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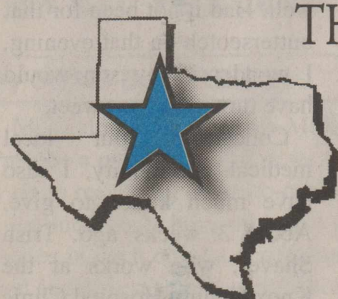


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THE

KNOX COUNTY NEWS

PROUDLY SERVING THE KNOX COUNTY AREA

8 PAGES PLUS INSERTS
VOLUME XXIX

KNOX COUNTY, TEXAS
THURSDAY, JULY 29, 2010

75 CENTS
NUMBER 40

22nd Annual Donald Johnson Watermelon Fest to be held this weekend

By Tamara Smart

It's that time again!!! The event of the year in Knox City is scheduled, vendors are ready, the museum is making their famous homemade ice cream, the chamber is cleaning the park, people are decorating bikes, golf carts, etc. for the parade, and most importantly, the smell of sweet seedless watermelon is in the air.

The 22nd Annual Donald Johnson Seedless Watermelon Festival is slated to begin this upcoming Friday evening at 7:00, as the opening parade begins their march. Everyone is welcome to participate in the parade; those entering in it need to be in front of the Knox City High School by 6:15 so officials in charge of the parade portion of the fest can start lining them up. The only requirement to be in the parade is that a participant's float, bike, etc. has to have some type of watermelon on it somewhere. This can be a picture, lights the real deal, it doesn't matter, just a watermelon!! Also, parents entering small children on bicycles need to be informed that this is a long way & please make sure that their child is capable of riding the length



Jaden Smart enjoys some of the seedless watermelon served at last year's watermelon festival.

of the parade & has an adult or older person along with them for safety issues. This year, Michelle Stanfield, who is in charge of the parade Friday night has taken it upon herself to add a new life to the parade, with new awards to be given at the end of the walk. Prizes will be awarded to participants for categories like "most decorated," "most creative," "furthest distance traveled to enter," "What were they thinking," as well as an others that may stand out of the crowd. The route will be down Main Street, up Central Ave and back to the high school in Knox City. Come early and stake out your spot to watch the silliness of the parade.

Directly after the parade, there will be the traditional Texas Street Dance at Knox City Park While most people will be unable to just sit and listen, because those dancing seem to overtake most people at the Street Dances in Knox City, people who have no intention of dancing are urged to bring a lawn chair and enjoy the music, their neighbors and an all around good time.

Saturday, July 31st, the last week of July in 201, marks the actual Festival. Marked with all-you-can-eat watermelon, "Melon \$" give-aways to local businesses, free swimming at the City Pool beginning at 1:00, booths featuring food, crafts, raffles, local horse-shoe toss playoffs, and rides by S&J amusements.

Continued on Page 8

Archived photo by Tamara Smart



2009 winner of the E. Hobbs Smith Memorial Person of the Year award, Sequoyah Renolds donned the most honorable float in last year's watermelon Fest parade. This year, the "person of the Year" is Joann Albus.

Archived photo by Tamara Smart



S&J Amusements will return to Knox City with their plethora of rides, jumpy houses and obstacle courses for the entertainment of the youth.

Archived photo by Tamara Smart



The Tom Greene Band offered up many wonderful sounds as the theme of the 21st Annual Watermelon Fest... this year is sure to be just as enjoyable.

Archived photo by Tamara Smart

Local Business Gets Burglarized

By Tamara Smart

Sometime either late Tuesday evening or early Wednesday morning, a local Knox City business was broken into, vandalized and burglarized. The perpetrators smashed a window, gaining access to the building and then proceeded to take several items from the business.

As of now, Harry Steen, Chief of Police in Knox City is working the case. He says he has several "people of In-

terest", has already questioned possible suspects, and is getting closer to finding out who the vandals are.

The local business owners requested their name be left out of the paper until the case is solved and the vandals are apprehended. Also, it should be known to the public that an award is being offered to any one who may have information, which leads to the capture, arrest and conviction of the responsible party.

Community VBS Round-up Set for Aug.1st -5th

By Tamara Smart

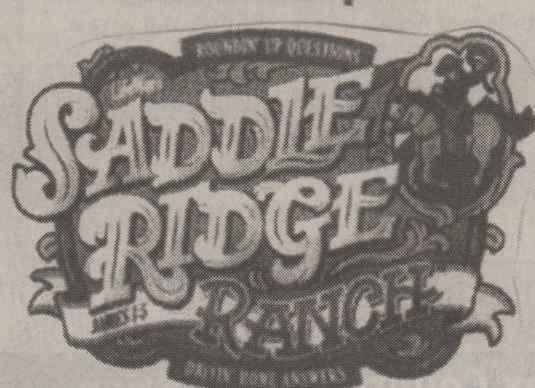
Every year, the churches of the community get together and have an all-inclusive Vacation Bible School. Last year, the theme of the Knox City VBS, "God's Big Back Yard" told tales of how god works, playing in his "big back yard", which includes all of us as his playmates.

This year, the VBS will be themed the "Saddle Ridge Ranch Round-up" where the children will be challenged to

seek in themselves who they really are, What God's plan for them is and how they can be more like Jesus. There will be games, music and have that West Texas feel. First Baptist Church of Knox City will be held in the basement of the First Baptist Church at 200 S. Central. This will be an evening event, starting nightly at 6 pm, running until 8:30pm.

For more information call Brandi Manning.

Join the roundup with



Community Wide Vacation Bible School
Hosted by First Baptist Church
Knox City
August 1st-5th
6pm-8:30pm

Meet us at the city park, Sunday, August 1st,
5:30 Registration and Hotdogs
Swimming at 6pm
(Only with Parental supervision)

The rest of the week We'll round-up at
First Baptist Church, Knox City
200 S. Central Ave.
6:00-8:30

LOOKING AHEAD

It's almost Watermelon Festival time again! Mark your calendars for the last weekend in July-The Annual Parade will be held on Friday, July 30th at 7:00 pm, and the Street Dance will start immediately after that in the City Park. The big Watermelon Fest Activity day will be July

31st, starting at 10:00 am. Free Watermelon, rides from S&J Amusements, food, clothing booths and much, much more.

The Watermelon Golf Tournament 3 person scramble is coming up on the 31st, beginning at 8:30 am. Only \$60 per team for entry. For more informa-

tion on the Golf Tourney, call Tracy Carter or the country club at 658-3911 after 6 pm.

The St. Paul Baptist Church will be collecting funds for their new building through a raffle to be held at the Watermelon Fest, as well as through a can collection drive. Any-

one with cans can donate them to the cause by simply dropping your cans off at 308 SW 4th Street in Knox City.

VBS- Knox City Community Vacation Bible School is scheduled for August 1st through 5th. This year, the First Baptist Church will host the

weeklong "Round-up" for Christ. August 1st, VBS will begin at 5:30 at the Knox City Park, with registration & hot dogs, followed by Parental Supervised Swimming. The rest of the week, the round-up will assemble at the First Baptist church of Knox City. **Continued on Page 8**



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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH – Knox City

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 –

Knox City
 Tex Cox, Pastor
 Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday Evening Classes 5:00 p.m. • Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Prayer Warriors 6:00 p.m.
 “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 am. 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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Obituary

Grady Murry

Grady Elmer Murry peacefully passed into the loving arms of his Savior and Lord on July 23, 2010 surrounded by his family.

Services will be held at 10:30 A.M., Monday, July

26, 2010, in the Sanctuary of First Baptist Church in Plainview, with Dr. Travis Hart officiating. Burial will be Monday afternoon in O'Brien Cemetery under the care of Kornerstone Funeral Directors of Plainview.

Grace? What's that?

By Marq Brocket, Pastor
 Gilliland Baptist Church

When I first received the call to minister and preach God's Word, I was clueless about some of the “expectations” that came with the job. First came the expectation of having credentials. I have no seminary degree, yet I have taken some courses and enjoy studying God's Word. Therefore...no credentials. Just Grace. Next I was asked what “word” God gave me as a theme. I had no idea what they were talking about. No theme...just Grace. Later it hit me like a lightning bolt. The Word God was trying to show me was...grace! Grace is what we all want, but some don't even know what it is or that they need this gift called grace.

I then asked myself a question: Can you be a Christian and not know about grace?

Other questions then started to flood into my mind: Is grace real?

Is grace recognizable? Has grace lost its meaning?

Has grace been misplaced? Is grace a forgotten act of God? What ever happened to talking about grace?

Is grace confused with saying a prayer before a meal? Is grace not powerful enough to affect Christian lives? How did this Christian nation of ours misplace grace? To show grace is to extend kindness to someone who doesn't deserve it and can never earn it. That is what God

did for you and I through the life, death and resurrection of His son, Jesus Christ.

It does not end there however, God expects us to offer that same grace to each other. There is a problem... how do you offer something you do not understand.

Grace is a tangible; it is real and the Scriptures bear this out.

Ephesians 4:32 says: “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Kindness and compassion should be the foundation of every Christian and forgiveness, the capstone...That is grace! Colossians 3:13 declares: “Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” Grace not shared is not true grace. We are not to be holy sponges soaking up God's Grace, we are to be channels where His love and grace overflows... Again, that is grace! John 1:17 teaches: For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. The “Laws of Moses”, or the Ten Commandments, are meant to make us see our sin. Far too many in this world stop right there and have only the idea of condemnation. As Christians, we should be living out the Grace that God is lavishing on us by sharing it with everyone we meet.

Got it yet?

Its Grace! And it is free!

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters should be no more than 200 words and can be mailed to the Knox County News 110 N Central Ave, Knox City, TX 79529. Please include your street mailing address (no P.O. boxes), daytime phone number and full name with signature. Our e-mail address is kcnews@valornet.com

EDITORIAL

(Although I am the editor of the Knox County News, I have said many times in my day to day life, I'm going to write a Letter to the Editor when a situation arose. Lately, I have thought about that statement at length and concluded that being the Editor doesn't exclude me from writing a Letter... I just have to entitle it "Dear Me".)

Dear Me:

They say it takes a village to raise a child. Being the mother/stepmother of four children (and a big, black dog), I thoroughly agree with this statement and am truly grateful that I live in the communities of Knox to help me in the rearing of my “kiddos.”

Three situations have happened to me in the last year, from when I was 8 months pregnant with my child to here in the last week, that I think it's pertinent that citizens, or those who are thinking about becoming citizens of Knox should know about and be proud of.

When I was 8 months pregnant with my now 10 month old son, Justus, I had a night where I NEEDED butterscotch (any woman who has ever had a child would understand this NEED). It was 6:50, my husband rushed me to the Knox City Lawrence Bros, we ran in, got the butterscotch, paid for it and came home to find that I had thought he had grabbed our treasure, while he thought I had picked it up.... So, no butterscotch. And it was after 7pm, the store was closed. I, being very pregnant, was amiss about the lack of ice cream topping. Not even 15 minutes later, a knock came at our door, and Stella Baxter, a checker at Lawrence Bros, had realized our mistake, picked up said butterscotch and brought it to my house. I had my ice cream and all was

well. Had it not been for that butterscotch on that evening, I wonder if my son would have turned out so sweet.

Concerning our local medical community, I also have much kudos to give. About 3 weeks ago, Trish Shaver, who works at the Knox County Hospital Clinic in Knox City became a life saver for me when trying to get certain medicines for my stepson. Going above and beyond the scope of her charge, Trish was able to not only find my son's insurance information in her system, which I could not get through his mother, she also called his doctor, found out about his refills on this particular medicine and had it called in. I was going to just pay out right for my son to see a doctor, then pay for the medicine, but because of Trish, all I had to do was pick up the medicine that he had already been prescribed.

Finally, this last week has turned another bolt in my heart solidifying my love for this community. My other step son has a hard time reading. This year he goes into the third grade, which means his first encounter with the dreaded TAKS test. In order to get him some help, I asked Marsha Quade, KC Elementary School principal for a reference, and she sent me to Carolyn Brockett, Knox City's local reading specialist. Carolyn spent 2 days with my son, testing him, playing with him and talking to him to try and find out what could help him in his reading. She then printed out the results of his test so that my husband and I can take them to his school and get him the help he needed. Mrs. Brockett gave up two days of her summer to help my kid, which is an amazing (& harrowing) act of love.

This community turns out a remarkable product when it comes to children. But do not ever be mistaken, it is not only because of the wonderful parenting, but it is because of the community which embraces each child individually.

Thank you Stella, Trish and Carolyn. And Thank you Knox.

Sincerely,
 Tamara Smart
 Editor, Knox County News

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

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

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NOTICE

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

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By Ace Reid



“They said God ain't makin' anymore land! Wul, if he messed up on the rest of it like He did this, I don't blame Him!”

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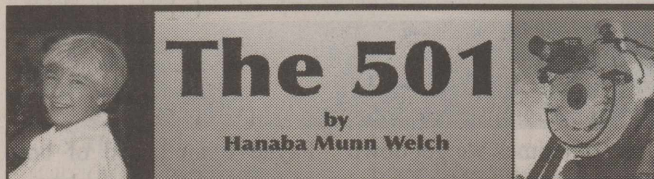
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Named for the historic FW&D Engine 501, The 501 is always exactly 501 words and dashes long, whatever the topic. Welch, a freelance writer for Blackburn Media Group, divides her time mostly between Abilene and the family farm north of Vernon.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

That's a line from a long-ago "Twilight Zone" episode. A woman underwent plastic surgery to look normal. But the surgery failed, and she remained ugly. Except she really was beautiful, and the other people were uniformly grotesque.

Happily, there was a guy who, like her, also didn't fit the norm. He was very handsome, but everybody thought he too was ugly.

Ultimately, guy and gal ended up stuck with each other, matching examples of what was considered repulsively ugly. He comforted her by looking into her eyes and saying, "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder."

And they lived happily ever after, I suppose. They had each other.

The reason I've been thinking about that series is that I now look like all the ugly people, especially my mouth.

I fell off my bicycle three nights ago, landing hard on my left elbow and my upper lip. Not good.

I was riding with one hand, holding my cell phone in the other, talking to my friend Norma. I didn't want to lose momentum as I rounded the curve in the sidewalk that skirts the soaring gothic-style Heavenly Rest Episcopal Church. I was soaring too. I couldn't remember if there was a drop-off from the sidewalk onto the asphalt parking area. There was.

At the last moment, I said something like, "Hang on, Norma. This may be rough."

Understatement.

I managed to pick myself

up, tell Norma goodbye, remount my bicycle and ride home, bleeding profusely. Picture a white-shirted matador who's been gored by the bull.

At the house, I hosed off some of the blood and used my cell phone to warn my husband I would be appearing at the back door and that there would be blood.

Having raised two other children, he took it in stride. By about 10:30 p.m. we were at the hospital emergency room.

I had changed shirts. Whether we would have seen the doctor sooner if I'd looked bloodier, I don't know. But if I had it to do over again, I wouldn't change.

They gave me a compress to apply to my upper lip, but I chose to let it bleed. Doesn't bleeding help clean a wound? For lack of treatment, it seemed like the thing to do.

At my husband's advice, I passed the time pushing my teeth back into place. The dentist confirmed later it was the right thing to do.

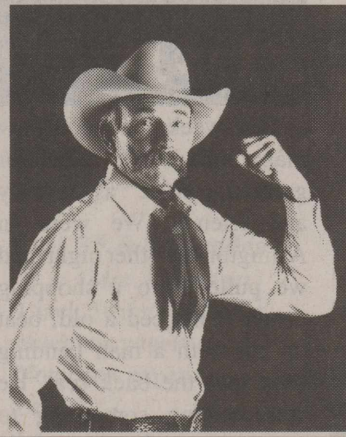
Others in the waiting room ranged from some sort of prisoner to a delightful 2-year-old who told me I had a boo-boo.

My lip wound looked like fine-ground raw hamburger meat mixed with asphalt particles.

At 3 a.m. it was finally our turn.

The doctor deftly sewed my lip back together amazingly well and fixed my elbow too. I plan to heal.

But for now, when I look in the mirror, my incredibly fat distorted lip takes me straight back to "Twilight Zone." My kind of people.



ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE by Baxter Black, DVM

THE LAST LAUGH

The owner told Warren that Della had a reputation of being hard to shoe. She was an 18 year old mare whose foals were sought after for the cutting genes she passed down. He had been offered \$50,000 for her but declined. He wanted her shod. Since Warren did the shoeing, he was chosen to confront her.

Horses have individual eccentricities. Some are cinchy, some don't like their ears touched, their bean cleaned, mane combed or feet messed with. Della did not abide any touching of her legs above the hocks. An odd quirk, probably the result of some past experience, but it was no odder than people who refuse to wear orange, politicians who can't give a straight answer, or cowboys who insist on going outside to tinkle.

To do the job meant Warren had to put himself in harm's way to hammer new iron on her feet. To aid in restraint, the owner administered a healthy dose of Acepromazine tranquilizer and they confined her in a 12 x 12 stall. Even then, with the owner on the head and Warren pushing the hip against the wall, she fought it all the way. But our boys are stubborn! They hung on as Della made three circles backwards around the stall dragging them like two lion cubs trying to take down an injured gnu!

They finally got her cranked into a corner so that Warren could delicately reach down and handle the hoof. The tranquilizer finally took the wind out of her sails and one side was done. The procedure was repeated in the other direction including the backwards whirling and the job was finished. Hallelujah.

But eventually the next time came around. When the owner said it was time to shoe her again neither he nor Warren wanted to re-enact the previous harrowing attempt.

"I'll just tie up a hind leg and let her soak," said the Boss. "Surely we're smarter than a horse!"

He used a soft 3/4 cotton foot rope to tie a no-slip loose noose around the horse's neck. Then he ran a sideline down and around one hind foot, brought it back through the loop that hung around her neck and pulled the hind foot 16" off the ground and tied it up.

They turned her loose in the arena and she proceeded to run four laps around before stopping in the center.

"She'll be sacked out pretty quick," said the owner with some authority.

The mare looked over at her two nemesis that were bent on subduing her. She gave a fluttering blow like a cornered white-tail buck. Then, as they watched in amazement, Della bent her head clear down to the rope hooked below her fetlock, bent so far that the loop around her neck slid over her head and fell to the ground.

She looked back at her two slack-jawed torturers, stepped out of the pile of rope, and blew again. Warren dropped his nippers. Score one for the horse.

Knox County Market Place

Help Wanted

Brazos Valley Care home is accepting applications for: LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSES or REGISTERED NURSES. Full and Part-time positions available. Apply in person or call Sandra Logsdon, DON for more information. 605 S. Ave F, Knox City, Texas 79529 (940) 658-3543.

The Knox County Farm Service Agency has one opening available for a temporary-full time employee. A good personality, computer knowledge, and a high school diploma (or GED) is required. Applicant selected for the position must be able to pass a background check. The Knox county FSA is located approximately 5 miles northwest of Knox City at 3950 FM 1292 STE 150 (a brown metal building west of the old plant materials center location) If interested call or see John Rector, Phone 940-658-3537. Knox County SFA is an equal opportunity employer.

New Oil Production operator needs a part time admin assistant in Knox City. Typing, computer entry, errands, phone, etc. Flexible hours in afternoon. Approx. 4 hours per day. Must be good with numbers and above average computer skills. Excel and Word are a +. Overnight travel to Duncan, Oklahoma required one day per month and Fort Worth one day per month. Must be neat and have a pleasant phone manner. Can lead to full time in 2011. Starting at \$8.75 per hour plus bonus. Email brief note about experience and/or resume to BMcElhaney2350@aol.com

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"Rolling Plains Management Corporation is seeking applicants for the position of a part-time Teacher Aide at Knox City Child Development Center in Knox City. All applicants must be at least 18 years of age and possess a high school diploma or its equivalent. Applications may be obtained by calling 1-940-657-4149. Return completed applications to Sherry Ellis, 406 East Main, Knox City, TX 79529. Applications must be received on or before Tuesday, August 3rd, 2010. Equal Opportunity Employer M/F."

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One bedroom house with stove/ refrigerator for rent. Newly remodeled. Couple or single only. Call 658-3129 after noon for more details.

For RENT: 2 bedroom, living room, & den- 1 bath. Fenced. Cellar. Call 658-3129 after noon for more details./

Garage Sale

4 Family Yard Sale. July 29th-31st, 8:30 am -? Baby Beds, swings, cribs, baby cribs, baby clothes, little bikes, and lots more. 705 E. Main Knox City.

Exa Lee's Mega Garage Sale. South of 4-K Feed Supply, Corner of South Business Hwy. 277 and Houston St., Munday, Texas. Saturday July 31, 8:00a.m.- 5:00 p.m. 30 years of collecting, everything must go!



Legal Notice

A sealed bid was received for the following property: Parcel number #8772, Account 00600-00050-

Museum News

The Wichita- Brazos Museum at Benjamin will host a program and stamp cancellation presented by the Texas Plains Trail Region on Wednesday August 18, 2010, at 10:00 A.M. The Museum is open from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M, Monday- Friday.

Deborah Sue McDonald of the Plains Trail Regional office will be present from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon to discuss such things as agri-tourism, historical preservation on a local level, and marketing local resources to attract both local and out of county people.

Individuals and representatives of county organizations are invited, as well as the public to take part in the meeting and stamp cancellation project that morning at 10:00, featuring a cancellation designed for Knox County. The stamp cancellation project will visit every county in the Texas Plains Trail Region in 2010, a region which includes counties in the Rolling Plains, the South Plains, and the Panhandle. Knox County is one of the Southeastern most counties of the Plains Trail Region.

The program is designed to encourage counties to take advantage of what it

has. For example, the Bobby Boatwright Memorial Camp of Music, conducted at the

See MUSEUM on page 6

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Sue Stephens (806) 777-8923 or
C.H. Underwood (940) 256-4204

Residential
***OPEN HOUSE**
July 31st, 2 pm - 5 pm*
• Spacious 4 BR, 2.5 bath, Brick home, prime location, 300 S. Central, Knox City-
REDUCED

• NEW- Charming, well-kept older home. 3 BR 405 SW 3rd Knox City
• NEW! Nice, brick, country home on 1.48 ac. Storage building and large modern metal barn. Fenced yard with large trees. Possible extra acreage available. 3.5 miles east of Rochester on CR 165.
• **Newly on Market-** In country, 2 acres with 2 houses. On Pavement. Quiet Setting near O'Brien.

Farms/Land
• Haskell Co.
805 AC., near Rule, 600 Ac. Cult.
• 781 AC., near Rule, Tanks, Hunting
• 654 AC., Irrigation Pivots, CONTRACT 290 AC.
• 324 AC., 1/2 irrigated, 1/2 CRP
• 300+ AC farmland. Irrigation and side roll and 165 ac. Some fenced. Two ground tanks, dove, quail, deer & turkey. Off Hwy 6- South of Rochester. Excellent for peanuts, wheat, cotton or cattle.

Commercial
• Commercial Real Estate and Equipment- Knox City- \$55,000.
• Nice Modern Restaurant, recently built. Also could be used for hunting lodge- Weinert, TX

2009 Weekly Weather Report			
Date	Temperature (F) Low / High	Rainfall inches	Snow inches
7/19	73/98		
7/20	77/98		
7/21	75/97		
7/22	76/97		
7/23	74/97		
7/24	76/97		
7/25	70/97	0.1	
Total Rainfall for month		10.72	
2010 Rainfall (ytd)		27.24	6.6

Counts Real Estate
David Counts, Broker
Marla Hawkins, Agent Patsy Gonzales, Agent
102 North Ave. A (940) 658-3390
Knox City, Texas

201 Central Ave: 3 BR brick home, CH/AC, wood burning stove, new paint & flooring, big kitchen, living room dining room combination, lots of storage inside and out. Water well, cellar, 3 car carport, metal roof, mature trees and located on 4 lots. Ready for immediate occupancy. REDUCED

701 NE 3rd Street 2000+/- sq.ft frame home. 4 BR, 2Ba, CH/AC, metal roof. New Carpet

609 S. Ave E: Split Level 4 BR, 3 Ba, Brick home. C H/AC, Fireplace, Master Suite, basement, pool, fenced yard, great location!

1109 SE 4th St.: 2BR frame home. CH/AC, Siding, corner lot.

1202 SE 4th St: 2 BR frame home, new roof, steel siding.

604 SE 4th St: 3 BR, 2B, Brick home, CH/AC, garage, great location. Needs work! Make an offer!

501 SE 3rd St.: Large brick home located on corner lot. CH/AC, 2 or 3 BR, 2 ba. Detached garage, fenced yard.

200 South 2nd St.: Large 3BR, 3 Ba, Brick home. This home features 2 master Bedrooms! Walk in Closets, CH/AC, 2 Living areas, fireplace, covered patio, plus size 2 car garage, water well, fenced yard, new paint, lots of space, lots of storage! Great neighborhood.

904 Central Ave: 3Br, 1.5Ba brick home CH/AC, bonus room, large kitchen, storm shelter.

Grand Central Avenue O'Brien: 1800+/- sq.ft brick home. CH/AC, 2 living areas, 4 BR, 3 Ba, large carport, fenced yard, cellar, great closets!

1101 E Main St: Large commercial bldg, 4000 +/- sq.ft, CH/AC, new roof, lots of parking, kitchen, bathrooms, ADA compliant, and more. Lots of potential for different use for occupancy!

HUNTING: 1900+/- featuring 12 tanks, varied terrain, small bunk house, covered patio area, barns, and lots of wildlife!

600 +/- Acres Prime Hunting land: Approximately 1 mile of Brazos river frontage, fences, corrals, water well, electricity, good roads and lots of wildlife! Motivated seller!

New Listing! 377+/- Acres with Brazos River frontage, Hwy frontage, HUNTING, farm house, some minerals.

Munday, TX: 4 BR, 2 Ba. home. C H/AC. Metal roof, covered patio, front porch. Fenced back yard, water well for the yard, nice storage bldg. \$37,000

New Listing! 1106 SE 2nd Street. 3 BR, 1 Bath home. Central H/AC freshly painted interior, updated bathroom, fenced yard, exterior storage, storm cellar, covered parking. \$27,500.00

3 Bedroom, 1 bathroom Home at 702 South Central. Move in Ready. \$36,000.

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County
News
Today!
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657-3142**

MJ Abila plays in allstar game

Tamara Smart

On Saturday, July 17th, MJ Abila represented Knox City in the AllStar Basketball Game. AllStars from all over the area came together to play the ultimate game of hoops at Lubbock Christian

University.

MJ was the only representative from the Knox area for a few reasons: one reason was that MJ had been nominated to be the District MVP during regular season play, as well he was a

graduating senior.

MJ was a captain for the Eastside Team at the Allstar game, was leading scorer, and received a new gold watch with the Six-man Coaches' Association logo on the watch.



MJ Abila represented Knox City in the AllStar Basketball game, Saturday, July 17th.

Courtesy photo

Former resident, Gutierrez joins Army

Former resident, Tony Gutierrez has joined the US Army. He currently resides in Cypress.

He is the Grandson of Nena and Whitey Gutierrez of O'Brien and Dolly and Robert Salerno of Niagara

Falls, NY.

He will be leaving for basic training Oct. 4 at Fort Jackson South Carolina.

Just Jeff

This week I noticed how many things we take for granted, such as family and friends. We were in Arlington the other night, and we pulled into a shopping center. I noticed a old, beat up car with a man bending over into the back seat. He was making something to eat. This man appeared to be was living in his car.

A few hours later, I saw a boy in a wheelchair at the Rangers game. He was maybe 10 yrs. old and had no hair. I had been arguing with my own young son, Payne, about where we would eat after the game. Not after that- after that, I gave him a hug and told him I loved him.

See, sometimes God makes us see what we do not notice or remember. My memory has been very short lately. Last October, we were in San Antonio with the band for State Contest. We were down on the river walk when a homeless teen came up and asked for something to eat. I do not go for any con games, but I will never turn down a hungry person in the need of food. This kid was really skinny, needed a bath, and had a crippled up leg.

Payne was watching the whole thing; I ask the kid what he wanted to eat. He went in a pizza by the slice place and got a slice plus a drink. I asked him if he wanted more. To which he replied, "Are you serious?" I told the boy to get all he wanted. He grabbed 3 more pieces of pizza, 2 more drinks and 2 snickers. It was like \$35 worth of stuff. I paid the bill and off he went. I look back at Payne and found a frown on his face. I asked him what was bothering him.

"Why does that kid not have any parents?" Payne inquires, "Or money?"

When I explained to Payne that the boy is homeless, it really upset him. I explain

that sometimes we get down on our luck and we need help.

Later, I got to feeling bad for not giving the kid more money, or offering to let him use my phone to call his parents. We got back to the hotel and Payne comes in by the bed and is about in tears again. I ask him, "What is wrong?"

"That kid," Payne says, "I keep thinking about me having all this stuff, food, warm bed, clothes and 2 parents who take care of me and love me. I just don't know why I am so lucky and not him?"

And I realized then that the \$35 that I spent did 4 people a great service, the young man who was hungry, Payne for seeing a valuable lesson on life, and my wife, Michelle & myself for knowing we have a young son who cares about others and thinks enough of others to help. Payne so far has been pretty easy to raise.

As for our other son, Zach... well not so much, this is the same kid who snuck out of the house before his curfew and gets caught. I mean, really, who sneaks out before you are supposed to be home? One day Zach was guiding a duck hunt, when the client who is a very important customer fell down in knee-deep water. He fell face first and come up with waders full of water, and a mouth full of mud. The guys that work for this man where just shocked. They where even more shocked because Zach was laughing and pointing. Zach later tells me this story at lunch. I ask him, why did you laugh? Zach answered very obviously, "Because it was funny."

See, Zach treats everyone the same. He would have laughed if it had been me, the man who owned the company, or the man who cleans his toilet. Zach and

Payne I am proud of both of you and hope you have a great last week of summer.

Last week me and the family went to Lubbock and met Andy and the daughter-in-law Jessy Schur, for Michelle's b-day. We went to a Steakhouse La Brisa on 114th. I have told you before if you want food advice come to a fat guy, Well I am telling you it is good, the filet is perfect, the buffalo rib eye with crawfish mac n cheese, and some kind of southwest mash potatoes will make your slap your momma. Later, dessert was bananas foster and ice cream. The bananas where perfect, but you could cook a dog turd with enough brandy, caramel and vanilla that it might eat.

Are there any good singles guys out there, if you know any then set me up, That was the words from Marilyn at the Moeller-Adams wedding last week. So if you know any let Marilyn know she is looking for a guy with lots of money, she said age and eyesight were not real important.

The citizen of the week is Romain Stubbs, Romain is a lifetime Knox City resident. Romain has been a fixture in downtown for years at the Art Stall. The Art Stall was the first business I ever went into in Knox City. I met Romain and her nosy daughter Shea on my first visit and have been friends with them since. If you see Romain at the Watermelon Festival this weekend tell her hi, I am betting you will find her chasing after one of Shea's kids.

Watermelon festival is this weekend, come out and support KC at the parade or festival.

American by the grace of God and Texan by choice. How is all that Hope and Change thing working out for you?

Jeff Stanfield jstanfield@windstream.net

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SHERIFF'S OFFICE**
SHERIFF DEAN W. HOMSTAD
PO BOX 257 BENJAMIN, TEXAS 79505
Tel (940) 459-2041 Fax (940) 459-2016

FILED FOR RECORD
22 Day of July 2010
District & County Clerk, Knox County, Texas
Sheriff's Office

ESTRAY
NOTICE OF IMPOUNDMENT OF ESTRAY
On the 21 day of July, 2010,
I impounded the following estray:

Kind of Animal/or Fowl cattle
Breed Angus
Color Black
Sex Bull
Age 3-5 year
Size 1700 lbs

Brand, Marks, Identifying Characteristics
Diamond F-Left Shoulder, yellow ear tag - 1st ear
and, on the 22 day of July, 2010,
I filed a Notice of Estray in the Estray Book of Knox
County, Texas.

I have made a diligent search of the register of recorded brands in Knox County, Texas, for the owner of said estray, and contacted local owner of exotic fowl but the search did not reveal the owner.

Notice is hereby given that, if the ownership of said estray is not determined by the 7th day of August, 2010, said estray will be sold at public auction/sheriff's sale at Dummitt + North Stewart Street Benjamin, Tx

Witness my hand this 22 day of July, 2010.
Dean W. Homstad
Sheriff of Knox
County, Texas

Notes: 1 copy Newspaper 1-copy Bulletin Board
Prepare in 4 copies: 1-copy County Clerk 1-copy Sheriff File

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Benjamin school supply lists

Pre-Kindergarten
(Mrs. Cartwright)
2 boxes of 8 crayons 1 pair
of scissors (rounded tip)
2 large glue sticks
1 bottle of Elmers school
glue
1 large eraser
1 box of Kleenex
1 large bath towel
1 plastic crayon box
Backpack

Kindergarten
(Mrs. Heard)
2 boxes of crayons (16 or 24
count)
2 boxes of colored pencils
1 pair of scissors
2 large glue sticks
1 bottle of school glue

1 large eraser
1 box Kleenex
1 large bath towel
1 plastic crayon box
Backpack

1st & 2nd grade
(Mrs. Jones & Mrs. Acree)
Pencils (a never-ending
supply- or 4 to start with)
Scissors, preferably Fiskars
Ruler, 12 inch
Crayolas—the more colors,
the more fun
Glue- any kind that sticks
Spiral Notebook for spelling
work
Pocket folders with brads- 6
School Box to keep supplies
in
Package of index cards

(3x5)
Large eraser
Box of tissues

3rd & 4th grades
(Mrs. McGreger)
1 inch 3-ring binder for
notebook paper
Notebook paper
Pencils
Large Eraser
Crayons
Crayola Magic Markers
(classic color)
Elmers Glue (not gel)
Fiskars pointed scissors
Ruler with inches and
centimeters
Large box of tissues
2 single subject spiral
notebooks

5 pocket folders with brads

5th & 6th grades
(Mrs. Jones & Mrs.
McGreger)

Two 1-inch ring binders for
notebook paper
Notebook paper
Pencils
Erasers
Personal Pencil Sharpener
Highlighter
1 black regular tip sharpie
pen
Glue
Scissors
Colored pencils
5 pocket folders with brads
2 spiral notebooks (single
subject)
Dividers

BENJAMIN NEWS

By Gladene Green

Can you believe it? We're heading into the last week of July & fast into the month of school beginning for another year. The summer has flown by- I bet the teachers and student sure think it has!

Nothing new in our ill friends so maybe no news is good news. At least, hopefully everyone is holding their own and that is always good to know.

Here 'N There

Stasia Propps & Cody & Cody's friend, Toni Brown of Rochester visited Stasia's mom & her husband, Jimmie Kay & Don Liles who live near Lindale a few days last week.

Charles & Linda Griffith spent several days last week in New Orleans, Louisiana. They had a good time sight seeing and visiting their grandson who is in Law School at Tulane.

Nafeesa Ebraheim & Samijo Russell spent several days last week with Nafesa's grandmother, Katrina & her husband in Killeen.

Mike & Debbie Moorhouse had grandkids Dillon & Randi Johnson of Amarillo & their niece, Ashlee Evans of Childress with them Sunday last week. They had lots of fun running around, swimming & just resting.

Karen Byrd who lives in Rochester wants her mom's friends to know she is now residing in the Munday Nursing Center. Her mom is Jo Evelyn Patterson & well known all over the area. She suffered a stroke 4 or 5 weeks ago & has been hospitalized in Abilene until last

week. She seems to be making some progress & the family invites anyone who is in Munday to go by & see her. Surely, we pray Jo Evelyn continues to improve.

Aerial Gideon of Gilbert, Arizona left today (Sun) after a week's visit with relatives & friends. She is the daughter of Oscar & Shannon & her grandparents are Jane Gideon & Weldon Gideon.

Judy Barnett told us today that her aunt, Corrine Parrish, is still having back & hip problems. Corrine is active & doesn't take to being "slowed down" too well. But hopefully, she will begin to feel better soon.

Helen Green called to say her brother, James Coppedge of College Station is doing well since some knee surgery last Mon. better soon. The surgery was necessary for a problem caused from a football injury he received in high school. He's out of the hospital and n a walker now but will "graduate" to a cane in a few days. James has battled cancer several years but is doing o.k. with it right now. He plans to retire in Dec, & take life easy for a while. Helen says she bets that lifestyle will get old pretty quick. We are certainly glad to hear he's doing well.

Wes and Erica Holmes were in Shreveport, Louisiana a few days last week for Wes to attend a Hunters Expo. Wes is a hunting guide during hunting season & this show was to do with his work. Their daughters, Jayden & Jacy divided their time between grandparents at O'Brien & Rochester while their parents were away.

Subscribe Today!

CITATION BY PUBLICATION – Rule 114 & 101 – Rules of Civil Procedure

CLERK OF THE COURT

Annette Offutt, Clerk
50th District Clerk
Box 196
Benjamin, Texas 79505

Attorney: DAVID W. HAJEK
50th District Attorney
Box 508
Seymour, Texas 76380

THE STATE OF TEXAS

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorneys do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty two days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."

To: Miriam Estrada, Respondent, Greeting:

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Petitioner's petition at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this citation, the same being Monday the 16th of AUGUST, 2010, at or before 10 o'clock a.m., before the 50th District Court of Knox County, at the Courthouse in Benjamin, Texas.

Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed on APRIL 8, 2010 in this case, numbered 9300 on the docket of said court; and styled THE STATE OF TEXAS VS. THIRTEEN THOUSAND SIX-HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE DOLLARS (\$13, 653.00)

The names of the parties to the cause are as follows: THE STATE OF TEXAS are Plaintiffs and MIRIAM ESTRADA are Defendants.

A brief statement of the nature of the suit is as follows, to-wit: PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL NOTICE OF SEIZURE AND INTENDED FORFEITURE as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and the Seal of said Court, at office in Benjamin Texas, on July 2, 2010.

ATTEST: Annette Offutt, District Clerk
Knox County, Texas

By: Shannon Propps, Deputy
Shannon Propps



THIS COPY OF PETITION
WAS POSTED ON
THE 5 DAY OF July 2010
SHERIFF, KNOX COUNTY, TEXAS

Legal Notice

CITY OF KNOX CITY

TEXAS COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
GRANT PROGRAM

CONTRACT NUMBER
728530

FINAL PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Knox City will conduct a final public hearing on its 2008 Texas Community Development Block Grant Program, on August 3, 2010 at 5:15 P.M. The meeting will be held at the City Hall, 902 E. Main Street, Knox City, Texas. Topics to be discussed are completion of sewer improvements and expenditure of grant and local funds.

The City encourages recipients of the project as well as other interested citizens to participate in the hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and comments to Barbara Rector, City Administrator. Handicapped individuals that wish to attend this meeting should contact the City Hall to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact the City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If anyone interested in attending the public hearing requires a translator, please contact the City Hall office prior to the public hearing so arrangements may be made. All written comments will be addressed in writing within fifteen days after public hearing.

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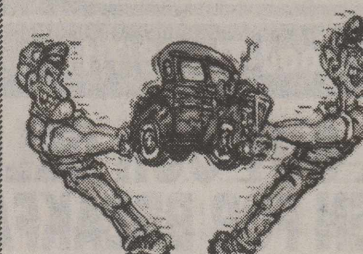


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Watermelon Festival Time

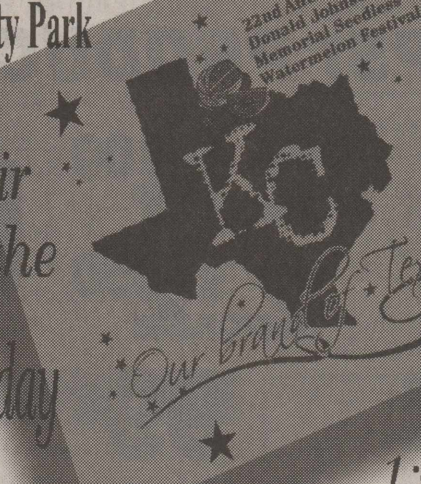
Friday Nite July 30th & 31st Saturday
7:00 pm Downtown Parade
8:00 pm Street Dance at City Park
10:00 am

Bring
a lawn chair
Come listen to the
music

Friday Nite & Saturday

City Park

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Carnival Rides

Knox City
Texas

MUSEUM

former Goree School in Goree in July 2010. It has been held the previous nine years on a ranch. Since the Goree School building is now the property of the City of Goree, the camp took advantage of an opportunity to expand its outreach with a new facility. The camp name, Bobby Boatwright, honors a local man who played the fiddle with many well known western music groups.

The Aug. 18 meeting will give Knox County residents the opportunity to hear about what other counties are doing and to exchange ideas with people from all over Knox County.

There will also be a chance to see the "Schools of Knox County exhibits" featuring current and closed schools of Knox County. The Knox County School quilt will be on display, its 44 blocks honor almost all Knox County Schools from 1886 to 1992. The school themed exhibit follows exhibits about the history of Knox County communities, part of a plan to keep people interested in the Wichita Brazos Museum by changing exhibits each year, using what is available on local history but with different themes.

The Texas Plains Trail program at Benjamin, Wednesday, August 18, is not the only museum related activity coming up.

The Museum will have a homemade ice cream booth at the Knox City Watermelon Festival on Saturday, July 31.

On September 11th, the annual Museum garage sale will be at the Perry Patton Center at Munday. It is an offbeat example of the Plains Trail promotion of, "use what you have to promote your locality". We have items that turn into a buyer's treasure, that result in supporting a museum that keeps local history alive.

Truscott News

The weather lately has been July-like, hot, dry, with some clouds floating around, but people are complaining about more and more sun baked soil and a need for rain.

The Truscott reunion will be held Saturday September 4th, at the Truscott Community Center.

The Center will open at 10 a.m., the reunion meal will be catered and served at 12 noon. The center will be open as long as people want to visit.

The meal will be \$10 per plate. Those planning to attend are asked to make a reservation by calling Jerry Bob Daniel at 1-920-474-3333 or Gordon Bell at 1-940-474-3303. Reservation can also be made by email to Daniel at jbdaniel@hughes.net or to Bell at gwbell@srcaccess.net.

Since the reunion will be catered it will be helpful if reservations are made as soon as possible to ensure plenty of food for all those attending. There are plenty of trailer connections available at Truscott, for those, contact Dani.

Last Saturday, several from Truscott attended a program at Copper Breaks State Park, north of Crowell near the Pease River. Those visiting the park museum and flint Knapping included, Jamie and Danna Alexander

if Kilgore and their 4 boys, Ruth Lowrance and Irma Bell.

Jamie is the son of Randy Alexander and Jamie's oldest son. He spent the summer working on the Circle Bar Ranch.

Glen Jones of Paducah sent the column, a clipping from Clovis, New Mexico New Journal. It says that Edith and Elvy Smith of Las Cruces will celebrate their 8th wedding anniversary June 24, 2010. They were married June 24th, 1942 at Truscott, Texas. Both are retired schoolteachers from Clovis schools.

A working ranch cutting horse contest at the Circle Bar Ranch one Saturday, this July was another successful project supporting the Truscott Community Center, reported Eugenie Daniel Monday morning.

Joyce Williams of Floydada was at the Jones Ranch over the weekend. Friday she and her sister, Clara Brown, went to Seymour to buy a new cook stove for the ranch. Sunday they had lunch at Crowell at Taters. They enjoyed sitting at a table with Faye Black Carroll and her son, Don Johnson, and his fiancé.

For additional information about the reunion contact the Truscott Community Foundation at 1620 FM Rd 756 West, Truscott, Texas.

USDA announces conservation reserve program general sign-up

WASHINGTON, D.C. — July 26, 2010 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that a general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will begin on August 2, 2010 and continue through August 27, 2010. During the sign-up period, farmers and ranchers may offer eligible land for CRP's competitive general sign-up at their county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office. The 2008 Farm Bill authorized USDA to maintain CRP enrollment up to 32 million acres. Jim Miller, Agriculture Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services, made the announcement on behalf of Secretary Vilsack during a conference call with reporters.

"America's farmers and ranchers play an important role in improving our environment, and for nearly 25 years, CRP has helped this nation build sound conservation practices that preserve the soil, clean our water, and restore habitat for wildlife," said Miller. "Today's announcement will help us create a greener and healthier America, and I encourage all interested farmers and ranchers to contact their local FSA office to learn more how to take advantage of this opportunity."

To help ensure that interested farmers and ranchers are aware of the sign-up period, USDA has signed partnership agreements with several conservation and wildlife organizations, which will play an active role in USDA's 2010 CRP outreach efforts. Additionally, Secretary Vilsack has recorded two public service announcements, which are available to the press and public at www.fsa.usda.gov/psa.

CRP is a voluntary program that assists farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers to use their environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolling in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers in exchange for rental payments, cost-share, and technical assistance. CRP protects millions of acres of America's topsoil from erosion and is designed to improve the nation's natural resources base. Participants voluntarily remove environmentally sensitive land from

agricultural production by entering into long-term contracts for 10 to 15 years. In exchange, participants receive annual rental payments and a payment of up to 50 percent of the cost of establishing conservation practices.

By reducing water runoff and sedimentation, CRP also protects groundwater and helps improve the condition of lakes, rivers, ponds and streams. Acreage enrolled in the CRP is planted to resource-conserving vegetative covers, making the program a major contributor to wildlife population increases in many parts of the country. As a result, CRP has provided significant opportunities for hunting and fishing on private lands.

Land currently not enrolled in CRP may be offered in this sign-up provided all eligibility requirements are met. Additionally, current CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall covering about 4.5 million acres may make new contract offers. Contracts awarded under this sign-up are scheduled to become effective Oct. 1, 2010.

FSA implements CRP on behalf of Commodity Credit Corporation. FSA will evaluate and rank eligible CRP offers using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) for environmental benefits to be gained from enrolling the land in CRP. The EBI consists of five environmental factors (wildlife, water, soil, air and enduring benefits) and cost. Decisions on the EBI cutoff will be made after the sign-up ends and after analyzing the EBI data of all the offers.

Those who would have met previous sign-up EBI thresholds are not guaranteed a contract under this sign-up. In addition to the general sign-up, CRP's continuous sign-up program will be ongoing. Continuous acres represent the most environmentally desirable and sensitive land. For more information, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp>.

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

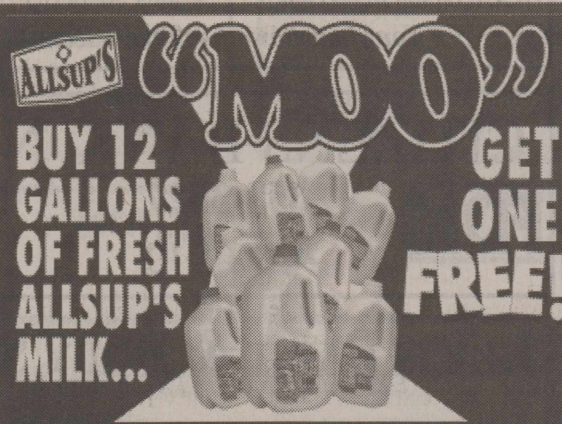
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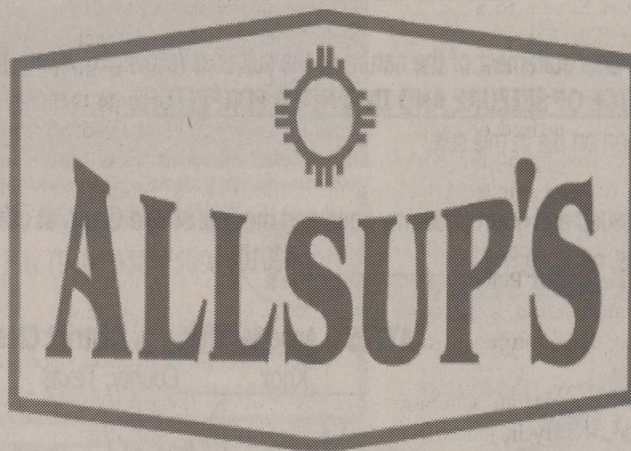
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OPINION



The Paperboy

We want your help!

By **CHRIS BLACKBURN**

My vision for Blackburn Media Group newspapers is this: Provide a product full of news from your town and area you want to read from cover-to-cover.

I want them to have exclusive stories and business-oriented stories in each edition accompanied with pertinent information and coverage of events. Those of you living and working in these towns as well as those of you that have moved off, can become interactive and vital in this process.

I'm sure many of you have heard of Facebook. If you do enjoy Facebook and would like to help your local newspaper, we're establishing something new to enhance our coverage.

On Facebook, your local newspaper has a page. We are asking that you readers out there in the know find your newspapers' page and befriend it.

Believe it or not, some of you are pretty good at covering a variety of events in your towns and we want to use your coverage of local events in the newspaper.

As you may or may not know, producing a newspaper each week is expensive. We cannot afford to have a reporter at every event taking place. However, due to the technological climate in which we live, anyone with a decent digital camera

and a computer can interact with us and help us provide coverage of the area.

We welcome any coverage of any event you can think of. From family reunions to piano recitals, we want you to help us make your paper local from cover-to-cover. Even what you may think as trivial might be very interesting to some.

As this builds, there may be a time when everything submitted fails to make the print edition. Those items can still be viewed on our Facebook pages and we will place new content which has not run in the print edition online on the newspaper's respective websites.

We will gladly give you shutter-bugs and writers credit for the help and you will be doing a tremendous service to your community as well.

The bottom line is for us is to be the news source you want us to be and the place everyone goes to learn what is happening in your town. We also want to be the place to go when you need to know where to get that flat changed or that air conditioner fixed, so the added content should aid the other very important aspect of the business - our advertisers.

You may be wondering why the push for information from Facebook? Because most people in your community will never see Facebook. In rural America, only about 1 in 6 is online.

It may seem more because of how we communicate with cell phones and the rapid access to information, but many don't have any desire to go online.

By participating and interacting with us, those that are wired can help keep those who are not just as informed.

The Knox County News was our guinea pig in this endeavor and it his having wonderful interaction.

For those of you interested, here are the Facebook pages to look for:

- Knox County News - Knox County, Texas.
- The Wellington Leader - Collingsworth County, Texas.
- The Hollis News - Harmon County, Okla.
- The Altus Aviator - Jackson County, Okla.
- Childress Index - Childress County, Texas.
- The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon - Floyd County, Texas.
- The Post Dispatch - Garza County, Texas.
- The Hall County Herald - Hall County, Texas.

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

Elena Kagan and the Empty Constitution

By **RICK MANNING**

"There is a widespread doctrine that the Constitution's underlying purpose - protection of individual rights to life, liberty, and property - has no legitimate role in interpreting the document's language," writes Tom Bowden, a legal analyst with the Ayn Rand Center. "This view, pioneered by Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., in the early twentieth century and prevalent among judges today, holds that the Supreme Court presides over an empty Constitution - empty of purpose, of moral content, of enduring meaning - bereft of any embedded principles defining the relationship between man and the state.

"In recent hearings, Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan confirmed her allegiance to this modern orthodoxy.

"Kagan's views came out under clumsy questioning from Sen. Tom Coburn, an Oklahoma Republican and religious conservative. Coburn's questions mixed together several ideas: that individuals have natural rights--that those rights pre-exist the Constitution--that such rights are God-given--and that those rights include owning guns for self-defense.

"Inquiries about man's natural rights are irrelevant to her fitness for the Supreme Court, she testified, because they are 'outside the Constitution and the laws.' As such, she told Coburn, 'you should not want me to act in any way on the basis of such a belief.'

"What would it mean for such a judge to abide by Kagan's view of conscientious judging? It would mean deliberately setting aside all these facts as mere personal views, 'outside the

Constitution and the laws.' It would mean following Justice Holmes in treating the Constitution as a document 'made for people of fundamentally differing views.' It would mean acting as if any political viewpoint with electoral clout--be it capitalism, communism, socialism, fascism, Muslim totalitarianism, Christian fundamentalism, or some other ideology--has an equal constitutional right to shape American law for its own purposes, while the Supreme Court sits idly by.

"This is an important issue--more important even than Kagan's views on the Twilight film series. It's a shame that our senators are not up to the task of making allegiance to our nation's founding purpose a litmus test for confirming a Supreme Court nominee."

Support the troops Pay Them

By **RICK MANNING**

Nancy Pelosi, Harry Reid and Barack Obama are playing a game of chicken with the paychecks of our men and women who are in harm's way defending our nation, and it needs to stop.

Pelosi and her crew of future unemployed politicians failed to get the Senate to agree to their proposal to add \$10 billion more in deficit exploding spending on behalf of local teacher unions into the defense bill. Amazingly, even with all of their sophisticated polling, Pelosi still hasn't gotten the message that Americans are tired of politics as usual. Americans are tired of Congress larding on the pork and earmarks onto must pass legislation to fund our troops. Apparently, the reasons behind her Congress' 11 percent approval rating are lost on Speaker Pelosi.

The Senate is commended for partially getting the message in their rejection of Pelosi's \$10 billion teacher union bailout. But the Senate version is far from clean including such non-defense items as: agriculture subsidies, foreign aid, and reforestation spending.

This isn't just an academic exercise. Our fighting men and women are truly in jeopardy if this emergency appropriation is not passed by the end of July. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has identified the beginning of August as a drop dead timeline for getting the emergency appropriation passed before salaries may not get paid. In an early July article, Gates stated that "stu-

pid" cuts will begin occurring by mid-July in order to keep the troops funded. Additionally, General David Petraeus has called the supplemental, "essential" for the conduct of this mission.

In August, while Pelosi, Reid and Obama vacation away from Washington, our troops families will be going without paychecks, if the negligent trio don't get off the dime and do their jobs.

But it isn't only about military pay checks, the supplemental also includes emergency money for purchasing a little necessity called ammunition.

That's right, Nancy Pelosi has been willing to risk letting our brave men and women in arms go without paychecks and ammunition in order to try to get a few coins into her union boss masters' pockets.

It is rare for Americans for Limited Government to call for government spending, but if our leaders believe that deploying our military and fighting wars is in our national interest, they have a basic responsibility to fund them, and not leave them unpaid and unarmed. To do otherwise is immoral.

The deadline to do the right thing is rapidly approaching — August recess. Congress is scheduled to take their annual five week summer vacation beginning at the end of July. They have had this emergency supplemental in front of them since June, and yet once again have drawn out the process making it a last minute crisis rather than dealing with it responsibly.

A reasonable person might ask why Pelosi and Reid put our

troops at risk by continuing in their attempts to use the war as a means of passing other deficit exploding spending measures. The answer lies in arcane federal budgeting rules that allow "emergency spending" to not have to be offset with other cuts or tax increases.

If \$10 billion to bail out the education establishment can be shoved into an "emergency" appropriation, it is like if a husband put his purchases on an already overextended credit card. He doesn't have to choose whether to buy the new dress suit or shoes, he gets to buy both, and in this case, send the bill to his kids to pay.

The decision to borrow to pay for the costs of wars is supported by precedent as war bonds have been used extensively throughout our nation's history.

However, our nation can no longer afford the relatively new phenomena of turning the needs of our troops in the field into a special interest Christmas tree.

In this year alone, Pelosi, Reid and Obama have rung up a projected \$1.47 trillion in debt with their various spending schemes and faulty stimulus packages. Now, it is time that they stop playing politics, pay our troops through a clean war supplemental, and then cut up their credit cards.

Our troops need to be funded, but future generations should not be saddled with paying for any more election year goodies for their political allies.

Taking What is Not Yours

By **REBEKAH RAST**

The federal government has an insatiable spending appetite. Most Americans already know that. But it appears to have an insatiable land-grabbing appetite as well.

"The Obama Administration has a lot of ideas when it comes to deciding what to do with other people's private property," says Bill Wilson, president of Americans for Limited Government (ALG).

Don't be fooled by Obama's plan for America's Great Outdoors Initiative. The claims are more land is in need of protection and more American's should have the benefit of seeing the great outdoors in their natural state, but the government already owns 1 out of every 3 acres in the U.S. — 1 out of every 2 acres in the West, says Congressman Rob Bishop (R-UT), a member on the Natural Resources Committee and ranking member on the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands.

There is no end in sight to how much more land this current Administration seems to want. Claiming the need to create ecosystems throughout America, the National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service hope to extend their political boundaries and expand to privately owned land.

These organizations need the help of the Department of Interior, which ironically enough, is the only federal government department that holds the power of eminent domain.

Never mind that the 5th amendment in the Constitution of the United States reads, "No person shall be... deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." Instead, the government is working to a different end, hoping to circumvent Congress and put to practice the Antiquities Act and Endangered Species Act to complete its mission.

With the federal government already owning

about one-third of the land in the U.S., where is the money coming from to take care of these lands?

The truth is, there isn't enough money flowing out of the Department of Interior to support the budgets needed for the BLM or NPS.

"In order to keep up existing parks it would take billions of dollars we don't have," says Richard Pombo, former Chairman on the House Committee on Natural Resources.

The NPS claims it would need about \$9.5 billion just to clear its backlog of the necessary improvements and repairs. At a time when our existing national parks are suffering, it doesn't make sense for the federal government to grab new lands. How does the government expect to fund any of its new acquisitions?

On July 15, 2010, the Consolidated Land, Energy and Aquatic Resources Act (CLEAR Act) of 2009, passed in the Natural Resources Committee. This legislation, which was to deal with the oil spill crisis in the Gulf of Mexico, contains plans for the federal government to acquire more land.

In a speech on the House floor after the bill passed in Committee, Congressman Louie Gohmert (R-TX) pointed out that a provision tucked inside the CLEAR Act allows the federal government to spend \$900 million a year to purchase private land over the next 30 years.

"This is a new way to fund the Department of Interior and satisfy its need for more land," says Congressman Bishop. He also points out that none of this money would go to maintaining the land the government already owns, but only would provide funding for the acquisition of "treasured lands."

As if restricting use on about 30 percent of the total land mass in the U.S. wasn't enough, about 108 million acres owned by the government are labeled wilderness areas. Former Congressman Pombo explains that inside a wilderness area, no motorized activity is allowed. While some restricted federal lands might let you go four-wheeling or snowmobiling, wilderness areas do not.

This poses a problem because state economies aren't able to prosper off the federally owned land contained in their own state by ways of real estate, mining natural resources, or even for building schools. Instead, they are told by the government that they will reap the benefits of tourism, former Congressman Pombo says. But when the area is so restricted that certain recreational activities aren't permitted, tourism to these lands takes a hit and so does the economy of the state.

"When the federal government owns the land, we can't fund schools or pay teachers — people don't have jobs — people in Washington, D.C., don't have to live in those conditions. They don't understand the consequences," says Rep. Bishop, because most of the land grabbing is in the Western part of the U.S.

Former Congressman Pombo echoes those concerns. "The Eastern states don't understand, people in the West do," he says. "The government owns about half of California, people don't know that."

And yet that's still not enough for the government. And who can stop it?

Chuck Cushman, executive director of the American Land Rights Association located in Washington State, has dedicated his life to stopping federal land grabs.

"Our job is to protect private property and private land from being taken over by the government," says Cushman.

Cushman got his start 35 years ago when the NPS tried to take his house, which was near Yosemite National Park. "We stopped them and we formed an organization."

He has had many successes over the years. His organization has helped individuals, communities and other organizations fight against their private lands being taken by the government in states like Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. "We help people locally. We teach them how to fight back."

"Most local groups confuse emotion with ac-

tion," he goes on to say. "Most groups understand the problem but not the solution. We show them the solution."

Cushman says the solution is people — activists. "People need to get lists together and get them motivated to take action." Cushman has a rolodex of several million names. That is his best weapon against government land grabs — and it has worked well for him.

It is a continuing battle that isn't letting up. Cushman understands his rights as a property owner and doesn't buy into the government's agenda of roping off more land to create ecosystems.

"This Administration has largely ceded control of the environment to environmental groups," Cushman says. "The enemy is the landowner and people who use land for agriculture, mining and recreation."

Pombo agrees and goes on to say, "They are appeasing their political supporters. That's all it is. They have gone so far as to making public lands off limits."

Despite consequences of destroyed local economies, higher unemployment, over population of breeds and lack of money for upkeep, the federal government is hell bent on restoring heavily rich land to unusable ecosystems.

"It is a silly idea that land has to be wild and free," says Rep. Bishop.

ALG's Wilson concurs and adds, "The idea of returning land back to its original state before people walked the earth is simply an attack on humanity. The government already has control of more land than it can take care of. Enough is enough."

Throughout America's history, citizens of this country have fought for what is theirs. If the government thinks it can take more of what constitutionally belongs to its people, it won't happen without a fight. How wrong and corrupt a government must be that it would seize the private property of its citizens and cordon it off to serve no further purpose.

Watermelon Go Kart Races July 24th at the Knox City Go Kart Track



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Young Guns

1.	5 Corey Mize	584
2.	8 Payton Sullivan	511
3.	00 Peyton Hammond	492
4.	4 Cassidy Mize	442
5.	B00 Corban Cox	243
6.	22 Nathan Robbins	120

Black Plate Animal / Blue Plate Clone

1.	26 Charlie Hammond	838
2.	K11 Kadee Witter	514
3.	5 Brayden Sullivan	197

Intek / Clone

1.	74 Maddison Jones	615
2.	88 Collin Gann	359
3.	4 Ayden Fields	294
4.	18 Austin Fields	273
5.	48 Damon Bell	165
6.	20 Blake Andrus	162
7.	k11 Jayce Hudson	120
8.	31	103
9.	14 Courtland Teague	90
10.	5 Kelly Gunn	78
11.	1 Kassi Gunn	59

Gold Plate Animal

1.	01 Ranger Donnell	815
2.	21 Sidney Tucker	699
3.	16 Evan Donnell	532
4.	45 Will Harper	520
5.	33 Wesley Engle	242

Stock Animal

1.	77 Jayce Hudson	666
2.	k11 Kassidi Witter	629
3.	74 Landon Haney	591
4.	7 Brayden Winn	543
5.	15 Cade Holden	415
6.	17 Patrick Knight	342
7.	11 Grayson Robinson	278
8.	1x Dalton Gann	149
9.	20 Devin Costello	104
10.	88 Tristen Adams	76

Modified

1.	98 Leighton Pepper	583
2.	88 Ashleigh Downs	414
3.	21d Dalyn Droke	200
4.	20 Jennifer Overfield	110
5.	77 Jayce Hudson	104
6.	007 JR Vaughn	93

125cc

1.	17 Patrick Knight	239
2.	52 Brayden Voigt	104

250/500cc

1.	25 Mike Clark	120
2.	11 Mark Reed	102
3.	22 Shane Simmons	92

Stock Mower

1.	24 Justin Cook	223
2.	11 Bradley James	120

Modified Mower

1.	99 Bill Cook	120
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LOOKING AHEAD

City from 6:00pm- 8:30pm.

O'Brien Baptist Church will have a day long Vacation bible School on August 7th, starting at 9:00 a.m. and not closing until after a Worship rally at 5:00 pm. After the VBS is over, that evening at 6:00pm there will be a hamburger supper for the entire family. Registration will be on August 6th, the day before the all day VBS, from 6:00- 7:30 at the Knox City Pool.

Summer is winding to a close- Knox County schools all reconvene for the Fall Semester on August 23rd.

Looking forward to the Liberty Church 16th Homecoming/ 85th Anniversary Celebration will take place Sept. 4th & 5th, 2010. At the Liberty Church at 302 Aspen Street. The festivities will include Games, a Musical, Church anniversary Service, Fellowship, and much more. Make sure you mark your calendar- Everyone is invited to attend.

WATERMELON FEST

The festival in the park kicks off at 10:00 a.m. and runs through out the day.

The coinciding Watermelon Golf Tournament 3 person scramble also will take place on Saturday, July 31st, beginning at 8:30 am. It is only \$60 per team for entry. For more information on the Golf Tourney, call Tracy Carter or the country club at 658-3911 after 6 pm.

This is the Knox City

Chamber of Commerce's big annual event, and assuredly a great time is to be had. Those who have never experienced a Knox City Watermelon Festival are missing out, so make sure this is one to attend. It's fun for small kids; big kids and grown-ups who want to remember what it is like to be a kid again.

For more information call the Knox City Chamber of Commerce at 940-658-3442.

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