley at the end of February.

Courtesy photos

main blaze and the two fires will burn until they meet. Fire departments often use these fire breaks to slow and control a blaze.

After the classroom in  
 Continued on page 6



## REMEMBER THE ALAMO



Carson Lewis stands with his very creative depiction of the Alamo. All the Fourth Graders at Knox City Elementary built replicas of the Alamo, which were on display in the halls of the Elementary School all last week. For more pictures see back page.

Photo by Tamara Smart

## LOOKING AHEAD

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, the Munday Chamber of Commerce will host North American born soprano Raquela Sheeran as she visits Munday High school at 5:30 PM for a concert performance.

The Gilliland Baptist Church will be celebrating 100 years of worship to His glory on March 14<sup>th</sup>. All are invited to attend, please RSVP if you intend to join the church family for lunch.

UIL One Act Plays for 11A-Zone1 will be held at Throckmorton High School Auditorium on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Schools

and their plays in order to be presented are as follows:

First play: Knox City-Crimes of the Heart

Second play: Throckmorton-Steel Magnolias

Third play: Paint Creek-Chamber Music

Fourth play: Woodson-The Tricks of Scapin

Fifth play: Rule-Ordinary People

Sixth play: Newcastle-Arsenic and Old Lace

The two advancing plays from each zone contest will participate in the District 11A contest to be held at Aspermont High School on Wednesday,

March 31st.

Don't Forget that Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Benjamin Volunteer Fire Department will have an appreciation pancake supper on Tuesday evening, March 16, at 6:30 p.m. at the Ex-Students building. Pancake, Bacon, sausage & drinks will be served and everyone is invited to come, enjoy a good meal, & visit with friends and neighbors.

There will be no charge, but donations would be accepted.

### Blossom's Boutique

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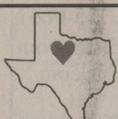
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## Knox County 4-Her's Compete at Livestock Judging Contest



The Knox County 4-H Livestock Judging Team competed at the Heart of Texas Livestock Judging Contest held in Brady, TX on March 6. The senior judging team consisted of Shannon Reeves, Parker Finley, and Trey Tidwell. These individuals have spent countless hours practicing year round in preparation for these contests.

At the contest, these individuals had to judge and place eight classes of livestock which included; two classes of market steers, breeding heifers, market

swine, breeding swine, market lambs, breeding ewes, and market goats.

Not only do these teams have to place the animals, they also have to give sets of oral reasons why they placed the classes the way they did. This point of the competition can be a little nerve racking, having to get up in front of a stranger and explain reasons in front of them. Once you have given your reasons the scoring process is then based on your classing and oral reasons combined together.

Lots of time and dedication is put forth in

competing in livestock judging and it seemed to pay off for these judgers. The senior team placed 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall out of 12 teams. In the beef class the team had a 3<sup>rd</sup> place, with Shannon Reeves placing first high individual in the beef class. Individually, Shannon Reeves placed 8<sup>th</sup>, Parker Finley placed 21<sup>st</sup>, and Trey Tidwell placed 22<sup>nd</sup>

## State Fair of Texas Validation Deadline

For those individuals interested, time is fast approaching on making a decision on how many lamb, goat, or swine ear tags you will need for the 2010 State Fair of Texas, as well as Steer tags for the 2010/2011 stock show season. **Tag orders are being accepted at the Knox County Extension Office until Monday, April 12, 2010.** If you are interested in participating at the State Fair of Texas please call the extension office at 940-459-2651 or come by the office and place a tag order. Validation tags will cost \$10.00 each and \$20.00 each if ordered after the deadline. Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service 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 AgriLife Extension office at (940) 459-2651.

## 60 Year Old Mascot Uniform donated to Rochester Museum



Beth Simmons Baker of Albuquerque, NM, daughter of Mrs. Georgianne Simmons and the late Phil Simmons, has donated her mascot uniform from school year 1950-51 to be placed in the glass cases located in the former Rochester school cafeteria, now Rochester JH campus in Rochester, Texas. She has also donated historical photos that will be displayed also.

During the years from 1944-1974, Phil Simmons served in various capacities as coach, teacher and superintendent of Rochester ISD. Georgianne was a beloved elementary teacher during those years. Simmons Auditorium in Rochester is named after the well-respected couple.

The gold and purple satin uniform was designed and created by Beth's maternal Grandmother. Beth's brother, Phil R. Simmons, Jr. of Weatherford, TX is in the photo with Beth. His football uniform was borrowed. Their sister is Becky Simmons, Freeman of Kerrville, TX. Their Mother resides in Weatherford, TX.

Rochester exes will be able to view items in all Rochester museum locations during October 8 & 9, 2010 Homecoming.

Modelle Ballard Barton indicated that she, Marguerite Gauntt, and Jane Short are in the process of obtaining a grant to give the Rochester Depot Museum a new coat of paint before homecoming.

## God's Promises

By Jim Reid, Pastor O'Brien Baptist



Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? We might have some answers; there have been many great spiritual leaders. Those who have preached all over the world, almost every country. The gospel has brought millions into the kingdom of heaven.

The disciples asked this of Jesus, "Who then is [really] the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? There is little doubt that the disciples were comparing themselves one to another wanting Jesus to call one of their names. And Jesus called a little child to Himself and put him in the midst of them. Jesus then surprised them all with his answer, "Truly I say to you, unless you repent (change, turn about) and become like little children [trusting, lowly, loving, forgiving], you can never enter the kingdom of heaven [at all]."

Jesus sees our children with such an eternal love. As he blesses us with our children, he wants us to see that same eternal love in them. When we see the unconditional love that God has placed in our children, we see Christ speaking to us of the same love.

When you look at your children today, see Jesus and hug them for a long time. Think upon the wonderful blessings in which God has given you. The blessing to see Himself.

I pray you experience the love of God in every way every day.

## Rochester Woman's Club News

The Rochester Women's Club met Wednesday, March 3 2010 for our monthly meeting. Our leader for the day was Gerri Newberry and she turned the meeting over to guest speaker, Susan Turner. Susan gave a book review about "The Worst Hard Time" by Timothy Eagan. The book is about the times during the dust bowl and how it affected people living during that time. A lot of people gave up and left for different parts of the county, but a few hardy souls stayed and tried to eke out a living on the pains and the hardships that they encountered. People died during the dust bowl due to pneumonia and other breathing problem. Finally, a bill was passed in Washington for soil conservation, which helped.

living during this time even if we do still have sand storms and other weather related events, but we are better equipped to handle them now.

Hostess for the day were Verlene Stegemoeller, Sharon Mullino and Sammie Loper. Refreshments were served to the following members and guests: Modelle Barton, Daisy Hayley, Marguerite Gauntt, Mary Johnston, Sammie Loper, Sharon Mullino, Gerri Newberry, Jo Evelyn Patterson, Anna Lou Shaver, Jane Short, Verlene Stegemoeller, and guest Betty Ruth White and guest speaker, Susan Turner.

We wish to thank Susan for bringing this book review to remind us of the past and we realize that history does repeat itself.

We are fortunate to be

## KC AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - Knox City

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

Timothy Trimble, Pastor  
Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.  
No Sunday Evening Service

### ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP -

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Tex Cox, Pastor

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Classes 5:00 p.m. • Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Warriors 6:00 p.m.  
"Discovering God's Word" radio broadcast Sunday mornings on AM 1400 The River 8:20 - 8:50 a.m.

### FOURSQUARE CHURCH - Knox City

Gary A. Schnable, Pastor

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:50 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6:30 p.m.  
Mens Prayer Breakfast 6:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning

### SANTA ROSA CATHOLIC CHURCH BILINGUAL - Knox City

Father Charles Gorantla • Deacon Ben Vasquez

Sunday Mass at Noon

### LIBERTY COMMUNITY C.O.G.I.C. - Knox City

Gene Ward Jr., Pastor

Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Services - 11 a.m.  
Monday Evening Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

### ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - Rhineland

Father Charles Gorantla • Deacon Jim Novak

Monday through Friday mornings, 8 a.m. Mass

Saturday Mass at 5 p.m. • Sunday Mass at 10:30 a.m.

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - Benjamin

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

### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Benjamin

Timothy Trimble, Pastor

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

### GILLESPIE BAPTIST CHURCH - Gillespie

Matt Harrington, Pastor

Sunday School at 10 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6 p.m.

### CHURCH OF CHRIST - Benjamin

Bible Study at 9 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10 a.m.

### THE BELIEVERS' CHAPEL - Highway 222

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 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m., Mid-Week, Wed. at 6 p.m.  
Sunday Mornings on KVRP 97.1 at 9:05 a.m.

### WEINERT FOURSQUARE CHURCH

Rob Harrison, Pastor

Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

### MUNDAY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Adrian Fletcher, Pastor

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ERIC WATSON



# The 501

by Hanaba Munn Welch

*Named for the historic FW&D Engine 501, The 501 is always exactly 501 words and dashes long, whatever the topic. Welch, a freelance writer for Blackburn Media Group, divides her time mostly between Abilene and the family farm north of Vernon.*

If you find an old violin in the attic, and it turns out to be a Stradivarius, sell it and go to Italy to pay homage to the master violinmaker. That's what I'd do.

To wit, just last week I was already planning a trip to Austria even before my husband could find his magnifying glass to examine the old varnished-over Latin-language label on the violin that lay in pieces on our dining counter.

We had the top, bottom, neck and three of four tuning pegs of a violin that claimed to be a Stainer.

Stainer? Yep, Jacobus Stainer. I'd never heard of him either. But Internet research told me he made violins worth thousands and thousands of dollars today - like maybe \$80,000.

The inside label said "Jacobus Stainer am Absam prope oenipontium 16 ..." After the "16" a figure was hand-written. We couldn't quite read it. After all, 400-year-old varnish isn't easy to read through. But we knew the century was right. That's when Stainer lived in Absam, near Innsbruck. He crafted violins for the likes of Archduke Ferdinand Charles. And to think, I'd always thought it was just an old fiddle left behind by the bole-pullers.

That term needs some explanation since nobody pulls bolls any more. Just substitute "migrant worker," the general label for folks who used to be called boll-pullers back when great numbers of mobile families came and went with the cotton harvest, and sometimes they left things behind. Not that we didn't

all pull some bolls, but you had to be nomadic to qualify for the official designation.

Boll-pullers who lived in my grandmother's spare house in the pasture once left behind an organ, believe it or not. It worked with foot pedals - better said, didn't work. Grandmother rescued it, and my mother eventually spent who knows what having it refinished and transformed into a desk of sorts. It's something of a conversation piece. I just wish it could talk or play us some tunes from its repertoire.

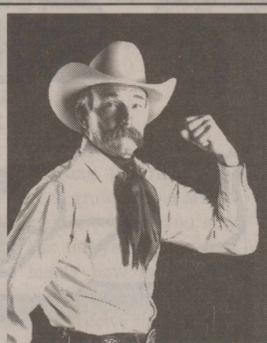
Same goes for the fiddle. That's what I'm calling it now that I've figured out it's a German copy of a Stainer. It wouldn't even fetch a bid on eBay. So much for Austria.

The fiddle and I go back a long way. Now it looks like we might as well stay together. I found it long ago in our other boll-puller house, up high where beams and rafters meet. The instrument was in pieces then, as I recall. But who knows how long it had been there, waiting to be discovered by a roving 10-year-old?

Unlike other things I'd found in that house when it was vacant - jigsaw puzzle pieces, pages of books, broken dishes - the fiddle looked like it might have some value. My folks let me keep it.

When my husband saw the surviving pieces tucked above the rafters in a shed room, he asked about it.

I told him it was just a fiddle the boll-pullers left behind. Turns out I was right.



# ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

by Baxter Black, DVM

## OLYMPIC DISTRACTION

You know the inmates have taken over the asylum when you're turning to PETA as the voice of reason! These are the animal rights extremists who compared eating chicken to the Holocaust, compared the murdering cannibal Jeffery Daumer to butchering hogs, and once proclaimed that it would be great if Foot and Mouth Disease infected animals in the U.S.

A sidebar to the Vancouver Winter Olympics was the saga of an American skater named Johnny Weir who wore fur during his skating routine. According to his agent he was harassed, received hate mail and death threats from animal rights activists. The "corporate factory animal rights groups" including PETA and Friends of Animals denied complicity, although they said they were pleased with the result. Where were the Canadian Mounties? Did the Olympic Committee condemn the threats? Did our State Department or President defend their countryman's right to wear fur? If the Aryan Nation had threatened him because of his race or Al Qaida had threatened him because of his religion, do you think there would have been an outrage on both sides of the border? But animal rights terrorists threatened to kill an athlete because he wears fur. In Canada, no less! After they kill the fur wearers in Vancouver, is the next step to move north and start killing Eskimos?

Picture an American skater being attacked by lunatic animal rights extremists and nobody raising a finger to help. Picture the lone peasant in Tiananmen Square facing the Communist Chinese Army tank. Picture the Ayatollah's Revolutionary Guard surrounding an Iranian protester. Picture Johnny Weir.

My question is "how did we let something like this happen?" Canada and the United States are the bastions of freedom in the world. They are the bright lights that beckon people to come and achieve their dreams. If this Olympic incident had happened in Columbia and the Cocaine Mafia had threatened an athlete, we would not be shocked. If the sons of Saddam had attacked a visiting soccer player for displaying an American flag, we would not be surprised. If North Korea had kidnapped American tourists...wait a minute...they did. And if some penny-ante animal-rights thugs had threatened to kill a contestant if he wore fur...? The animal rights people had a party. They think they won. But we as a country, both Canada and the United States, as a people sit here uncomfortable in our shame. We allowed our skater, a free man, one of us, to be verbally attacked and coerced and threatened and we stood by hoping it would go away.

To our credit as a nation we are finally seeing public figures stand up to the animal rights intimidation. Mike Rowe - star of Dirty Jobs, Dean Koontz - a popular novel author, and the Zac Brown Band - 2010 Best New Country Artist winners, have told the loonies to "take a hike." We learned after 9/11 that the animal rights contention that "A Rat is a Pig is a Dog is a Boy" is goofy. And those who preach that philosophy that human life has no more value than the life of an animal, have a screw loose.

Regarding Johnny Weir and the Olympics, does anyone really take seriously that a group of quasi-religious ideologues would really kill him for wearing fur? Remember September 5, 1972? 5 terrorists climbed the fence surrounding the Olympic Village in Munich, Germany, attacked and killed 11 Israeli athletes. Why? Because they did not believe the same thing the killers did.

## Knox County Aging Services Menus For March. 15<sup>th</sup> To March. 19<sup>th</sup>

<b>Monday March 15<sup>th</sup></b> Ham 7 Minute Cabbage Ranch Style Beans Cornbread Pudding	Cole Slaw Pinto Beans Cornbread Cookies
<b>Tuesday March 16<sup>th</sup></b> Baked Chicken Sweet Peas Salad Sliced Brad Cobbler	<b>Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup></b> Hamburgers/Cheese Slices Potato Chips Pork & Beans Lettuce, Tomato, Onions & Pickles Dessert
<b>Wednesday March 17<sup>th</sup></b> Chicken Fried Steak/Gravy Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Biscuit Cake	New Serving Time Is 12 Noon (In Knox City Only) Alternate Desserts For Diabetics
<b>Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup></b> Fish/Tarter Sauce	Please Call In Your Orders By 10 A.M. To 657-3618 Orders Cant Be Taken After 10 A.M. And Need To Be Picked Up After 11 A.M.

Thanks for Reading The Knox County News!

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

2009 Weekly Weather Report

Date	Temperature (F) Low / High	Rainfall inches	Snow inches
3/01	32/47	0.48	0.1
3/02	22/56		3.5
3/03	31/68		
3/04	42/73		
3/05	49/59		
3/06	51/63		
3/07	53/58	0.06	
Total Rainfall for month		.54	
2010 Rainfall (ytd)		6.37	6.6

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# Knox County Market Place

**Help Wanted**

Burrito Express is looking for a manager. Must be available M-F, 5:00 am - 12:00 noon. Call Mary or Ben (940) 658-3997 or 940-256-1853 if interested or for more information.

Now Hiring: Part Time licensed Social Worker

We are looking for a caring dependable professional to provide social services within our facility. Come join the team at Munday Nursing Center a 60 bed long term care facility competitive salary. Come by 421 West F. in Munday and contact Joyce Hardin, Admin.

**For Sale**

For sale. 2 3/8 Tubing. 2000 Feet. Call 940-657-5196.

For Sale: The City of Benjamin will accept bids for the Lots 7, 8, 9, Block 31 to be opened March 10, 2010 at the City Hall. The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Box 286 Benjamin TX 79505.

**House For Sale**

4 bedroom, 2 bath in Rochester on Corner lot. Living room, dining room, pool room. Fenced in Yard. Low price. The Call 940-743-3452 and ask for Bobby for more information.

**Public Notice**

City of Knox City Election

The last day to file an application for open seats for the Knox City Council is Monday, March 8, 2010, at 5:00 pm. The City will hold a regular, special and EDC Type A election, along with a referendum for no smoking in public places.

The election will be held on Saturday, May 8, 2010, from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm at the Knox County Aging Center located at 107 NE Ave E.

Early Voting will be on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and will end on May 4, 2010 at the City Hall, 902 E. Main from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Twelve hour early voting will be available on April 26 and May 4, 2010 from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Completely Reconditioned Club Golf Cart for Sale. Like New!!! \$2800. Call 940-888-9035 or 940-636-0762 for more info.

**Public Notice**

The City of O'Brien will hold a public Hearing on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 5:30 to discuss Atmos Franchise Contract Resolution and to adopt a Plumbing Ordinance. If you should have any questions contact I. Diaz at 658-1144.

**Residential**

- Very nice 4 bedroom brick residence-109 7th Street, Rochester- **Contract**
- Nice 3 bedroom residence- Highway 6, O'Brien- **Reduced**
- Super nice, spacious, 3 bedroom brick with 2 bath- on corner, 2 plus lots- cellar, pecan and oak trees- 621 11th Ave. in Munday
- Absolutely the best! Spacious 4 bedroom home. Cedar closets, beautiful fireplace, 2 living areas and a formal dining room. 2 1/2 tiled baths. Kitchen/breakfast area. Elegant interior. 3 car garage and landscaped yard. Prime location in Knox City. This house has it all.

**SOLD**

- In Ranch Country with scenic view toward Brazos River. Brick 2 bedroom home on 2.13 ac. Den & living both have fireplaces. Priced for a major repair, restore it to beauty it has always displayed. 7 mile west of Knox City on highway 222- Northside of road. **CONTRACT**

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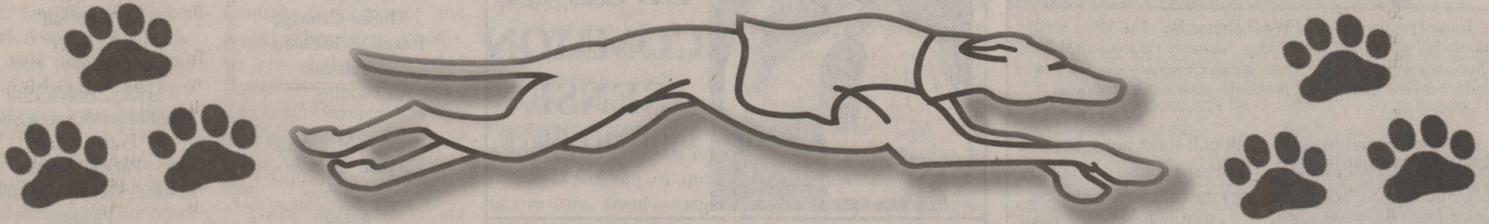
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# KNOX CITY SPORTS



## Knox athletes compete in Golden Spur Relays

**By Tamara Smart**  
With 8 of 16 girls on the Knox City High School track team roster injured, the girls still had a great showing at their first track meet of the season in Spur last Friday.

Girls Field Events:  
Laura Vasquez placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the discus throw with a 66'1 1/2' throw and took 5<sup>th</sup> place for the Houndettes with her shot put through.

In the racing events, Emily Espinosa ran the 3200-meter in 17.43 minutes, earning 6<sup>th</sup> place.

Camille Ward, Chastity Tolson, Lacey Pierce and Holly McCrary who make up the Knox City 400 meter relay team also received a 6<sup>th</sup> place finish after completing

the race in 1:00:59. Cassidy Carter earned 5<sup>th</sup> place in both the 800-meter run (with a time of 2:57:61) and the 200-meter dash (with a time of 31.61).

Finally, the Houndettes won 4<sup>th</sup> place in the 1600-meter relay, run by Toni Brown, Chastity Tolson, Cassidy Carter and Camille Ward.

Injured girls include Holly McCrary (pulled hamstring), Lacey Peirce (Strained Hamstring), Reagan Clark (Pulled Hamstring), Whitney Collins (Ankle injury), Destini Billington (Knee injury), Tiffani Esquivel (Ankle injury), Gabriela Moya (Strained Hamstring) and Toni Brown (Ankle injury).

According to Coach Arnold Peralez after the races last Friday, "I was proud of the kids' efforts at the Track meet this last week. I feel that we will get better as the season continues. We now have times and marks to look at so that we can set some goals. We have a few injuries to overcome, but I feel that we will be fine."

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## Knox City Hounds win first track meet of season

**By Tamara Smart**  
The Knox City Hounds won the track meet in Spur on Friday. As far as Coach Howeth, KC boys track coach, knows that is the first regular season meet to win in the last ten years. The final score totaled 88 points. At

the time of press, Spur had not sent the final results package with all the places and individual events. KC News will get you the rest of the information of the boys and their final times and individual achievements as soon as possible.

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## Truscott News

**By Clara Brown**

Folks on the Wichita Divide woke up Monday, March 8, 2010 to fog and some moisture on the ground. The TV man at Wichita Falls said there was a 50% chance of rain Monday morning, especially in Western counties of the viewing area, and an 80% chance in the afternoon. By the time you read this, you will know how good his prediction was.

Sunday, March 14, is going to be a big day at the Gilliland Baptist church as the church celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Lula Baty says the morning service will start at 11:00 am, followed by lunch provided by the church, the visiting and some programs in the afternoon.

Kenneth Carroll reports Lula said over 120 responses to anniversary announcements have been received, that will sure increase Gilliland's population next Sunday!

Trenna Carlson spent Feb

14 to March 1 visiting in Sweden with her son and his family, Jason and Anna Patt and their boys, Leo and Joe. There was lots of snow so she spent most of her time playing with her grandsons, both inside and in the snow.

The primary elections March 2 drew 10 voters at Gilliland and 12 voters at Truscott.

Trenna Cash is looking for Lucy, a year and a half old Australian Shepherd. Lucy is very friendly. She disappeared from the Carlson's place where she was last seen. Let Trenna or Mike Carlson know if you think you see her or have seen her.

Clara Brown and her sister, Joyce Williams, were in Dumas Friday and Saturday for the funeral of Geneva Jones, the widow of the late Edgar Jones' youngest brother, Roger.

Before starting home Saturday, their cousin, Wayne Jones and his son, Brandon, took them on a tour of the Jones Ranch and the neighborhood they lived in before moving to Knox County in December 1941.

They recalled riding to school in a car packed with children from families living several miles around. Crammed might be a better description. Smaller children and children who got on last had to sit on someone's lap.

It was a sep up for transportation at Truscott. They were the last stop for the Antelope Flat's yellow bus, but still didn't have to sit on laps.

Neighborhood Easter Egg hunts on the prairie were recalled and attempts were made to remember all the students on the ride to school. Hardly any of the families still live on their places. The prairies are plowed for irrigated farms and feed lots. It's rare a real windmill, the kind everyone had in the 1930s can be spotted.

There's a book, "You Can't Go Home Again" which came to mind on seeing all the changes, which reflected how we felt. Had a short visit with a woman who also sat on laps on our bus and lived on the next place south of our house back in those days. She managed to Dumas museum for years and is now retired. She never left "home", like we did, but

has see "home" change and grow before her eyes.

In Knox County things are much quieter. The change in northwest Knox County has been a shrinking population base, a growing importance of hunting, a forsaking of man cotton acres, and a growing appreciation of county skies and country quiet. Graceful as those white wind turbines are, you have to wonder, would you want to replace all the old windmill towers, even if most of their water is not powered by wind anymore?

The Dumas museum has taken the old style windmill as its logo, maybe here in the rolling plain, we should take a cloud and a blue sky over grass growing under a mesquite tree in appreciation of life in the slower lane. Don't laugh. More than one "hunter" has been heard to say he really pays for his lease so he can get away from the sights and sounds of town.

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Sue Stephens, a native of Knox City, Texas is enjoying a successful career in real estate with WestMark Commercial Realtors in Lubbock, Texas. Following graduation from Texas Tech University, Sue returned to Knox, Haskell, and Stonewall Counties to be an agricultural specialist with her husband, Elmo Stephens Jr. (Deceased), in owning and operating a farm, cattle, and ranching business. Later, by overcoming obstacles, challenges, and changes in her life, she adapted to the land production and sales in West Texas and has become a leader in combining prospective buyers with the right properties to fit their needs.

While Sue's passion is working with clients in farms and ranch investments, she also enjoys assisting her clients in the commercial and residential. She is friendly, professional, and always has a smile and a positive attitude. Her philosophy is "to treat others as she would want to be treated."

Obviously, she contributes much of her success to the strong support group that WestMark provides its agents who are self-motivated with a goal of the best service possible for their agents. Another factor Sue acknowledges as so important, is the support of her family in real estate including her brother and several aunts and uncles. While Sue has been a widow for years, she is proud of her son and his family, Scott, Dani, and Quade Stephens, of Lubbock, and her daughter and her family, Stefani, Dr. Adriano, and Gianna Araujo, of Brazil.

Recently, Sue has assisted WestMark Realtors in establishing a branch office in her hometown of Knox City. She was recognized as the Top Listing Agent for '08. Sue was also Listings Sold Leader, Sales Leader and Total Production Leader in 2009.

While Sue gives credit for her life-long successes to God, family, friends, business associates and clients, those who know her well say that it's her energy, enthusiasm, and attitude that make her successful at everything she pursues.

Sue finds real estate fun and exciting, makes herself accessible to clients with real estate needs, and welcomes new clients at any time!

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# Time to get ready for gardening

By Anthony Munoz  
Knox County Extension Agent

With the first day of spring around the corner many garden enthusiasts are gearing up for, hopefully, warmer and sunnier days. Gardening is a great activity that has grown in popularity which allows people to grow nutritious and tasty vegetable/fruits right in their back yards. Although gardening is a fun activity there needs to be careful planning, preparation, and constant up keep to allow for lessened gardening work and increased yields. By following a few basic steps a person will be a successful gardener in no time.

One of the first steps is selecting an appropriate site to have a garden. Many people live in an area where space is limited, so finding a spot can be tough. The ideal site would be an area that gets full sunlight and has deep, well drained, fertile soil. Being close to a water outlet is helpful, but is not necessary.

Deciding on what vegetables you will be growing will be your next step. You want to choose vegetable/fruits that will be suitable for your size of garden. Furthermore, you will want to grow vegetable/fruits that your family will eat more of and enjoy. Vine crops such as watermelons, cantaloupes, and cucumbers need large amounts of space so growing them in smaller garden may not work well.

### Small Gardens

### Large Gardens

- Broccoli
- Cabbage
- Okra
- Sweet Corn
- Tomato
- Eggplant
- Pumpkin
- Sweet Potato
- Pepper
- Spinach
- Watermelon
- Cucumber

- Onion
- Radish
- Cantaloupe

Selecting the right vegetable to grow in your area is paramount because you may not get the yields you want no matter how much work you put into it. If the garden does not receive full sunlight, growing leafy crops such as leaf lettuce or parsley may be more suitable.

### Sunlight

### Partial Shade

- Okra
- Squash
- Beets
- Spinach
- Pea
- Potato
- Collard
- Parsley
- Pepper
- Tomato
- Mustard
- Radish
- Watermelon
- Cauliflower
- Turnip
- Lettuce

Be sure to plant your taller growing crops (okra, sweet corn, stake tomatoes) on the north side of the garden so they will not shade/interfere with the lower growing veg

Continued on page 7

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## Public Notice

### Notice of Sale

Dated March 4, 2010, and issued pursuant to a judgment decree of the District Court of Knox County Texas, by the Clerk of said Court on said date in the hereinafter styled and numbered causes, and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff of said Court, I have on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010, seized, levied upon and will on the first Tuesday in April, 2010, the same being the 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2010 at the Courthouse door of said County, in the City of Benjamin, between the hours of 10:00 o'clock a.m. and 4:00 o'clock pm on said day shall proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all of the right, title, and interest of the defendants in such suit in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Knox and the State of Texas, to-wit:

- 9027 Knox County Appraisal District v. Joe Walaski  
Lot 10, Block 16, Davis Addition, City of Knox City
- 9110 Knox County Appraisal District v. Jerry R. Robinson a/k/a Jerry Johnson a/k/a/ J. Johnson  
Lot 3, Block 50, Original Townsite of Goree
- 9173 Knox County Appraisal District v. Robert P. Espinosa and Sandra Espinosa  
The North 27' of Lot 1, and all of Lot 2, Block 7, Warren Addition, City of Knox City
- 9191 Knox County Appraisal District v. Ida K. Brown, Larry Browning, Gerald Taylor, Donny Edward Browning a/k/a Don Browning and Charlie Lee Browning a/k/a Charlie Browning  
The East 58', more or less of Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, Block 138, Reeves & Musser Addition, City of Munday  
The South 1/2 of the East 1/2 of Block 39, Lee Addition, City of Munday, with Manufactured Home "Windsor", 14x17, Label #UL10197447, Serial #ZWK801411484
- 9194 Knox County Appraisal District v. Jessie Nava (In Rem), Liz Nava (In Rem), Marvin Wheeler (In Rem) and Edith Wheeler (In Rem)  
All of Lot 3, SAVE & EXCEPT the Southwest 50' x 50' and the Northeast 50' x 50' of Lot 4, Block 28, Wallace Addition, City of Munday
- 9195 Knox County Appraisal District v. Jeanne Cooper, Brenda Comer, Leinholder (In Rem Only) and Shirley Dron, Leinholder (In Rem Only)  
a 100' x 115' tract of land, more or less, out of the East 1/2 of Lots 1 & 2, Block 112 Reaves & Musser Addition, City of Munday
- 9196 Knox County Appraisal District v. David Hunter, Carolyn Hunter and Greg Abbott, Attorney General, State of Texas, Leinholder (In Rem Only)  
The East 1/2 of the North 1/2 of Block 45, R.P. Munday Addition City of Munday
- 9198 Knox County Appraisal District v. S.C. Murphee, C.I. McNeil a/k/ Curtis Mc Neil (In Rem) and Willie Richards (In Rem)  
Lot 4, Block 5, Original Townsite of Vera  
The South parts of Lots 5 and 6, Block 2, Taylor Addition to the Town of Vera
- 9199 The Knox County Appraisal District v. Ron Laney, Cythia Laney, Bayview Financial Trading Group, L.P., Leinholder (In Rem Only) and Bayveiv Loan Servicing LLC, Lienholder (In Rem Only)  
The West 1/2 of Block 3, Original Townsite of the Town of Munday  
The East 1/2 of Block 3, Original Townsite of the Town of Munday
- 9201 Knox County Appraisal District v. Madelyn Goode Honea, Fleta Mayo, Dixie Bradley, Ettamae Frasier, Everett Barger, Dorothy Williams, Norris Barger, Jack Barger, Barbara Coffman and Dale Redding  
Lots 7 & 8, Block 1, Original Townsite of the Town of Goree  
The North 77-1/2' of Lots 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24, Block 1, Original Townsite of the Town of Goree  
Lots 9-11, Block 1, Original Townsite of the Town of Goree  
Lots 20 thru 23, Block 1, SAVE AND EXCEPT the North 77-1/2', Original Townsite of the Town of Goree  
Lot 6-1/2, Block 21, Elandel Addition, Town of Truscott

or upon the written request of said defendants or their attorney, a sufficient portion thereof to satisfy said judgment for delinquent property taxes and accrued penalties and interest and costs of suit and sale; subject, however, to the right of redemption, the defendants or any person having an interest herein, to redeem said property, or their interest therein, within the period of time and in manner provided by law and subject to any other and further rights to which the defendants or anyone interested therein maybe entitled, under the provisions of law. Said sale to be made by me to satisfy the judgment for delinquency property taxes and accrued penalties and interest rendered in the above styled and numbered cause, together with interest thereon and costs of suit and sale, and the proceeds of said sale to be applied to the satisfaction thereof, and the remainder, if any, to be applied as the law directs.

Dated March 4, 2010, at Benjamin, Texas.  
By Sheriff Dean Homstad  
You may contact the Plaintiffs attorney at 325-672-4870.

# BENJAMIN NEWS

By Gladene Green

Another Weekend has come & gone & we are well into March.

As I write this on Sunday night, a heavy mist is falling which is likely to turn to heavy rain by Monday morning. Just seems we can't get out of this type of weather for long at a time.

**Regarding Our Ill**  
Good to report that Jonnie Williams and Imagean Young are beginning to see some better days. I'm sure they are ready for a change, as they have sort of been "housed in" for several weeks.

Jackie Young was taken to a Wichita Falls hospital today (Sun) with what Drs. thought might be a heart attack. He will undergo further tests tomorrow to determine if there is blockage or if there is another problem. We will be glad to hear what's going on & pray he will be on the road to recovery soon.

We have learned that James Coppedge is in a College Station hospital suffering from Pneumonia. James also has a malignancy & has had chemo & radiation & is due to start another round of treatment, but Drs. are not sure if he will be strong enough to take them right now. The treatments weaken one so much & with the pneumonia, he is in a more weakened condition. Maybe our next report will be more encouraging. We pray that it will be.

**New Arrival**  
Lantham & Jess Jones are very proud of their new baby girl, Mesa Wren. Mesa was born Wed, March 3, 2010 at Childress Regional Medical center. She weighed 5lb, 13oz & was 18 inches long. Her "big" sister, Canyon, is pretty proud of this new addition to her family. Grandparents are Larry & Donna Aultman of Cumming, Ga. & Ned & Susan Jones of Benjamin.

**Fire Department News**  
The Benjamin Volunteer Fire Department will have an appreciation pancake supper on Tuesday evening, March 16, at 6:30 p.m. at the Ex-Students building. Pancake, Bacon, sausage & drinks will be served and everyone is invited to come, enjoy a good meal, & visit with friends and neighbors. There will be no charge, but I'm sure donations would be accepted. Of course, all money would go to the fire dept. Make sure you make plans to be there and enjoy this event.

Also the fire department is looking for volunteer for the Weather Watch program. The last year or so, the program has not been too active because of the lack of personnel to keep it going. When I talked to Dennis Duke regarding this matter, he said volunteers would furnish their own vehicle & the department would furnish a radio & do a training program for those interested. With the stormy season coming up, it is very important to have this service available. We all rest better knowing someone is watching the clouds for us and when something is spotted, they think may be severe, the siren is sounded & then people can make their own judgment about what to do next. But at least we would be forewarned.

For more details on becoming a Weather Watcher, contact Dennis Duke or any member of the Fire Department. It is a wonderful service for everyone, especially those of us who are not real sure which clouds have

potential for severe weather. I appreciate these guys efforts.

**Here 'N There**  
Anthony and Jessica Lamb of Wichita Falls spent Sat. night with his mom, Deann.

Donna Aultman of Cumming Ga. Is here for an extended visit with her daughter, Jess Jones & family & help care for her new granddaughter, Mesa.

Fred Carver came home Tues. afternoon after an over night stay in Knox Co. Hospital.

He is to see his heart doctor in Mid-March to see if there is a problem that needs attention. He's feeling much better.

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Si contesta sí a uno de las preguntas y vive en los condados de Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Stonewall o Throckmorton, es posible usted puede elegible para ayuda del **Aspermont Small Business Development Center, Inc.** El Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) y los fondos del Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) están usado por ASBDC, INC. para suministrar services a las familias con ingresos bajos. Hay un proceso de aplicación a determinar elegibilidad para ayuda. Llame usted ASBDC, INC. para mas información o si tiene preguntas.

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If you answered YES to any of the above questions and live in Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Stonewall or Throckmorton counties, you may be eligible for assistance from the **Aspermont Small Business Development Center, Inc.** The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) funds are used by ASBDC, Inc. to provide services to low-income households. There is an application process to determine eligibility for assistance, so call ASBDC, Inc. for more information.

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**FIRE**

struction, the class shared lunch together and then moved on the "hands on" field training. The training ground consisted of 37 acres of CRP land that was broken into sections of equal size. Fires were then ignited and put out using the fire break skills learned earlier in the day.

On one of the last sections of fire, the wind picked up and jumped the fire break and the firemen were scrambling to get the blaze under control. The flames were coming up over the track vehicle the firemen were traveling in, but they were able to knock down the flames quickly and all came out unscathed. The track vehicle, however, wasn't so lucky! It experienced some mechanical issues to the blaze.

As the sun was setting, all the firemen in attendance returned to the classroom to receive their certificates of completion. This Fire Control Conference, and many other fire schools, are part of the Texas A&M University Engineering Extension Service and are held in cooperation with the Texas A&M University system.

These fire schools are held all over the state of Texas throughout the year and various courses offered include structure firefighting, radio communications, high angle rescue and fire safety, to name a few.

Congratulations to Knox City volunteer firefighters Adrian Soto and "Ski" Demboski on a job well done!

People began moving back to Gilliland. Someone lived in every house, shack, car shed, and in tent. By 1932, some houses had been partitioned into two-family dwellings. The church and school became crowded and every possible inch of space was being used.

E.G. New moved into the community as a farmer and became pastor. Meeting once a month, on the first Sunday, the church agreed to pay Bro. New \$10.00 per month. Sometimes it could not meet that obligation which did not make any difference to Bro. New. He was always there, giving his love, his ministry, and even more from his pocket. Bro. New moved to Arkansas; but returned Mrs. New's body to the Gilliland Cemetery for burial. He now rests in the Gilliland Cemetery beside her. The Reverend J. P. Stevenson was called as pastor in December of 1935 and the church decided to meet every Sunday, morning and evening, as well as on two Saturdays and increase the

pastor's salary to twenty dollars per month. A brush arbor was built by the men of the community on the southeast corner of the school yard in the spring of 1936. Revival dates were set by all three churches, each taking turns using the arbor. Hewitt Simmons hooked his car to a wagon and people rode in the wagon to the services. Grandpa Hitchcock was a passenger and on one particular night, as he was sitting in the service, the Lord called Bro. Hitchcock home. This resulted in several professions of faith and rededications. Baptisms were done in tanks of the area. Later, a baptistry was built in the church and a baptistry scene was painted by Mrs. Earl Burgess. While Bro. Riddle was pastor, new Sunday school rooms were built and the pastor's salary was raised to \$40 per month.

As the area grew, the next pastor to serve Gilliland, Bro. Joe English urged the congregation to build a new building. Plans were made for a new church. The men and boys volunteered their labor; the

The Arbor Day Foundation has named AEP Texas a Tree Line USA Utility.

This program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of Foresters and recognizes utilities that meet three requirements: a program of quality tree care, annual worker training in quality tree care, and a tree planting and public education program.

"Across America, people are recognizing and celebrating how vital trees are to our cities and towns," John Rosenow, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation,

said. "Trees help reduce peak demand by conserving energy. They also clean the air and water, increase property value and make our homes more comfortable living places."

"Tree Line USA utilities deserve recognition for their commitment to providing safe, efficient service, while helping protect and preserve community trees," said Rosenow. "One of the greatest objectives of Tree Line USA, and a major contribution of the program, is replacing the outdated line-clearance practice of topping trees with natural pruning.

Natural pruning trains trees to grow around wires and retain more of their natural form. This results in healthier trees and reduced clearance costs for utility companies, since pruning can be done less frequently than topping.

The Arbor Day Foundation, a nonprofit education organization, is dedicated to tree planting and environmental stewardship.

AEP Texas is an energy delivery (wires) company that delivers electricity to nearly 1,000,000 homes, businesses and industry across its nearly 100,000 square mile service territory in south and west

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# News from AEP Texas

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**CHURCH**

old building was torn down and the new building was constructed. The rocks were hauled from Medicine Mound, and a rock mason was hired for \$3.00 daily—a big price at that time. Volunteers did the painting and in 1940 services were held in the new building. One story is told that following a huge rainstorm, the basement flooded and the piano floated. As time moved on, this building even became crowded as all the servicemen came home from the war and joined their families. The stone church sat just west of the current building. Some of the cement sidewalk that led to the front can still be seen.

In 1946, it was decided that a parsonage was needed. A carpenter from Crowell was hired, and the local men and boys did much of the work. The pastor was Bro. Crawford and the salary was raised to \$100 a month. In November of that same year, R. H. Proffitt was called as pastor and pews were purchased from the Hefner Methodist Church for \$200. The Methodist church build-

ing was purchased for \$1000 and torn down for the lumber to build the parsonage.

On September 12, 1956, the church building burned to the ground. All records and books were destroyed. It was back to the schoolhouse for church services. The present building was built mostly by volunteer labor. Everyone in the community helped and many donated money. Seventy-one days from the date the foundation was laid, the church met in the new building.

In the early part of 1980, the sanctuary floor was carpeted, and the front step was covered with grass carpet. A pastor's study was placed in the middle class room.

Throughout the years, many memorials have been given. In 1981, pew cushions and baptistry curtains were purchased with a bequest from Dolph Martin, donations and church financing.

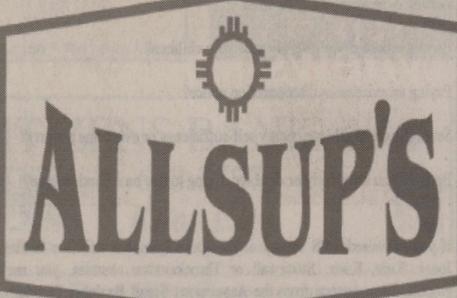
In 1985, Gilliland Baptists celebrated 75 years of service. Approximately 200 people were in attendance. In 1989 the parsonage was donated to

the community to serve as a community center. Everything from wedding parties to funeral meals, to any number of community activities have been served through the center. Over the past few years, Gilliland Baptist Church has seen a growth which can only be accounted to God. We have seen as few as three or four at a service grow to an average attendance of 15 to 20. As we celebrate 100 years of the service of God's grace, we hope to have the opportunity to serve the Big Country in faith and grace.

This church has remained active, even though sometimes debts were almost impossible to meet. At one time in the early seventies, the area missionary told the church that it should disband, as it was too small to get a pastor! The faithful few that began this journey of the church were filled with determination. That same determination and reliance on the grace of Christ is still the main part of Gilliland Baptist Church. Come and experience it for yourself!

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# OPINION



## The Paperboy

By Christopher Blackburn

### What if?

What if we drilled for oil on our own land using the left-over stimulus money? Do you know where the most untapped oil lies on this planet? Right under the United States. We have to face some serious facts in this country:

1. The U.S. is going broke.
2. We can't afford to go green at the pace we'd all like.
3. Our national elected officials seem incapable of providing solutions to our problems.

Astonishingly enough, there is a way to grow our way out of our economic doldrums which could provide a solution to our slumping jobs market as well. Furthermore, it could probably be done without cost to the American taxpayer.

Sound too good to be true? Think again! You may find this hard to believe, but the U.S. is sitting on an estimated 2.3 trillion barrels of oil, nearly three times more than the reserves held by Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) nations. That's over 300 years of oil at today's demand for auto, truck, aircraft, heating and industrial fuel. We would no longer have to import a drop.

Of course, not all that oil is easy to get to. That's where using the remaining billions in stimulus money could come in.

Can you imagine President Obama coming out from behind closed doors and announcing this as his new energy policy?

Not only would we be oil dependent, we could export it and make trillions. Currently, the U.S. has around 20 billion barrels in oil reserves. That's oil in existing fields which is easy to get to. Getting to the 2.3 trillion barrels would take some work.

Our untapped oil reserves are located in places that either Uncle Sam has put off-limits for environmental reasons or are too costly to get or a combination of both. But why should it stay that way?

For a country that is \$12,556,560,040,888.49 (as of Monday) in debt, I would think we would be prepared to do anything in our power to right our economy and profit in the meantime.

Government incentives via some remaining stimulus money and tax breaks for exploration could help jump-start exploration. When new oil is tapped, the government could tax it, thus making additional money.

Throw in a couple of refineries and soon you have areas of the country booming and our economic future is secure.

From there you provide tax breaks for green energy development and you can have the best of both worlds: an oil independent country and a leader in green energy development.

It's time we stop depending on other countries, namely China, to fund our future. Especially when we can do it ourself.

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

## Democrats Must Lose Rangel, or Lose

By William Warren

He may be taking a "temporary leave of absence" from chairing the House Ways and Means Committee, but Charlie Rangel took a "leave of absence" from ethics a long, long time ago. It's a shame that people — and by "people", I mean his fellow Congressional Democrats — are only taking action now against the biggest cheater in Washington.

In the wake of a formal "admonishment" last week from the House ethics committee regarding his improper usage of donations to fund two Caribbean vacations, Charlie Rangel is finally stepping down and hitting the penalty box. The pressure to take him out of the game has simply gotten too intense — and it's coming not just from those on the right.

It makes sense that Rangel's colleagues would take action now, of all times. For the horde of vulnerable Democrats up for reelection this fall, removing Rangel might help to "un-gruntle" their disgruntled voters back home. And for the rest of the Democrats, purging the unethical filth from their ranks might help boost their historically filthy poll numbers.

After all, Nancy Pelosi promised to run the most ethical Congress in history, remember? At least ousting Rangel would be one small step towards honoring this horribly unfulfilled campaign promise.

As one particular aide of an embattled Democrat remarked, "If Democrats want to be taken seriously on accountability and transparency, he has to step down."

However, can voters re-

ally expect Charlie Rangel to take his lumps, step down, and simply go away? The Harlem Congressman has become as iconic in Washington, D.C. as is traffic on the Beltway — and equally as frustrating, for that matter. He's been successfully avoiding his judgment day for a long time and it's doubtful he'll acquiesce now.

Perhaps he'll lay low for a while and wait until the media and the press have moved on (intentionally or otherwise) to other issues... like the fall elections. Perhaps Rangel will come crawling out from under his rock then and quietly resume his chairmanship under the chaotic din in November? All he will need is a simple approval from the House and he'll be swept back to his post.

That being said, Truth be told — and it has been told, numerous times by numerous sources — Rangel's recent ethical "admonishment" is merely the tip of the iceberg.

He may have been formally caught for misusing private corporation donations to fund his Caribbean flings, but what about his failure to pay taxes on his villa in the Dominican Republic? Or his improper fundraising methods for his namesake education center at City College of New York? Or his failure to report over \$1 million in outside income and \$3 million in business transactions? Or his breaking of state laws by claiming three primary residences and maintaining four rent-controlled apartments?

These pending inquiries and outstanding allegations are serious.

So Democrats, take a hint:

You better dump Rangel before the rest of Rangel's garbage is dumped on you.

The proper game plan may be a tough one for the Democrats to implement. Simply put, Charlie Rangel needs to be permanently removed from his chairmanship of the House Ways and Means Committee. To consider a "temporary leave of absence" a fitting punishment would require Congressional Democrats to take leave of their senses.

On top of that, it's high time the Attorney General stepped in and opened an investigation on Mr. Rangel.

Congressmen and all elected officials ought to be held to a higher ethical standard and, consequently, taken to task when they fail to measure up.

The fact that Rangel has been allowed to carry on these crimes in perpetuity is an embarrassment not just to Democrats, but the American representative system of government as a whole.

If necessary, Mr. Rangel must be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law for any and all illegal conduct. Jettisoning him from his Congressional seat—and not just his committee seat—must be considered. The House even has the Constitutional authority to expel its own members by a two-thirds vote.

So what's it going to take, Congressional Democrats? The ball is in your court when it comes to Charlie Rangel. The longer he stays in the game, the more likely the GOP is going to score — and score big time.

Lose Rangel or lose. It's your call.

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**GARDENING**  
 etables (radishes, onions).

Once you have a plan and your vegetables picked out, preparing the soil will be the next step. Depending on what type of soil you have, you can do a variety of things to allow for better drainage and aeration. If the soil is clay, adding organic matter, sand or gypsum will improve it. Organic matter will also improve sandy soils. Apply 1 to 2 inches of sand and 2 to 3 inches of organic matter in late winter and early spring; then turn under 8 to 10 inches to mix thoroughly with the soil. Good types of organic matter are composted materials, grass clippings, rice hulls, and cotton hulls. Be careful though when adding organic matter not to introduce soil pest (nematodes). Never work wet garden soil; an ideal soil for planting should be granular, not powdery fine, coarse, or lumpy.

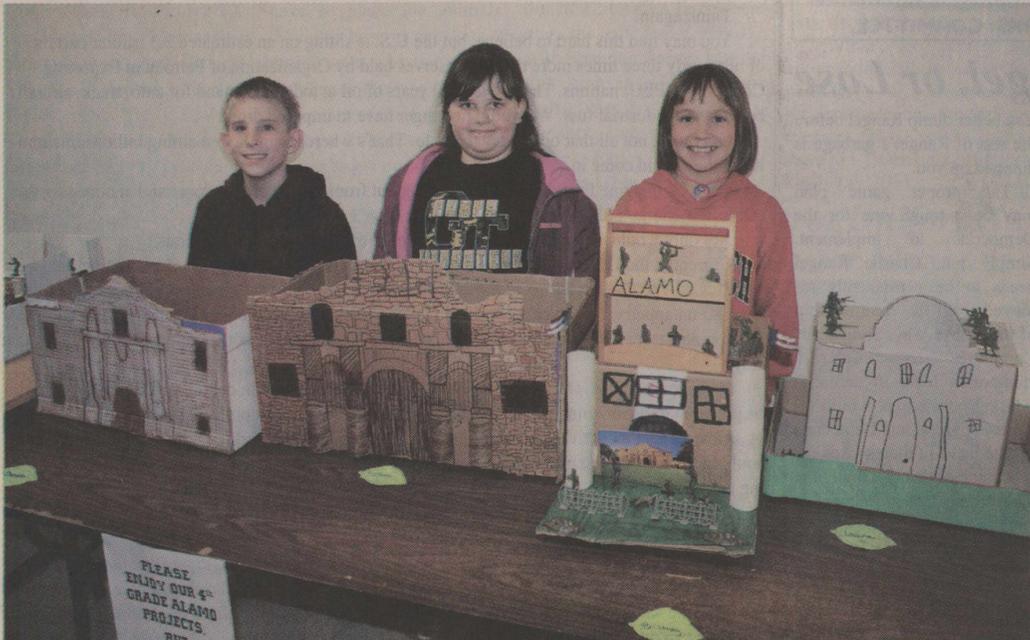
Fertilization will be the next important factor in the success of your garden. Fertilization depends a lot on the type of soil that you have. Heavy clay soils can be fertilized more at planting than sandy soils. Clay soils have more organic matter that can safely absorb and store fertilizer rather than thin, sandy soil that can burn up the plants. A good rule of thumb is if you have deep, sandy soil apply a pre-plant fertilizer of 5-10-10 or 6-12-12 at 1 to 2 lbs. per 100 square foot. If you have clay soil, apply a 10-20-10 or 12-24-12 fertilizer at the same rate. Fertilize a few days before planting by first working the garden plot, dispersing the fertilizer by hand or with a spreader, and then working the soil well to thoroughly mix fertilizer with the soil.

If possible plant the garden early in the spring and fall to allow the vegetables to receive ideal conditions. The use of transplants rather than seeds in some cases will allow for earlier maturation and longer productive periods. Be sure not to plant transplants too deep which can cause developed roots to abort or too shallow causing roots to dry out. Some vegetables can be removed from their containers while others do better if left in the container. Pouring a starter solution in the transplant hole before planting will help keep the plant from drying out and gives added nutrients to the plant. A starter solution can be made by mixing 2 to 3 cups of a 10-20-10 fertilizer in 5 gallons of water and applied at 1 to 2 pints in each hole. If planting seeds remember to cover the seed 2 to 3 times as deep as its width. Smaller seeds can be planted at about ¼ to ½ inches deep. Do not let the soil dry up to a crust after planting, but also do not over water either.

When watering apply enough to wet the soil up to 6 inches deep. Many gardens require at least 1 in. of rain or irrigation per week. Darker, heavier clay soils do not need to be watered as often as light, sandy soils. Water in the mornings if you use some type of sprinkler system to allow for the foliage to dry to prevent foliage diseases since cooler temperatures and humidity encourages these diseases. Once the garden is planted, weed and pest control along with watering are the main concerns. The best tool to use in controlling undesirable plants in the garden is a hoe. Chemical weed control can be harmful to some vegetable crops if not used right and is undesirable to use especially on a vegetable/fruit you plan on consuming. When cultivating the soil be sure not to go too deep and injure the roots. One way of reducing weeds is by using mulch. Mulch increases yields, conserves moisture, prevents weed growth, lessens soil erosion, and regulates soil temperature. Organic mulches can include straw, leaves, grass, bark, compost, and shavings. The amount of mulch you use will depend on the soil, but 1 to 2 inches of mulch should be enough.

These are just a few helpful tips that can assist you when it comes time to prepare for your yearly garden. If there are any questions on types of diseases or insect identification there are publications in the county extension office or at the Texas AgriLife Extension bookstore at <http://agrilifebookstore.org>. Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service 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 AgriLife Extension office at (940) 459-2651.

# Knox City students and the Alamo



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