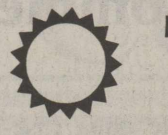
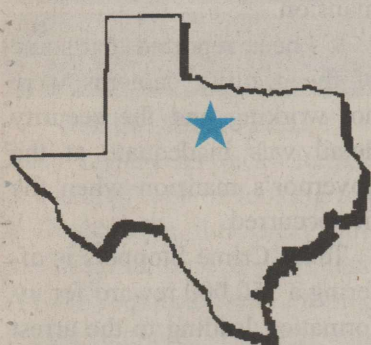


WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25	THURSDAY, JUNE 26	FRIDAY, JUNE 27	SATURDAY, JUNE 28	SUNDAY, JUNE 29	MONDAY, JUNE 30
 High/Low 98°/73° 40% CHANCE OF RAIN	 High/Low 100°/75° SUNNY	 High/Low 102°/75° MOSTLY SUNNY	 High/Low 98°/72° 30% CHANCE OF RAIN	 High/Low 98°/72° 30% CHANCE OF RAIN	 High/Low 99°/72° PARTLY CLOUDY



THE KNOX COUNTY NEWS

Proudly Serving Knox and King Counties

Volume XXXVII Number 35 Thursday, June 26, 2008 Knox City, Texas 8 Pages + 1 Insert Price 75 ¢

Looking Ahead

WATERMELON FESTIVAL

The Chamber of Commerce announces the 20th Annual Donald Johnson Seedless Watermelon Festival July 26, 2008. Plans are shaping up for a fun filled day in the park, beginning with a Parade on Saturday, followed by the Classic Car Show, activities for the kids, various vendors and booths in the city park. Mark the date and tell your family and friends.

Tourism Symposium Kicks Off!

Success stories, tour, destination dining and dark sky entertainment. 4pm to 10:30pm. Thursday June 26th

Tourism Assessment Team Scouting Out Developing Destinations.

Using what you have, where you're at. Trails and tours for travelers. 9am to 5pm Friday June 27th

Sell Your Hometown

Real success stories in real Rural Tourism 9am to 2pm Saturday June 28th

Downtown Truscott.

Friday June 27th: 5:30pm to 10:30pm Tour dinner and entertainment with a western flavor in Downtown Truscott.

Bids Open For Old City Hall Building

Thursday July 10th

CITY OF KNOX CITY

To the Citizens of Knox City: This is to inform you that we will be changing our mailing address in the near future. We hope this will not cause an inconvenience. Our new mailing address will be 902 E. Main. Thank you for your cooperation.

Tower Drive-In Theater Has A New Owner



Ms. Deon Gordon and the Crew of the Tower Drive-In Theater

If you have not been to the Tower Drive-in Theater north of Rule lately, then you have missed out on the exciting changes new owner, Deon Gordon has made. Formerly of Mesquite, Texas,

Ms. Gordon has always wanted to own a Drive-In type theater ever since she was sent the old intermission clip of the dancing hot dogs years ago.

Deon, as she likes to be called, first heard of the Tower Drive In Theater when a storm in the summer of 1998, destroyed the huge screen. She said it really touched her when the small community came together with their own time and money to rebuild the screen of the theater.

Ever since then, she has been keeping up with the theater, still hoping that someday she would own one herself and now her dream has materialized.

When the Tower Drive In came up for sale she jumped at the chance to buy it. Not ever owning a theater before, Deon has been working hard to smooth out the kinks of owning her own theater.

One price for two movies is great deal compared to the high prices of seeing a movie in the modern movies houses these days. Plus, hold on to those tickets, the Tower Drive In is now holding a raffle, giving away a free whole pizza to the lucky ticket holder. Josh Gonzales from Haskell, Texas was the first raffle winner this past weekend.

The raffle is only one of many changes. There is a new menu at the theater these days which includes a variety of snacks. Everything from jalapeno poppers to ice cream sundaes.

They even have family din-

ner food which includes pizza, hamburgers and lots more. For the Health conscience family they even offer salads and diet drinks.

With things going more smoothly for Deon and the crew, Ms. Gordon has some plans for the future. She has bought a mist machine for those hot summer nights and hopes to install tables and chairs on the patio.

The Tower Drive In Theater is the perfect place for families to come spend time together as a family.

The atmosphere is filled with fun and laughter. Kids are being kids, teenagers are hanging out with friends and life is focused on the big screen.

For show times and ticket information look for their ad in this paper or log on to www.towerdriveintheater.com.

Knox City's Curb Appeal

Your local Chamber of Commerce would like to invite you to assist in improving the curb appeal of our local community. The "Awnings over Knox City" project was a joint effort of the Chamber of Commerce and the local Economic Development 4B Board.

The new red awnings make a big difference in enhancing the 'curb appeal' of our downtown area, and we hear from visitors to our community how great they look and how impressed they are with Knox City.

A conversation with these visitors always leads to comments about how impressed they are with the continuing efforts to keep the town looking good. Our city workers do a wonderful job maintaining the city park and other city properties, along with keeping our main thoroughfares clean.

Local business owners have recently had the flower pots in front of their stores 'freshened' with the planting of new flowers, and new window displays are attracting lots of attention. We appreciate the efforts of everyone involved, you are making a difference and we thank you!

We have recently asked that each of you take a few steps weekly to pick up trash around your home and business.

In addition to that request, we would like to make these easy suggestions: Fly a flag (American, Texas, business, favorite team, decorative, etc.)

Check your mailbox and house numbers. Do they need painting or replacing?

Plant flowers, shrubs, trees (maybe even a butterfly bush)

Install bird houses, feeders, and bird baths (or repair existing)

Clean out a fence or property line or an alley

Remove debris (the City dump has convenient hours)

Help a neighbor or absentee owner with maintenance of their property

Clean your "curb" area

Sweep your front porch and sidewalks

Trim trees and bushes

Donate any extra paint or home improvement materials to the Pink Ladies, or share with others

We want to encourage everyone to get involved in sprucing up and cleaning up Knox City, not just in the downtown and public areas, but also in the neighborhood where you live.

Working together we will make a difference, make an impression, and develop more community PRIDE in Knox City.

Are you proud of our 'small town paradise'? Are you excited to see improvements in the town's appearance?

Are you thrilled when a visitor comments on how nice everything looks?

We want to encourage you to do your part...together we can make a difference!

Small efforts lead to big and noticeable changes.

Knox City And The KCM&O

Like Quanah and most other towns across the region, Knox City is where it is because of a railroad -- the Kansas City, Mexico & Orient. The Handbook of Texas Online offers this information about Knox City:

"Knox City, on State highways 6 and 22, Farm Road 143, ... in a region known as Knox Prairie in southwest Knox County, was founded in anticipation of the arrival of the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway, which began service in 1906. Originally the town was named Orient for the railroad. R. W. Warren and others donated land for a town-site, and Warren also built the first cotton gin in 1905."

In 1928, the KCM&O was bought by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company. The railroad lasted nearly a century, most of the time as part of the Santa Fe system.

Will rail service ever return to Knox County?

High fuel costs have hurt the trucking industry and made shipping by rail a more attractive way to move goods than previously. A new railroad across the Wide Open Spaces could relieve congestion on existing Texas rail lines.

Who's to say what the future holds, especially way down the line? In railroad jargon, it's called "points beyond" -- far away places, but they're still on the map.

The First Baptist Church Of Knox City Welcomes Rick Neal As Their Pastor



Rick Neal of the Knox City First Baptist Church

Rick Neal assumed the position of First Baptist Church pastor on April 23rd and parishioners all say that they could not be more pleased with the messages of faith he has brought into the church.

Rick states he was raised mainly in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and Houston, Texas.

He has worked as a youth minister and as-

sociate pastor for the past six years in Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

He was ordained in Surrey Hills Baptist Church in Oklahoma City.

Rick does marriage, individual and family counseling and says his door is always open.

He says he is very pleased with not only Knox City itself, but the warm welcome that he has received at the First Baptist Church.



206
E Main St.
Knox City,
Texas
79529
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TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital HIGHLIGHTS



By Ed Sterling

AUSTIN - The state of Texas is working with the U.S. Border Patrol to catch and prosecute commercial truckers who smuggle illegal weapons, drugs or humans across the Texas-Mexico border.

The name for this new joint operation is "Texas Hold 'Em."

A news release from the governor's office says "Texas border security operations have put mounting pressure on Mexican crime cartels and other crime organizations to find alternate

ways of smuggling contraband into the state. This includes recruiting commercial drivers to transport contraband, including drugs and humans, across the border in return for bribes."

The Border Patrol will work with the DPS, making sure the agency receives the necessary court documents to suspend violators' driver licenses upon a felony smuggling conviction.

In the first eight months of fiscal year 2008, Border Patrol agents in Texas intercepted 423 tractor trailers resulting in the detainment of more than 1,800 undocumented immigrants and more than 112,000 pounds of illegal drugs. In the Laredo area, 330 truck drivers have been caught smuggling drugs or humans into Texas in the last 18 months, the governor's office reported June 19.

The Border Patrol is pursuing similar agreements with

other states to expand the program nationwide.

Ag Supports Federal 'Shield' Law

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott on June 20 wrote to U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., in favor of S. 2035, legislation to create a federal reporter's shield law.

The purpose of such a law would be to protect media reporters from being forced to identify their sources, under certain conditions.

"As attorney general," wrote Abbott, "I have consistently supported a qualified reporter's privilege that would allow journalists to conceal their confidential sources under specific - and appropriate - circumstances."

"In 2005, we filed a brief with the United States Supreme Court arguing that the federal

courts should recognize a common-law reporter's privilege. Urging the high court to recognize this protection for journalists, we wrote that 'an informed citizenry and the preservation of news information sources are of vital importance to a free society.'

"Preserving sources' identities would strengthen the constitutionally protected freedoms of the press and expression by ensuring that government cannot unilaterally compel reporters to reveal confidential sources. As Texas' chief law enforcement official, however, I believe that any legislation creating a reporter's privilege must be balanced with law enforcement and national security interests."

"With that in mind, I urge the Senate to pass legislation creating a qualified federal reporter's privilege. The Congress should ensure that independent third

parties evaluate on a case-by-case basis when governmental access to confidential sources is necessary to protect our nation. Thus, when authorities want access to journalists' confidential sources, they should have a mechanism that renders that information accessible - but only after satisfying an independent arbiter that the government met the burden established by the Congress.

"If passed, a reporter's shield bill would preserve our nation's longstanding commitment to freedom of the press while also protecting our ability to protect our fellow citizens," Abbott concluded in his letter.

Official Seeks Security Audit

Allan Polunsky, chairman of the Texas Public Safety Commission, on June 19 said he would ask the U.S. Secret Service to analyze the security

of state buildings.

This follows a June 8 arson fire that gutted the governor's mansion.

It's been reported that some of the security cameras were not working and the security detail was inadequate at the governor's mansion when the fire occurred.

Texas Crime Stoppers is offering a \$50,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the person or persons who started the fire.

State Banking Chief Resigns

Randall S. James, Texas banking commissioner, on June 16 announced his retirement from the Texas Finance Commission. In that role for the last 16 years, James has held supervisory and regulatory authority over 330 state-chartered banks with control over \$153 billion in assets.

COW POKES®

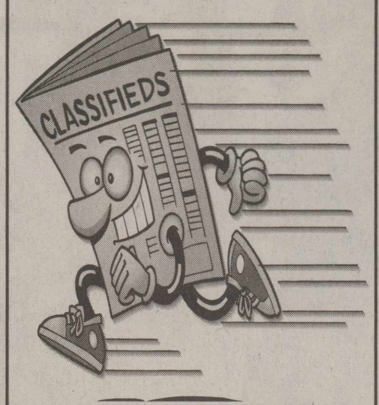
By Ace Reid

http://www.cowpokes.com



© ACE REID
6/22/08

"Wul, we're gonna hafta start breedin' shorter legged cattle or start afixin' fence!"



Classified Ads Work!

Knox County News

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kcnews@valornet.com

The Paperboy

By CHRISTOPHER BLACKBURN

Wow! Did we ever get hammered by Mother Nature!

The stories are common. Thank God no one was killed.

Sunday's tornado (which is what I'm calling it after flying around and taking aerial photos) effected nearly every resident in town. I know Childress isn't the biggest town around, but that's pretty widespread damage.

On the topic of whether or not it was a tornado. Anytime you get a storm strong enough to send 2x4s through walls, there are tomadic winds involved, so that's good enough for me. Besides, seeing the cloud and rotation photos proves much to me. Let's not forget the eyewitnesses who SAW a tornado.

Perhaps the National Weather Service is hesitant on calling it a tornado because they did not give warning. The local sirens went off because of local instruction, but the television stations said nothing about a tornado. Not to mention the fact they blew the call on the 2006 tornado.

What amazed me was how long the hail lasted. I think it was about 25 minutes of solid wind and hail ... and rain - between four and six inches. I tried to check my rain gauge, but it was splintered by the hail.

And the plants and trees? My goodness. Let's face it, our city looks like a war zone.

As it was two years ago, Childress residents are out in force helping one another. Most businesses remained closed Monday, some just so the owners could help. I was blessed with three men showing up to my house to

board up windows. Thank you to Peté Cooper, Mark Keys, and Chris Tipa.

Childress also benefited from the surrounding communities. Our neighbors were here in a hurry offering and providing help and relief.

Earlier I mentioned fling over the city. The sight was incredible. Much of the city - nearly the whole thing - looked like a debris field. Tom leaves, trash, glass, roof parts, limbs, wires - you name it and it was there.

The storm was hard to take seriously as it was not visible from our house. Thank goodness the tornado sirens went off and put it into perspective.

Sharon and I raced with the boys to the most central closet in the center of the house (which we had cleaned out just moments before).

The boys were silent most of the time. And they were pretty dam brave. I was wondering in the middle of the night if this occasion would be one of those they remember the rest of their lives. Anyhow, I'm proud of the way they acted in the heat of everything.

Just like 2006, we'll be sharing stories of the Father's Day Tornado for years to come. And the best part is the happy ending. As I said above: Thank God no one died.

Christopher Blackburn is president of Blackburn Media Group, Inc., which owns The Childress Index, the Hall County Herald, the Hollis News, the Knox County News and The Post Dispatch. He resides in Childress, Texas, with his wife Sharon and sons Jackson and Sutton Hawk.

The Knox County News

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

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

CHRISTOPHER
BLACKBURN
Publisher

BRANDY WISE
Editor
AMY STRICKLAND
Reporter

LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

SUBMISSION POLICY

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

PHOTO SUBMISSION POLICY

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

NOTICE

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

KCN OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday • 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

ACROSS

- 1 movie assn. of TX-born Valenti
- 5 TXism: "_____ high on the hog"
- 6 "Texas two-_____"
- 7 TX Willie's '93 gala: "The Big _____"
- 8 Parker Co. seat
- 16 nat'l historical site in Port Aransas: "Tarpon _____"
- 17 Mavericks _____ leading team in 2000
- 21 Audi two-seater
- 22 year the Mavericks went to NBA Finals
- 23 Copperas Cove _____ Press
- 24 UT Band tune: "Cannonball"
- 29 TXism: "_____ piece" (distant)
- 30 actress Lamarr who stayed at 16-across
- 31 TX _____ hospitals for veterans
- 32 ex-wife of NY tycoon Donald
- 34 traffic jammers
- 35 TX-born Martin's "Dead _____ Don't Wear Plaid"
- 36 TXism: "primed _____" (prepared)
- 37 captured TXns in WWII & Vietnam
- 38 TXns Rather and Blocker
- 39 number of folks who attended TX Centennial in '36

DOWN

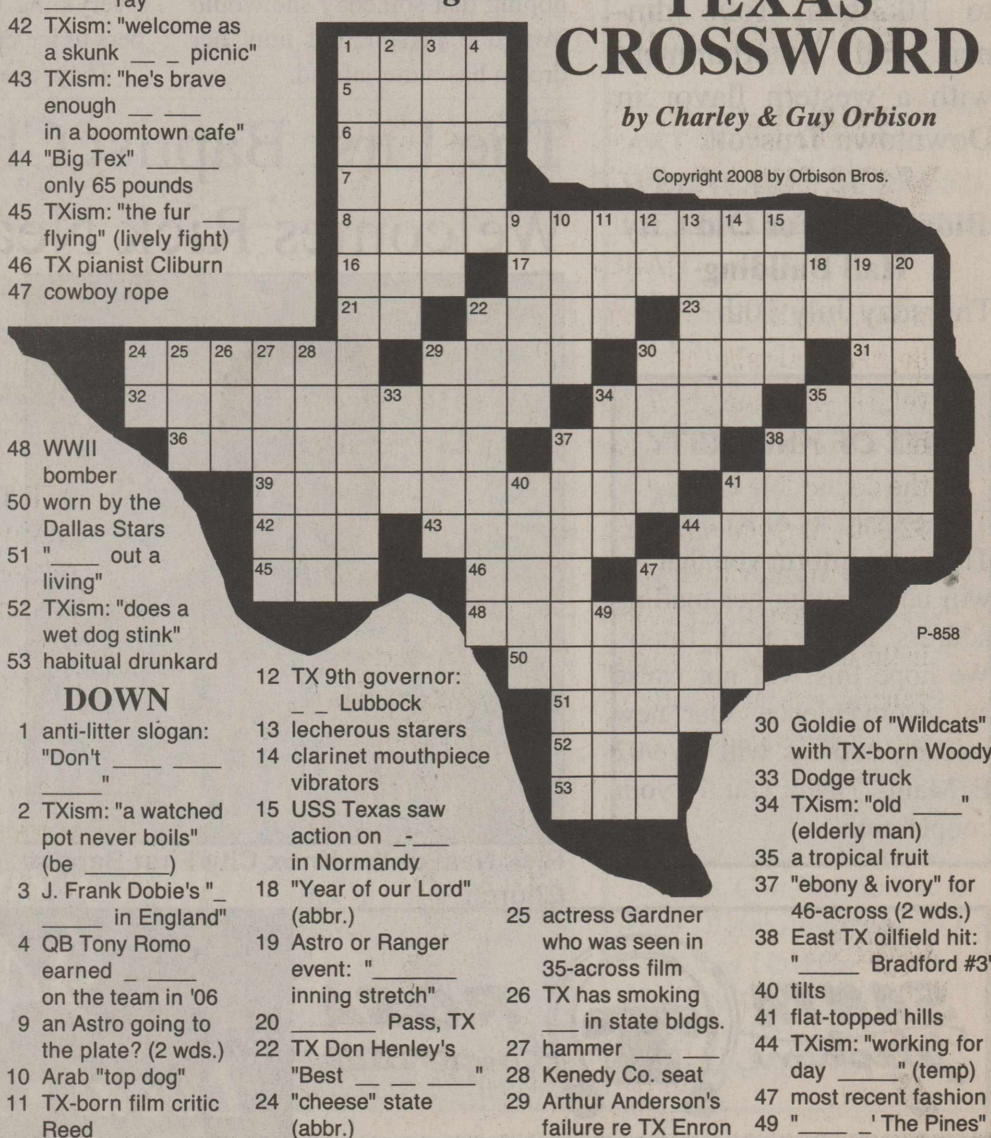
- 41 Gulf devilfish: _____ ray
- 42 TXism: "welcome as a skunk _____ picnic"
- 43 TXism: "he's brave enough _____ in a boomtown cafe"
- 44 "Big Tex" _____ only 65 pounds
- 45 TXism: "the fur flying" (lively flight)
- 46 TX pianist Cliburn
- 47 cowboy rope
- 48 WWII bomber
- 50 worn by the Dallas Stars
- 51 "_____ out a living"
- 52 TXism: "does a wet dog stink"
- 53 habitual drunkard
- 12 TX 9th governor: _____ Lubbock
- 13 lecherous starers
- 14 clarinet mouthpiece vibrators
- 15 USS Texas saw action on _____ in Normandy
- 18 "Year of our Lord" (abbr.)
- 19 Astro or Ranger event: "_____ inning stretch"
- 20 _____ Pass, TX
- 22 TX Don Henley's "Best _____"
- 24 "cheese" state (abbr.)

The Original

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

GRANDPA TOMMY SAVED THE WORLD

We were watching The History Channel at Grandma's casita. It was a story about the USS Enterprise being attacked. It was 1945. They were describing acts of heroism that occurred. Stories of men risking their lives, staying with wounded comrades instead of swimming to safety. Stories that never made the paper or were recognized but were remembered only by those brave souls who dog-paddled in the waves next to a burning ship 3 miles above the sea floor.

It was one of those moments where my son and I were engrossed. I said, "Isn't it funny, the only person in this house who really understands what we're watching, is asleep in his chair." Grandpa Tommy, Kansas farm boy, Junior Petty Officer, on a rebuilt WWI destroyer, operating as troop ship on the Pacific ocean, docking only twice in ports other than atoll island landings.

Now asleep in his chair, 89 years old. He has no scrapbook of his service, no contact with those of his caliber who went through the cauldron of war, no medals or pins commemorating his contribution. The only souvenir I'm aware of is his "coconut knife" US Navy issue, which he gave to his grandson. When the subject of war comes up his light-hearted response is, "I saved the world."

It's his joke. It comes and

goes so quickly. The subject changes and the opportunity to ponder his answer disappears. Which is unfortunate, because he, and countless thousands of others did save the world. Anyone who doubts that Germany and Japan had intentions of conquering us all, is deluding them self. Seldom has freedom and slavery or good and evil been so clearly defined. But at the time America reluctantly joined the Allied Forces in 1942, it was not so clear; there were many doubters.

Elected leaders make decisions of enormous consequence. They put the wheels of war, peace, conflict and resolution into motion. Korea, the Soviet Union, Vietnam, Lebanon, Kuwait, Bosnia, Somalia, Afghanistan, Iraq, North Korea, Iran...China?"

Elected leaders ride into battle, voices loud, sabers rattling and flash bulbs popping, on the backs of men like Grandpa Tommy who answer the call and if they are lucky, come home to the welcoming arms of a thankful country.

Political leaders are honored on President's Day. Grandpa Tommy is honored on Flag Day, July 4, December 7, Memorial Day, and, I guess, every day that I draw a free breath.

I'm proud and I'm gonna tell him I appreciate that he saved the world...soon as he wakes up.

BE CAREFUL WITH FIREWORKS USE

For many, fireworks are an exciting part of Fourth of July celebrations. But the colorful fun they provide can easily turn into a dangerous situation if proper and safe use is not followed.

"It only takes a spark to start a wildfire," said Tom Spencer, fire risk assessment coordinator for Texas Forest Service. "Fireworks, especially aerial fireworks, can be the source of that spark."

Much of the state is experiencing drought. As a result, the grasses in these areas have dried and are easily ignited.

Spencer recommends keeping fireworks use well away from dry grass and other flammable vegetation, to prevent accidental fires.

The Texas Forest Service recommends the following precautions for safe fireworks use-

- Adhere to all county and city fireworks laws and restrictions
- Use fireworks outdoors,

away from dry grass and buildings.

- Follow label instructions on how to properly discharge fireworks.

- Only use fireworks with close adult supervision.

- Keep a bucket of water, wet towels and a garden hose nearby.

- Discard used fireworks; never try to relight them.

- Allow used fireworks to cool thoroughly before handling to avoid possible burn injuries.

Caution is advised on fireworks use because of the potential they pose for starting wildfires. Texas Forest Service urges those celebrating the Fourth of July with fireworks to plan ahead and limit use of fireworks to areas where accidental fire starts will not occur.

"Everyone doing their part will help make sure we all have a happy and safe Independence Day holiday," said Spencer.

<http://texasforests.tamu.edu>

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF KNOX CITY TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The City of Knox City will hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on July 10, 2008 at City Hall, 902 E. Main, Knox City, Texas, in regard to the submission of an application to the Office of Rural Community Affairs for a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG) grant. The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the citizens participation plan, the development of local housing and community development needs, the amount of TxCDBG funding available, all eligible TxCDBG activities and the use of past TxCDBG funds. The City encourages citizens to participate in the development of this TxCDBG application and to make their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to Barbara Rector, City Administrator, at the City Hall. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact City Hall for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. For further information, contact Barbara Rector, City Administrator, at the City Hall, (940) 658-3313.

Thornberry Opposes House Democrats' Call for Nationalization of American Oil Industry

WASHINGTON, D.C. -Congressman Mac Thornberry (R-Clarendon) issued the following statement after House Democrats called for the nationalization of America's oil and gas industries:

"I can think of nothing worse for the future of America's energy independence than putting the government in charge of the oil industry as some Democrats have suggested," Thornberry said. "My approach is to unleash the creativity and enthusiasm of America's entrepreneurs in the private sector to develop new sources and new supplies of all types of domestic energy."

Thornberry is the sponsor of H.R. 3089, the No More Excuses Energy Act.

The bill includes language to allow drilling in ANWR and offshore. It also includes tax credits to capture carbon dioxide coming up smoke stacks and use it to flush oil out of existing wells, allowing us to get more oil out of wells that we already have and, at the same time, reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The No More Excuses Energy Act will also extend the wind energy tax credit for 10 years, and encourage investment in nuclear power plants, and in new refineries.

"High energy prices have

placed a real burden on America's families, farmers, ranchers and businesses. As energy prices rise, the cost of just about everything we buy goes up as well. It is particularly difficult for folks who live in rural areas where the agricultural economy depends on energy intensive equipment and travel distances between communities are significant. H.R. 3089, the 'No More Excuses

Energy Act,' would get the federal government to stop tying our hands on energy production, take some common sense steps to encourage more

American energy production, and provide consumers relief they deserve at the gas pump," Thornberry concluded.

For more information on H.R. 3089, the No More Excuses Energy Act, go to

http://www.thornberry.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=125&Itemid=57

For quotes from House Democrats advocating nationalization of the oil industry go to

http://www.foxnews.com/urgent_queue/index.html#a54ef44,2008-06-18 and <http://www.investors.com/editorial/editorialcontent.asp?secid=1501&status=article&id=296954404756799>

BID NOTICE

CITY OF KNOX CITY will be taking Sealed Bids to purchase the Property Located in the Original Town, Block 26, E65' of Lots 11, E 45' of W 70' of 10 & E. 50' of 11-12, N/2 of W 25' of 10. This being the old City Hall and the one story building next door. Bids will be taken until 5:00 pm Monday, July 7, 2008 at the City Hall, 902 E. Main. The Council reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. Bids will be opened on July 10, 2008, at 7:00 pm at the regular Council Meeting. We have had calls about tear the building down we don't want it torn down we want it bought.

If you would like to be a sponsor for the Church Directory please give us a call at 657-3142

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IF YOU THINK IT'S TOUGH MAKING ENDS MEET NOW, IMAGINE HAVING YOUR CAR STOLEN.

If your car is stolen, remember that, even if you're fully covered, insurance only pays the depreciated value and not the cost to replace your vehicle. That means, if you paid \$8,000 for your car, but it's only valued at \$6,500 — and then you pay the deductible (maybe another \$500) — you're out \$2,000! And you still don't have a car.

What's a Texan to do?

Make it hard for thieves to steal your car in the first place. When you leave your vehicle, hide your things, lock your car, and take the keys. Remember...



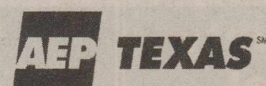
YOU HOLD THE KEY
TEXAS AUTO BURGLARY & THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY

We work here, we live here....

AEP Texas has roots that run deep in south and west Texas. For nearly a century, we have partnered in the growth and progress of these regions by ensuring a safe and reliable supply of electricity. AEP Texas provides a reassuring presence and a friendly face, whether it's repairing power lines after a storm, reading electric meters, coaching a little league baseball team or participating in a local charity event. That's because we work here, and we live here. We are proud Texans who care deeply about the communities in which we live and work.

No matter which company you choose as your Retail Electric Provider (REP), AEP Texas will continue to deliver electricity to your home or business, as well as maintain the overall electric system...just as we've always done. AEP Texas and its 1,100 employees remain as constants in an ever-changing electric industry. AEP Texas is connected to the state of Texas through over 935,000 customers, over 200 cities and communities, and 92 counties. As a friendly reminder, please remember to call your REP at the number listed on your electric bill if you have questions about that bill or your electric account.

**Connected to You.
Connected to Texas.**



A unit of American Electric Power

OBITUARIES

Joyce Warren Crownover

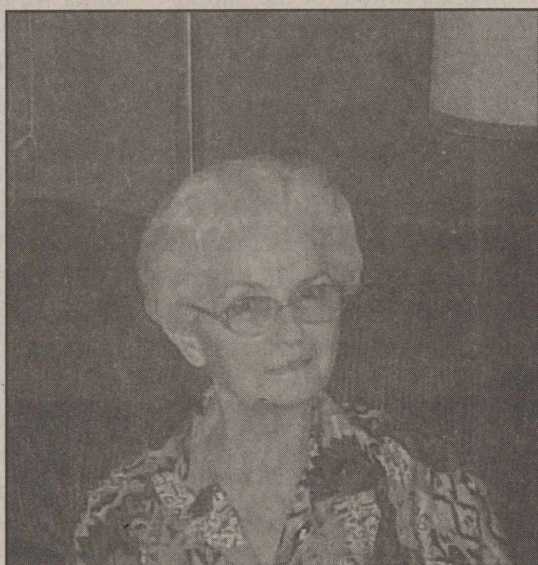
Joyce Warren Crownover, 85, of Knoxville City, died Thursday, June 19, 2008 at University Medical Center in Lubbock. She had resided for the past three months at the Golden Plains Care Center in Post, Texas.

Born October 28, 1922, in Seymour, Texas, she was the daughter of Joseph Alec and Carrie Bailey Warren. She married John Arthur Crownover on September 5, 1942, in Seymour, Texas. They were married for 53 years. He preceded her in death on July 4, 1996.

She is survived by their three children and their spouses, Peggy Rae and Leslie Joe Smith of Justiceburg, TX; Carolyn Mae and Ronnie Lynn Worley of Kerrville, TX.; and John Arthur Jr. and Peggy Dawn Crownover of Rio Rancho, New Mexico. Other survivors include grandchildren Darrell Scott Smith; Stephanie Lynne and Frank Reale; Erica Michelle and Chris Krucke; Justa Gwynne Crownover; Jatón Shane Crownover; Ashley Dawn Crownover and Stephanie Denise Crownover; great-grandchildren Francesca and Rose Realeand Jameson Crownover. Other survivors include Mrs. Crownover's brother, Joseph Alec Jr., and wife Neva Warren; Doris Crownover, her sister-in-law; and brother-in-law Jack Crownover; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Services will be held Monday, June 23, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the Abundant Life Christian Fellowship Church, formerly the First Christian Church, where Mrs. Crownover was a member for over 60 years. Pastor Tex Cox will officiate assisted by Max Bradley. Private interment will be held at the Knox City Cemetery prior to the memorial service at the church.

The family requests memorials be sent to the Abundant Life Christian Fellowship Church or charity of your choice.



Fannie Mae "Maw-Maw" Johnson

Mrs. Fannie Mae "Maw-Maw" Johnson, 87, of Knoxville City passed away in the Haskell Hospital Monday, June 23, 2008. Graveside service will be held at 11:00am, Thursday at the Knox City Cemetery with Gene McCarty officiating. Arrangements by Mansell-Smith Funeral Home, Knoxville City. Visitation will be from 6 to 8pm, Wednesday night at the funeral home.

Mrs. Johnson was born to Pat and Mandy Large on July 4, 1920 in Knoxville City. She married C.E. Johnson Jr. in 1937 and he preceded her in death in March, 1981. She was a homemaker and the most wonderful quilter ever. Fannie just finished quilts for her family.

Survivors include one son Garry Johnson of Knoxville City; one daughter Annette DeWitt of Duncanville, TX; one brother Coleman Large of Collinsville, Tx; five grandchildren Mike and Tony Knisley, D' Wayne Johnson, and George Johnson; eleven great-grandchildren Garry Lee Manley, Brad Johnson, Dustin Johnson, Samantha Knisley, Darren Johnson, Shelbi, Abby and Meredith Knisley, Sarah Jo Gay, and DeLaSantos; one great-great-grandchild Hunter Gene Gay; one niece Elaine; one nephew Robbie Meeks and many more relatives, nieces and nephews.

Fannie was preceded in death by her parents, one son Donald Johnson; two sisters Louise Meeks and Opal Clements and five brothers Pruitt, Dale, Jinks, Tolia and Wade Large.



Thank You

It meant so much to know that your thoughts were with us in our loss of Antonio Rocha. The prayers and support, beautiful cards and lovely flowers and plants, and great food brought to our homes were all examples of love shown to our families. Our thanks to Deacon Ben Vasquez for the loving mass and the ladies of Santa Rosa Catholic Church for your hard work in preparing the delicious family meal.

It's the kindness of friends that helps give us emotional strength in the days ahead as we think of, and miss, our loved one -- our Dad.

With deepest appreciation,
Sandy, Tony and Peter

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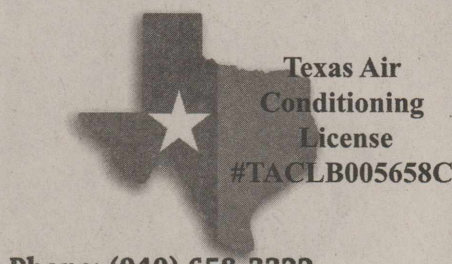
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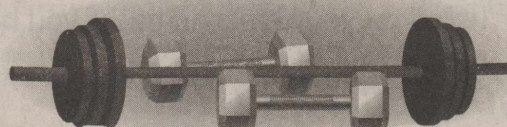
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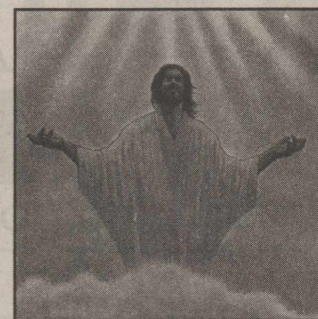
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God's Promises



By Jim Reid, Pastor
O'Brien Baptist Church

We recently completed our Vacation Bible School and what a joy it has been to spend quality time with the children who attended. Some I knew and others I came to know for the first time. I believe there is a lot of evidence in the Bible to support the idea that children are God's greatest creation. How wonderful it is to hear the honesty in their hearts when they ask questions about God. Questions like, "How does God know me?", Or "How did God create us?" They also asked, "Did God like Abel more than Cain?" "How did God get water out of a rock?" These are just a few examples of the great questions that I was asked this last week.

The Bible says, "Train up a child in the way he should go. Even when he is old he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22: 6 NASB). This does not mean show him a little bit of church and he will be okay and turn out fine in the end. When the Bible says to "train up", the correct interpretation is to initiate, discipline or dedi-

cate the child. The context of the verse means to "narrow" their way. Remove the outside influences that will draw them away from God.

God has every desire to train up our children, but he expects us to lead the way, show the example and discipline their path accordingly. Jesus said, "Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19: 14 NASB). What a wonderful promise of Christ. We as parents must be careful not to be the hindrance. We do not want to be the ones keeping the children from Christ.

I pray today that you will bring your children to Christ. Bring them to the church of your choice this coming Sunday and let them be taught the Word of God, assuring their entrance into the kingdom of heaven.

Trust His love today and prove Him to be God.

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Silver Spike in Texas

Transportation has always shaped the destiny of Texas. Systems for moving people and products are more complicated and even more vital today, as highways, airports, rail lines, waterways and pipelines generate our economic growth.

When Texas was a new state, most transportation was by road. But the best indicator of economic growth then was a relatively new invention - the railroad. Fortunes were made, and towns lived or died, depending on where a railroad decided to site a station.

Railroads also brought excitement. The competition to build a coast-to-coast rail line captivated the nation after the Civil War. The first transcontinental link accommodated the northern states. When the final spike was driven in 1869 at Promontory Summit in Utah, it was a signature moment in U.S. history.

Soon thereafter, all eyes turned to Texas, where an epic race was underway to complete the first southern transcontinental link.

Pushing from the west was Collis Huntington, who expanded his Southern Pacific line through southwestern territories and across the Sierra Blanca Pass in mountains southeast of El Paso.

His rival from the east was Jay Gould's Texas and Pacific Railway(T&P).

In just 21 months, T&P laid 520 miles of track westward out of Fort Worth "winding through twelve counties inhabited principally by Indians, prairie dogs, and coyotes."

Speed of construction was essential, since the government awarded sections of land for each mile of track laid. The faster they worked, the more property was accumulated by these railroad barons.

By November 1881, the competing railroads were within 10 miles of each other, but neither side was ready to concede the final stretch. "It looked like T&P might get there first, so Huntington sent a wagonload of whiskey to the T&P work gang, camped twenty-five miles east of Van Horn.

The drunk lasted a week and a half and gave Southern Pacific the victory," according to Texas Trains.

After Huntington and Gould made a deal, the Handbook of Texas reports "on December 15 Gould drove a silver spike to join the two roads seven miles southeast of Sierra Blanca Mountain. Transcontinental service began the next day."

A decade later, public resentment over railroad business

practices led Texas Gov. James Hogg to start regulation via the new Texas Railroad

Commission. The commissioners later supervised buses and trucks, and after oil was discovered, energy pipelines and well production were added.

Some of us can still remember when the Railroad Commission limited monthly oil production in order to prevent an energy glut. Now the problem is precisely the opposite - too little Texas oil and gas is being produced.

Our state is big and most transportation requires energy. Record gas prices are coupled with vastly more expensive fertilizer, food, electricity and other necessities. The result is serious hardship all over the state.

As we transition to alternative sources, producing more traditional energy at home should be our immediate goal. Yet politicians in

Washington continue to oppose this obvious answer. This leaves us with higher fuel prices, and it entrusts our economic security to foreign producers, including some hostile to the U.S.

America knows where to find energy. We should start immediately to develop these resources: exploring offshore, extracting oil from western state shale, and opening more development in Alaska.

There are other action items even while we pursue alternative and renewable energy sources - expanding our refinery capacity, expanding nuclear and developing clean coal. All these common-sense solutions have been blocked by political considerations.

America's can-do spirit has always pushed advances in transportation - from railroads, to automobiles and airplanes. As we look for the next transportation innovation, we know it will require energy. If Washington will get out of the way, ideas for producing that energy can move ahead.

Sen. Cornyn serves on the Armed Services, Judiciary and Budget Committees. In addition, he is Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Ethics. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee's Immigration, Border Security and Refugees subcommittee and the Armed Services Committee's Airland subcommittee. Cornyn served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice and

Bexar County District Judge. For Sen. Cornyn's previous Texas Times columns: www.cornyn.senate.gov/column.

"The 501"

By Hanaba Munn Welch

The world is shrinking.

I used to think I knew what that meant. Maybe I really did know, but now I have a different idea. What's shrinking about this world is everything in print.

Someone just sent me a list of so-called AARP bumper stickers, including one promoting large type alphabet soup. Good idea. We've got to start somewhere.

As a bona fide Baby Boomer, born in 1947, I'm an authority on what it's like to be on the leading edge of a generation. Tough. The world is never ready for us. The shrinking print phenomenon is a case in point.

Okay. I understand that it could be my eyes. Maybe they really aren't making numbers in the phone book smaller or shrinking the lists of ingredients on food packaging and the letters in the soup. But so what? My point is that anyone who would like to do a good job of reaching my generation, A to Z, would do well to crank up those font sizes a notch or two.

Somehow I'm not surprised that the marketers haven't figured that out yet. Like I said, the world isn't good at anticipating the emerging needs of Boomers.

When we hit the first grade, the schools scrambled for extra desks. They weren't expecting so many of us. Maybe that's understandable. We were new on the scene.

When we predictably reached college en masse, the

Hanaba Munn Welch is a freelance writer and artist who divides her time mostly between Abilene, Texas, and the family farm north of Vernon. Her column is named The 501 for Engine 501, an old Fort Worth & Denver steam engine on permanent display in Childress, where the column originated as a weekly feature of The Childress Index. Fittingly, The 501 always contains 501 words -- or, to be precise, 501 words and dashes. Her husband is Hugh Welch, an architect. He thinks The 501 is an acquired taste.

BENJAMIN NEWS

By Galdene Green

It's the beginning of another work week and folks are busy. The news is in short supply this week. I guess after the busy Homecoming and Father's Day weekend, everyone stayed home and rested this past week. It's good to report no real illnesses in the community today. That's always encouraging.

Here 'n There

The Conner family had their annual reunion on Saturday at the Ex-Student Building. A good crowd was present to enjoy a full day of visiting, wonderful food and just a good time in general. An auction in the afternoon brought in a good bit of money which goes toward the expenses of the "get together".

Reports from Houston are that Lorene Powers is progressing nicely since her recent heart surgery. She has been in ICU and Progressive ICU since coming out of surgery but was to get into a room this week. We are so thankful for this good report and pray her return to good health is not too far away.

Bud Conner was in Lubbock Wednesday to see his dermatologist and allergy specialist. He got a good report and doesn't have to go back for quite some time.

Paul and Misty Weiser and family left Sunday for Pampa where they will make their home. Paul will be working as a special investigator for a pest control company.

element of surprise shouldn't have been a factor. But it was. We overcrowded campuses. In my dorm, we were three to a room instead of two, flipping coins over who got the top bunk - like they didn't know we were coming.

I fully expect history to repeat itself when my friends and I reach the rest home. I guess I'll take the top bunk - again.

Meanwhile, if planning ahead isn't an option, why can't the powers that be cater to us right now? We are legion, and some of us have some money. We just might spend it on something if we could read the labels and find the prices. Just a thought.

By the way, print isn't all that's shrinking. Maybe you think I'm going to mention clothes. Well, I'm not.

Instead, consider cell phones. My first one weighed a few pounds and doubled as a heavy weapon and vehicle console minus cup holders. When in use, it overheated mightily. I could take it out of its bag and press it against my face to relieve sinus pain, but it was too heavy to hold in place for long - and too hot.

My newest phone looks like it was picked before it got ripe and might have been a key fob in another life. Any smaller and it would be a choking hazard. As for the keyboard on the tiny device, if it were any smaller my fingers might as well just take a hike.

Regarding the screen, the text and numbers are quite small. I expect them to get even smaller.

The world is shrinking.

Expert Says Weigh Food Costs Like Buying Major Appliance

COLLEGE STATION - Grocery stores and restaurants should be approached like major appliance outlets - with thorough research and planning.

That's according to Dr. Jenna Anding, Texas AgriLife Extension Service nutrition specialist, who said rising food costs can be cut with thoughtful study.

More than \$3,600 is spent each year per person on food, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"That's like buying a plasma television for each person in your family," Anding noted. "Wouldn't you know everything about a major expenditure like that before you buy it?"

About half of a person's annual food bill is for grocery purchases while the other half is for eating out, the USDA reports. But Anding said people need to assess where their money is being spent in order to make informed choices about where to cut.

"If you can, keep track of all your grocery receipts, your receipts from eating out," she said. "Do that over the course of a month, and you'll get a better idea of how much you are really spending on food."

Anding said individuals and families also should determine how much to budget for food - something many people may not have realized is needed.

"It might be interesting to know where your money is being spent. Are you spending the majority of your food dollars on crackers, cookies, dessert? Are you spending a lot of it on perishable foods that may go to waste?" she asked. "If you don't know how much money you're spending, odds are you don't know where you are spending that money."

Some things to consider when making changes, Anding suggested, include whether to buy convenience foods or pre-prepared foods or to make food from scratch.

Instant rice costs 27 cents per serving while long grain white rice costs 6 cents per serving, she noted.

"The more someone has to prepare it for you, the more you are going to pay for it," she said. "So, instead of instant rice, can you cook your own rice?"

Another revelation from examining receipts may be that a lot of non-food items are purchased at a grocery store. Anding said these items might cost less at discount stores.

"You might want to look at the kinds of food you are buying. If you are buying a lot of national or name brands, maybe you can try some store brands," she said. "There are a lot of private label store brands that are really good quality, and they taste good."

Another thing to do, she said,

is look for sale items and use coupons.

"If you can keep track of what items you need and what coupons you have, then when you hit the store, if it's a good deal and you have a coupon, then you might be able to save some extra money," said Anding, noting that one shouldn't buy an item only because of the coupon.

"Even if you have a coupon, you still might be able to get a better deal looking at a private label or a store brand."

Other ideas:

- Keep a list of items that are bought on a regular basis and track how much those items cost. That will help you recognize a bargain if you see those items on sale elsewhere.

- Cut back on things like snack foods, chips and cookies.

- Scale back on sodas to opt for less expensive iced tea (brewed at home) or water.

- Buy fresh fruit in season at a lower cost to take the place of a sweet snack.

- Stick with traditional grocery stores and supermarkets for many items, but also explore discount stores, farmers' markets, bakery thrift stores and "dollar" stores for best buys.

- Plan well to use what you buy. Some research has suggested that as much as 25 percent of our food goes to waste.

- Get others in the family involved. That way, they'll be more likely to accept what you are cooking.

"The most expensive food you will ever buy is the food you throw away. If you are throwing away that cantaloupe that cost you \$2 last week, you are throwing away \$2," Anding said. "And the \$2 here and \$3 there, that adds up."

She suggested doing periodic inventories of food on hand, moving older items to the front of the refrigerator, freezer and pantry. That way, the older food gets used before it goes to waste.

"When I go to plan my meals for the week, I look at what I have on hand. And if I have a package of ground beef or chicken or some fish, those are the things I am going to use first because those are the things I've already paid for," she said. "Use them first and then finish out the rest of your meal."

"It is going to take a little time, but if you think about how much money we spend on food, over the course of a year, it is worth the investment," she added. "Take a little bit of time each week to sit down, plan your meals in advance, look at what's on sale at the grocery store, look at what you have on hand, then you are using your time to help plan more nutritious meals and hopefully save some money when you are shopping for food."

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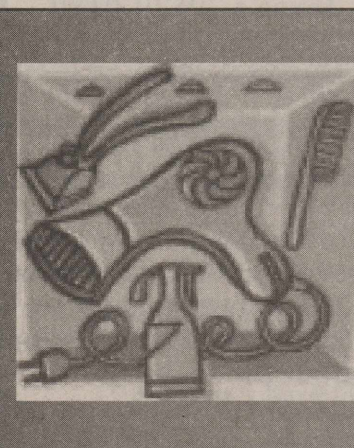
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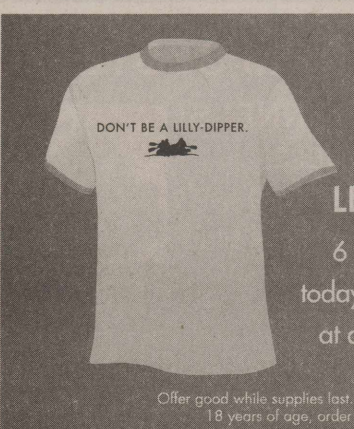
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Quanah Zephyr Carries 500 Rail Fans Across the Rolling Plains of Texas

Named for the west wind, a streamline train called the Texas Zephyr once streaked across the plains of North Texas and the Panhandle, carrying passengers and mail by day and night on the historic Fort Worth and Denver route. Saturday, the silver train made a one-run return appearance -- not an exact reincarnation of itself, but close.

The Quanah Zephyr, a mix of vintage cars and modern Amtrak coaches, 13 in all, pulled by an orange and black Burlington Northern Santa Fe engine of the current freight train variety, carried about 500 passengers on an excursion from Fort Worth to Quanah and back.

The trip was not without incident, from a delay near Henrietta caused by a blue-faced man wielding an ax to an attack on the train by Comanches and a band of outlaws at the outskirts of Quanah. The war painted Indians and gun-wielding cowboys were part of the script; the man with the ax was not.

The National Railway Historical Society and BNSF coordinated the special train ride to Quanah as an activity for people attending a NRHS convention in Fort Worth last week.

Tickets were also for sale to the public. Besides Fort Worth and Quanah, Wichita Falls was also a place to board and detrain. It was the only stop on the itinerary.

In Quanah, the travelers stepped off the train to walk two blocks for a box lunch in one of the town's historic buildings -- a freshly renovated M.E. Moses store that is now Three Rivers Ballroom. During lunch, they viewed a presentation on the old Quanah, Acme & Pacific Railway.

A two-hour stay gave the train enthusiasts time to take carriage rides, meet the cowboys and Indians who had given them the boisterous "welcome" on the edge of town, look through a solar telescope at the Texas sun, see a longhorn steer up close, gaze at the Santa Rosa Palomino Club riders from nearby Vernon, their Confederate flags flying in the breeze, and -- no doubt of

the most interest -- tour the old QA&P Depot, now a museum. Built in 1910, the red tile-roofed two-story turreted stucco building is on the National Register of Historic Places, as is Quanah's old downtown commercial district.

All told, what seemed to impress the visitors most was the number of people at the tracks to meet the Quanah Zephyr when it finally pulled into town, understandably late because of the "ax" indecent.

Rail history buff Ken Ziegenbein, a former Fort Worth resident who now lives in Arkansas, wrote this account on his Web site:

"The best thing about this trip was the FANTASTIC reception given for us by the city of Quanah. They rolled out the red carpet, even having 'red caps' directing us to attractions. The Quanah Route depot museum and other museums in town were full of excellent exhibits, including railroad history and other historical artifacts. Worth a trip back to see everything.

They also fed us half-pound grilled hamburgers, freshly grilled just outside the eating facility. There were hundreds that showed up when the train arrived, along with horse-drawn carriages and festive mounted flag-bearers."

Ziegenbein posted his impressions on the Web while he rode the Texas Eagle (Amtrak 22) from Fort Worth to Little Rock on Sunday. But information was already flowing through cyberspace about the trip even before the train arrived in Quanah, not to mention cell phone reports. Much of the talk was about the strange man with the ax at the Dickworsham siding between Henrietta and Bellevue. He was quickly dubbed the "ax killer."

Ziegenbein didn't see the blue-faced man, later identified as Nathan Ray Daniel, age 41, address unknown, but he did get a picture of the ax lying by the side of the tracks, a single-blade design with a wooden handle. Ziegenbein's account fits later information released by law enforcement authorities:

"We stopped on a siding five miles south of Henrietta next to a stopped loaded coal train on the track to the right of us. This siding was called the Dickworsham siding.

There was a trespasser going between the coal cars that had an ax and had spray painted his face blue. The BNSF Agent arrested the man. He had apparently loosened a couple of air hoses, so the coal train had to be inspected before we could get back on the main line. This incident cost us one hour of time."

Daniel's previous arrest records support the theory that the blue paint on his face could have happened as he inhaled spray paint propellant.

Whatever the case and whatever his motive, the strange-acting man with the ax added a note of adventure to a trip that already promised to be a once-in-a-lifetime event.

Even in Quanah, where people waited patiently for the train, many versions of the ax incident showed promise of being a good story for years to come, at least as a footnote to the main story: the return of passenger service to Quanah, Texas, if only for a day.

"As the day grew, the hustle and bustle was like the old Saturdays I remember as a child," said Quanah resident Carolyn Wilson, director of arts for Three Rivers Foundation for the Arts and Sciences (www.3rf.org). "All of a sudden, Main Street was crowded."

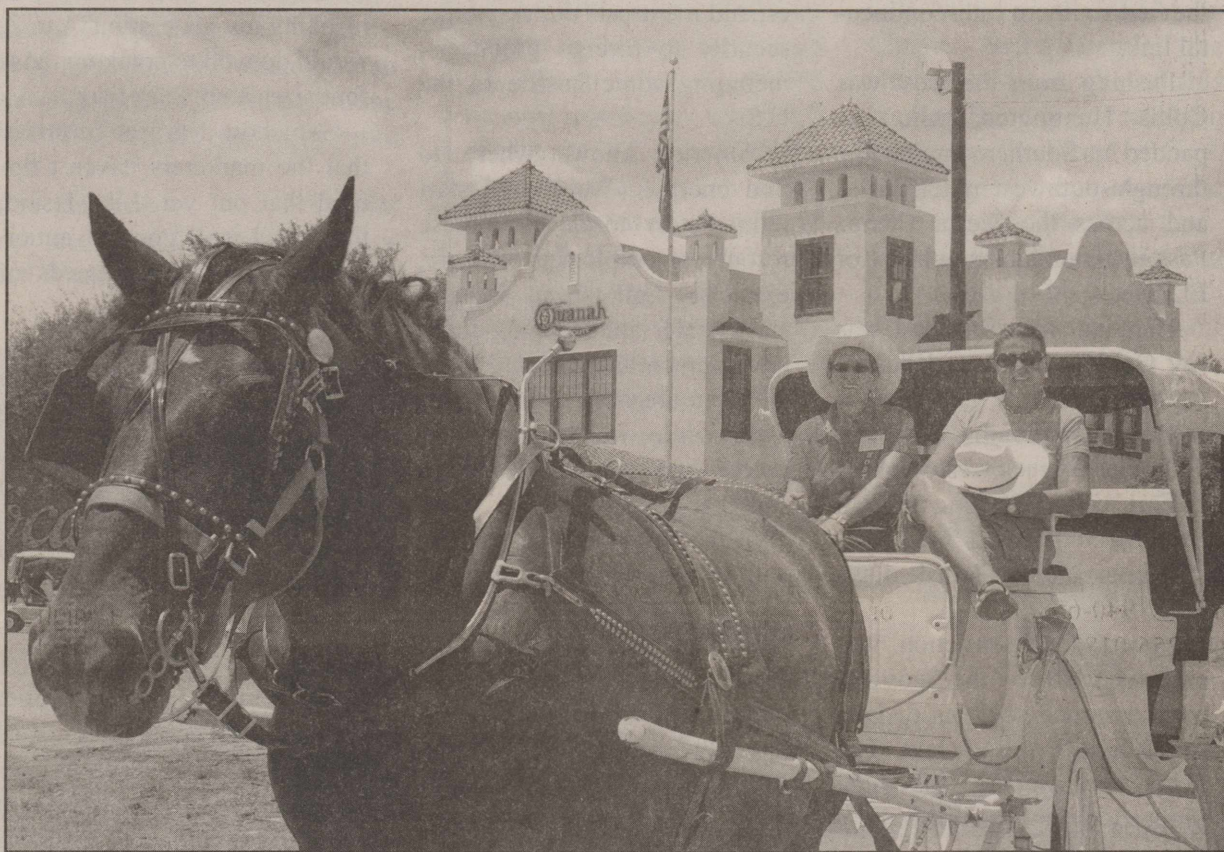
Three Rivers Foundation owns several old buildings on downtown Main Street, all in stages of restoration and rehabilitation.

"We were thrilled to have this large delegation choose Quanah as their destination for an excursion," she said. "We were happy to be able to let the world know -- people from all over the United States and foreign countries -- that we're here and that we're in the process of making the best of our rich history."

Before the trip, many of the rail fans knew Quanah only as a dot on old railroad maps. Now, it's a dot with meaning.



Detraining rail passengers mingle with people on hand to meet the Quanah Zephyr, a special train that carried passengers from Fort Worth to Quanah and back Saturday, an event arranged by the National Railway Historical Society and Burlington Northern Santa Fe. About 500 people paid to ride the train, a mix of modern Amtrak and vintage cars, including a 1923 pullman. The train arrived late, the result of a delay of over an hour at Dickworsham, south of Henrietta, where the Zephyr engineer and others spotted a man with a blue face and an ax, who, according to various reports from the passengers (some who saw him and some who didn't), chopped at hoses on a freight train stopped at the same location. The second train attack was at the outskirts of Quanah, a planned enactment of a Comanche raid with gun-wielding cowboys also swooping into the fray.



Carriage rides and tours of the Quanah, Acme & Pacific Depot Museum were premier attractions for train enthusiasts Saturday who took a special train to Quanah for a two-hour stay in the town that once was the headquarters of the QA&P Railway. Many of the Quanah Zephyr passengers were from the Northeast United States and were making their first visit to West Texas. Besides the town's railroad history, the story of Chief Quanah Parker and his captive-turned-Comanche mother, Cynthia Ann Parker, also intrigued the visitors.



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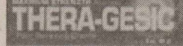
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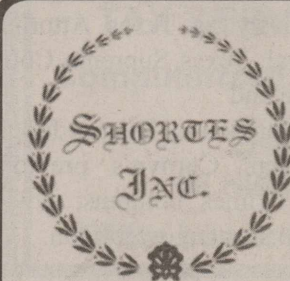
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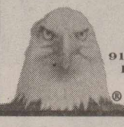
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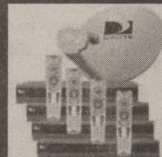
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Saturday, June 28th 8am. 807 SE 4th Street- in the back. Baby Bed, Stroller and more.

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The City of Knox City is seeking to fill the ON CALL position of City Municipal Judge. Eligible candidates must be a high school graduate (or GED) and will be required to attend yearly classes concerning the laws and regulations associated with the position. Other qualifications are on file at City Hall. If interested contact Barbara Rector, City Admin. for complete details. EOE.

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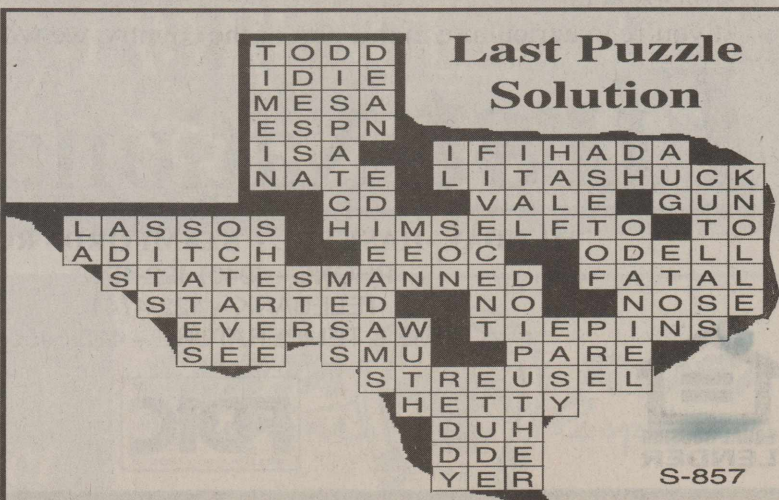
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State 4-H Horse Show Booked for Another Five Years at Abilene

ABILENE – The Texas State 4-H Horse Show, one of the nation's largest horse events for young riders, recently signed an agreement with the Taylor County Expo Center in Abilene for another 5 years, according to a show official with Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

The annual week-long event draws more than 2,100 4-H'ers, family members and agency staff, and 1,100 horses. It also pumps an estimated \$2 million into Abilene's economy, according to Dr. Pete Gibbs, AgriLife Extension Horse Specialist, and the show's co-manager.

"We've been in Abilene now for 24 years, and have always renewed our contract there for a three-year term," Gibbs said. "The big news is that Abilene will now host the show for another five years, beginning with this year's July 19-26 show."

"That decision was based on several factors, not the least of which is the city of Abilene and the Expo Center's continued sterling hospitality," he said. "For the show's entire stay here, they have never failed to roll out the red carpet for everybody involved with the event."

Gibbs said other reasons include Abilene's location within the state, motel accommodations and the facility's continued horse-friendly growth.

"However, the bottom line is economics, and the proposal from Abilene and the Expo Center was very competitive," Gibbs said.

"Abilene is one of several cities considered that offer a somewhat central location," Gibbs said.

"A major consideration for securing the show is being able to provide top facilities in a setting that is affordable and family-friendly, he said.

"Site determination is paramount to the ultimate success of the show. With support from the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation, proposals undergo careful review by a committee familiar with the needs of the show. This time those proposals won't have to be reviewed nearly as quickly with the show now locked in for five more years in Abilene."

It takes a large facility with over 800 stalls and three arenas to successfully produce the show, according to Brett Scott, another co-manager. Over the years, the horse specialist said the Expo Center has added a large cover over their outdoor arena and built permanent stalls to replace the temporary tent-covered ones once used.

As the Expo Center has grown, so has the show which now uses all three of the Expo's arenas simultaneously during several days of the seven-day show.

"The State 4-H Horse Committee and the Management Team have added classes such as team penning and cow horse classes, because of the interest in such events, and because the facility can easily accommodate classes involving cattle," Gibbs said.

"This year the growth continues with our first-ever stock horse trail class. All told, we feature almost 40 different classes now. Some classes may have as many as 150 participants."

For 45 years, Texas 4-H'ers have been going to District 4-H horse shows across the state to prepare and qualify for the state show, which Gibbs said is sometimes referred to as the State 4-H Finals. At its start in 1963, the show lasted only about a day and a half, he said.

Until 1985, the show had been held in eight different cities. With the size of the event, which includes a 100-member management team of AgriLife Extension personnel and volunteers, Gibbs said it became important to select a facility that could host the show for a minimum of three consecutive years. The event moved to Abilene in 1986, and has been there since.

The show has always been produced by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, a part of the Texas A&M System.

Workshop to Explore Wind Power Development and Effects on Wildlife

AMARILLO – With the Panhandle targeted for increased wind power development, many landowners already have signed or are considering signing contracts with energy companies. But questions remain, especially about wildlife.

The Panhandle Wind and Wildlife Conference on Aug. 8-9 at the Ambassador Hotel in Amarillo is aimed at answering some of those questions. The event is being organized by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife and Texas Wildlife Association.

Ken Cearley, AgriLife Extension wildlife specialist, said Texas leads the nation in wind power development according to the American Wind Energy Association's rankings report.

The Horse Hollow Wind Energy Center in Taylor and Nolan counties was the single largest wind farm in operation in the nation in 2007, Cearley said. With four of the five largest U.S. wind farms now located in Texas, it is necessary to study the impact on wildlife.

"We have information from California wind farms that have been in business for 20 years or so that shows minimal numbers

of birds killed by the blades of wind turbines," he said.

But other questions remain, such as the impact on:

– Bat populations and movements (bats are important plant pollinators).

– Waterfowl movements and survival through the Central Flyway, which includes the Texas Panhandle and channels migratory birds north and south seasonally.

– Wildlife survival and reproduction in both the installation phase and long term.

Additionally, and maybe most important to some landowners, is how will land values be affected, Cearley said. Will real estate values drop with wind turbines on the land, disrupting the view and the peace and quiet, which so many of today's buyers cherish and are willing to pay large sums for? Will grazing and wildlife leases lose value?

"If I were a landowner being presented with this opportunity, it would be tempting, but I would want to give it a long hard look before deciding, and weigh all of the pros and cons," he said. "The added income might allow some landowners to keep the ranch for years to come, avoiding having to

sell due to financial constraints or estate taxes."

Large ranches are often broken up into smaller parcels, fragmenting ownership with each subsequent sale and the further division makes it progressively more difficult to manage for wildlife, Cearley said.

The added income could finance habitat improvement work and relieve financial pressure that might be leading to heavy stocking rates and subsequent detrimental effects on wildlife, such as a lack of sufficient nesting and fawning cover, he said.

"Like a good bird dog easing toward the scent of a covey from downwind, landowners should approach wind energy income opportunities with all their faculties alert and check out all of the possible ramifications before making a decision that will likely be with you for a long time," Cearley said.

The fee is \$60 with pre-registration by July 15 and \$75 after. To register, contact Kassi Scheffer at 800-839-9453 or kscheffer@texas-wildlife.org.

For more information on the conference, contact Cearley at 806-651-5760 or kcearley@ag.tamu.edu.

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Recovering Rangelands Alter River Flow in Concho River Watershed

SAN ANGELO – The watersheds feeding the Concho River were ravaged by overgrazing for 100 years, but since 1960 the semiarid rangeland has been making a comeback, say researchers with Texas A&M University and Texas AgriLife Research.

As a result, the rangeland has slowed the flow of storm water into the Concho's three tributaries – the North, Middle and South Concho rivers, according to a paper published in the July 2008 issue of the journal, *Global Change Biology*.

"This is proof that we manage our rangelands better today than we used to," said Dr. John Walker, a co-author of the study

and resident director of the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center in San Angelo.

Walker and Dr. Bradford Wilcox, an AgriLife Research rangeland hydrologist, set out to determine the cause of the decline in the flow of rainwater runoff into the rivers and the O.C. Fisher Reservoir in West Texas, Wilcox said.

The researchers, with the help of former Texas A&M graduate student Yun Huang, examined records on rainfall, drainage, flooding and livestock dating back to the 19th century.

"Animal numbers have decreased quite a bit and woody plants have increased as well

as other types of vegetation," Wilcox said. "The land is actually recovering, and the range condition is improving, and with that you get smaller amounts of overland flow, which means that floods are smaller now than in the past."

Their paper – "Long-term Trends in Streamflow from Semiarid Rangelands: Uncovering Drivers of Change" – concludes that relatively high streamflow before 1960 was the result of "overgrazed and generally degraded rangeland."

"We have found that flood flow in the Concho basin is lower now than before 1960, and we attribute this decline to the 'hydrological recovery' that has occurred since 1960 as vegetation cover – both woody and herbaceous – has increased," the paper states.

The most dramatic decline in river flow occurred on the North Concho, Wilcox said. Flowing water on the North Concho is now about 70 percent lower than it was before 1960.

Their findings contradict assumptions about improving the flow of the river, referred to as streamflow, the researchers said. Since about 2000, some landowners in the area have been working with the state to remove shrubs from their property on the assumption they consume the water before it gets to the river and ultimately the reservoir. Removing the shrubs, they assumed, would improve river flow.

But it is the increased plants that slow down runoff and allows the moisture to be absorbed by the soil, the researchers said. "The streamflow did indeed decline, but not because of the reason many people believe," Wilcox said.

"We're not saying that brush control is not going to work anywhere, but at least in this particular situation it doesn't seem to be increasing water yield."

Walker said landowners and others should be more concerned about becoming better stewards of rangelands.

The land should be appreciated for its ecological integrity. Perhaps people should look for contemporary and economically beneficial uses for the land.

"Realistically, rangelands are classified that way because their production potential is limited," he said. "They're rangelands for

a number of reasons – low rainfall and shallow soils. But my personal bias is that rangelands, more than any other category of land, shaped our national and Texas culture, and they deserve to be kept in a healthy and productive condition.

"When people look at pristine rangeland as they look at old-growth forest we really will have made progress."

To read the paper, visit <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=1354-1013> and go to "view content online."

Aging Center Lunch Menu

June 30rd To July 4th

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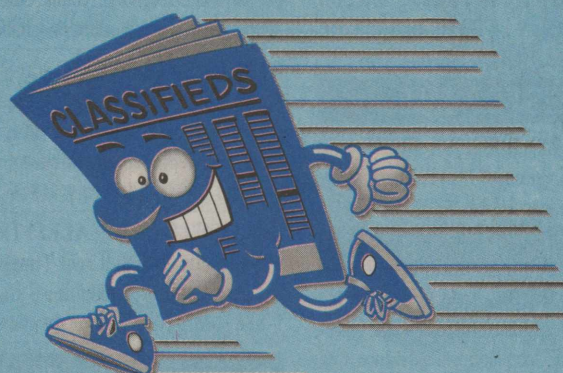
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