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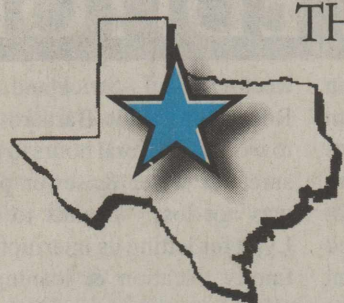
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THE

KNOX COUNTY NEWS

PROUDLY SERVING THE KNOX COUNTY AREA

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VOLUME XXXVIII

KNOX COUNTY, TEXAS
THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2009

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NUMBER 34

LOOKING AHEAD

GRAND OPENING-
Wichita Brazos Museum and Cultural Center Saturday, June 27, 2009, at 10:00 A.M. in Benjamin. Dr. Scott White, Guest Speaker. Tour the Museum following the program until 5:00 P.M. View display area representing each Knox County Community. Available will be: Memberships; Special Stamp Cancellation; and Texas Frontier Ranger Re-Enactors. Hamburger meal for \$6.00, served at Benjamin Memorial Bldg. until 2:00 P.M., by Senior Class. (940)459-2229

The Creative Writer's Group will meet Saturday the 20th of June at 2 PM at the Senior Citizens Center at 500 E. Belknap St. in Seymour. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Photos by Christopher Blackburn

Two Knox County football players participated in the 60th Annual Childress Rotary Greenbelt Bowl All-Star Classic Saturday in Childress. Left photo: Knox City Greyhound Receiver Jordan Carter, #81 South, is ready for a pass route. Right photo: Munday Mogul Cornerback Marcos Gonzales, #12 North, is shown preparing to cover Aaron Thompson, #83 South. The South won the game 23-7 and Carter had an interception. For the third consecutive year the game was affected by weather. Three lightning delays for a total of one hour and 45 minutes did not end the game until 11 p.m. See more Greenbelt Bowl coverage on Page 7.

Summer Storm of 2009 Leaves Knox County in the Dark

By Tamara Smart

A black cloud descends over a small deserted town, bringing with it rain which beats down throughout the streets. No lights from near-by street lamps or streaming out of partially open windows.

In fact, no windows are even slightly cracked. Businesses are shut down, animals have found shelter; no life can be found on the roads as they are illuminated every few minutes or so by the non-stop lightning. Even in boarded up kitchens and storm cellars, people are only visible by flashlight beam and dancing candle-lit shadows.

This sounds like the beginning of a horror film, but this was the reality of the city streets and connecting thoroughfares from one town to the next that create the population of Knox and Haskell Counties Saturday night.

The accounts of the summer storm of 2009 are as different as the people telling it. According to one individual, there was a funnel hovering over Knox City's Main Street for a while, but never touched down. Harry Steen, Knox City Chief of Police, saw

the tornado 8-10 miles west of town, and witnessed lightning as it hit a tank battery which shortly thereafter "blew up."

Amazingly, the rain was so thick and profuse; the resulting flames were quickly squelched.

Damage was not nearly as bad in Knox County as in Haskell County. Other than being without electricity for 25 hours (give or take a few hours) within the Knox City limits, the only real damage in the cities were just nuisance debris blown around, tree limbs littering yards and streets and mass quantities of water pooled around town.

The City of Knox City moved quickly during this time of distress and was able to rig up generators at the water and sewer plants, so those systems were never down.

The "City Force" as City Administrator Barbara Rector proudly referred to the city employees has been hard at work to try and keep Knox City in the best possible condition throughout this hardship.

Rector also wished to ac-

knowledge Mr. Joe Barnard who works for Lynn Electric who was at the sewer and water plant setting up generators (as loaned by Mr. Scott Lynn who allowed his family vacation to be interrupted in order to help out Knox Citizens) so that the town could maintain functionality.

Allsups donated ice to those who needed it, and KC EMS and Volunteer Fire Fighters were at the ready just in case the need for their services arose.

In Munday, the north side of town lost power for several hours; the south side only went without power briefly. The City of Benjamin was in a state of "lights out" from 7 pm on Saturday until about 12:45 pm on Sunday (the power was restored literally minutes before the Annual Benjamin Ranch Rodeo kicked off).

Yet, that was just in the city limits. Outside of the city, some residences did not regain power until Tuesday morning.

In Haskell County's City of Rule, just 18 miles south of Knox City, damage was much more

severe. The Simpson family had the roof of their house torn off, Mike and Crystal Casey's house was literally torn in two pieces, Doug and Jenny Easterling's house was shifted off its foundation.

According to the National

Weather Service, the tornado was 300 feet wide and went right through the City of Rule.

In Knox County, though, by Tuesday afternoon, 3 days after the storm, one would be hard pressed to find evidence of the trial that the citizens just came

through. The water has receded, the limbs and debris hauled off, the electricity restored to normal. People are grateful for no known tragedy and a story to tell future youngsters in a "when I was your age" lesson.



Knox County News Photo

The tank battery located west of town that Police Chief, Harry Steen witnessed erupt into flames after being struck by lightning.

Munday City Noise Ordinance Changed

By Tamara Smart

After several months of discussion, at the last meeting on June 9, Munday City Council voted to change their policies concerning obtrusive noise pollution, which seems to be a major problem in the Munday City limits.

The new policy will be read twice in the next few City Council meetings, at which time the new policies will take effect. The changes in policy are as follows: the noise ordinance times for a stationary noise were from 11pm-7am; effective after the mandatory readings, the quiet time will begin at 9pm nightly and extend until 7am. Also, the fines have been enhanced for those who continuously violate this policy.

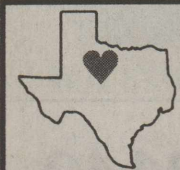
A first time offender will be issued a warning, the next time be ordered to pay a \$100 fine. The third offense will bring a \$200 fine, and a fourth offense will entail a court appearance before the City Judge at which time a fine will be considered and all court costs will also be included in the offender's punishment.

This is effective only for stationary noise pollution. Moving noise (such as that coming from a car) is a different situation. Anytime a car has excessively loud music coming from it as it travels through town, a concerned citizen is welcome to call the Munday Police and report the violation.



Knox County News Photo

The wind lifted and bent the roof off of this barn located in southern O'Brien.



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Opinion

Decline and Fall

Letter To The Editor

By Robert Romano

As inevitable as the rising of the sun in the morning and its descent in the evening, eventually, every great empire in history reaches its summit of outermost expansion, its moment of greatest wealth, power, and influence. And then, decline and fall inevitably follow.

Assyria. Persia. Macedonia. Rome. Byzantium. Britain. History is replete with examples of nations that dominated the politics and economies of their era and who, once they reached their zeniths, subsequently returned to a relatively minor status among nations.

Through the ill-advised decisions of a nation's leaders, suffice to say, some fell quicker than others.

And America will be no different. The only question is how quickly the nation's leaders wish to travel down the road to serfdom.

Today is an extraordinary day in that respect. In Yekaterinburg, Russia, the leaders of Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC) are meeting to discuss—among other topics—safely transitioning their holdings away from U.S. dollar-denominated assets such as treasuries or Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac

mortgage-backed securities and into International Monetary Fund bonds denominated in the agency's reserve currency, Special Drawing Rights (SDR).

Not that anyone could or should blame them for opting to slow their purchases of U.S. debt. Creditors have warned the U.S. publicly that it is on a reckless fiscal course with its projected record budget deficit of some \$1.8 trillion, proposed \$3.6 trillion, \$11.3 trillion debt, and \$104 trillion of unfunded Medicare and Social Security liabilities. The national debt has grown for every single year since 1954.

Coupled with the nation's more than doubling the money supply since September, its more than \$12.8 trillion committed in bailouts for the financial system, and the now-proposed Obama nationalization of the U.S. health care system, BRIC are watching their dollar-backed assets decline in value as the U.S. spends and borrows itself into the Abyss.

Which is one reason pundits, traders, Timothy Geithner and everyone else should not take too much solace in Russian Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin's proclamation that it's "too early to speak of an alternative" to the dollar.

To continue investing in an asset that will predictably fall in value out of mere tribute would not only be irrational, but irresponsible to the peoples of BRIC's respective nations. S&P has already downgraded Japan's debt, and the UK faces a similar fate by Moody's. Facing a possible downgrade of U.S. debt, BRIC's only alternative is to transition to a safer alternative as a hedge—one which they would be in a position to wield increasing influence over.

According to the International Business Times, BRIC are "seeking a louder voice on the global stage." More accurately, however, through today's BRIC summit, the nations are seeking to expand their role in overseeing the global monetary system of the 21st century. And the means by which they can leverage the inevitable decline and fall of the post-Cold War unipolar system to their advantage in light of the U.S. financial emergency that has given way to its even more formidable debt emergency.

If the U.S. is to fall as the world's economic superpower, they intend to ascend in its place.

See DECLINE page 8

Dear Editor,

I would like to take a moment to thank several people & bring it to all Knox City citizens' attention how extremely important these folks are to our community. I would like to thank our City Manager Barbara Rector, Buddy Curd, our Policeman, Harry Steen, Joe Barnard, & Lyn Electric, Scott Lynn personally, 911 dispatchers, the hospital & EMS staff, Stephen Keuhler, our volunteer Fire Department, Allsups and City Employees.

As you all know Knox City was hit by a storm Saturday afternoon which resulted in a power outage for our town. While this frustrated everyone, these people & countless others quickly went to work to help correct to ensure safety as priority & they did it unselfishly. They

went to work Saturday afternoon before the storms ever started in KC as they left their own homes & families to go watch this storm & alert everyone as it neared. When power lines were knocked down it was our fire department & Harry who watched over them until TXDOT & power companies could arrive. As well as patrol the streets & lend a hand with the debris, the whole night storms & lightning continued & they were out there. Our Volunteer Fire Dept. also rallied together Sunday afternoon after very little rest to go door to door & check on citizens of this town & offer help & support where it was needed & let everyone know all was being done to restore power- Allsup's donated ice to those who needed it so- Thank you.

Sunday morning, Barbara

Rector, Paul Strickland, Joe Rodriguez & Joe Barnard went to work for several hours to make sure our water & sewer power was not lost. Thanks to Scott Lynn for letting us interrupt your family vacation & loaning the city a generator.

I want to thank 911 dispatchers & the hospital & EMS staff for their support & patience during this trying situation. Thanks for making the coffee, Stephen.

Once again, our citizens came together without wondering how they would be repaid & we pulled ourselves through! We're truly blessed to live in such a town & have all of these people in it looking after us even when we don't realize all that has to be done.

Thank you,
Jeff Stanfield



The Paperboy

By Christopher Blackburn

I wonder what else is on the radar of lawmakers in Washington? The U.S. Government is getting sticky fingers and one would think we are helpless to stop it. As Congress considers taxing soft drinks such as Coca-Cola , Dr Pepper, Sprite, etc., I'm wondering what will be next.

If you drink alcohol or smoke, chew or dip, you are well aware of the taxes on those products. The "sin" taxes placed on these products have been around and growing for years. Now soft drinks may soon join them.

Will candy be next? Perhaps Twinkies. Maybe cupcake mix and chocolate milk will follow. Why stop there? Throw in lemonade, sweet tea and anything fried. Perhaps putting a huge tax on sugar and cooking oil is the route we're headed down. Ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard and relish had better watch out. Along with the patty and cheese, all could be taxed at the rate the federal government is growing ... err, I mean going.

Let's take it further. When will the government cross over from taxing smokers, drinkers and obese people to taxing people buying "outdoor" items like four-wheelers and golf clubs. I suppose they could say since the sun causes skin cancer, they need to tax everything used out in the sun.

It's not just taxes on things. It's the whole idea that government is the answer for everything. Where is the opposition? Where is the organization needed to get a message out that we are not all sheep. Some of us are paying attention to a government, growing by the day, and headed down the wrong path on many issues.

Is the Republican Party so inept that they can't even get a simple message out? Or are they simply done?

Americans are going to wake up soon and when they do, the entire landscape of this country will be covered with those with their hands out. No more American Dream.

We were once told "ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country," by President John F. Kennedy.

We are headed down the opposite road. We are headed down a dark road where people are expecting the government to do it all - cradle to grave.

That is not America! America is supposed to be a place where a teenager can dream of owning their own business or being a rock star.

America is supposed to be a place where little boys and little girls who work hard, make good grades and conduct themselves well, should have the opportunity to reach for the stars.

We're now told if you do reach the stars, you are going to be punished. If you make a lot of money, regardless of how generous you are, you are a bad person.

Those in power and in the media would have you believe the wealthy in this country, the people who have built our economy through hard work - the ones who provide millions of jobs, are the bad guys.

Yes Oprah, the very man you touted for president now has a pay czar. You and every other American paying taxes are now paying the salary of a guy whose job it is to control executive pay.

I wonder if Oprah would have been able to reach the stars had she faced the class warfare being perpetrated by the Obama Administration.

You know, maybe I'm wrong. Maybe having a couple of hundred million people under the iron fist of the government will fix everything.

Maybe having the auto industry, airline and aircraft industries, banking industry, housing industry, insurance industry and so on under the guidance of a bunch of people who can't balance a checkbook is a great idea.

Just maybe having no American Dream is the new American Dream. The Democrats in charge of this country are moving us too far to the left and much too fast. I certainly hope I'm wrong, but I have yet to see anything to convince me otherwise.

It worries me. Where we'll be in the coming months and years. How many pies will Uncle Sam have his fingers in before we realize nothing can stop it outside a revolution?

New York and California will probably let us know. Both states are hopelessly mired in the same trends engulfing Washington. We'll be able to see America's fate by keeping an eye on these two states.

The recession revealed how fragile California and New York's huge economies were because in less than a year, both states went from problematic outlooks to near-disaster.

Both also responded to their respective messes by making things worse through tax hikes, spending and borrowing.

Sound like Washington to you? Like the majority of you, I don't need or want the government to hold my hand. But that message is being lost in Washington. They're convinced we can't do it without them and it's wrong.

Again from Kennedy: "And yet the same revolutionary beliefs for which our forebears fought are still at issue around the globe - the belief that the rights of man come not from the generosity of the state, but from the hand of God."

If you don't like those, how about three from Ronald Reagan: "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."

"Government always finds a need for whatever money it gets."

"Government does not solve problems; it subsidizes them."

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Christopher Blackburn is the president of Blackburn Media Group, owner of this publication. Feel free to comment on The Paperboy at <http://thenewbastion.blogspot.com/>.

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Monday - Thursday • 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

ACROSS

1 TX sports figures

Landry and Griever

5 TXism: "got the hang of"

6 TX "Babe": Mildred Didrikson

7 TX education reform group (abbr.)

8 TXism: "___ earned his spurs"

9 TXism: "she ___ blue streak"

16 sports cable TV & radio network

18 TXism: "___ a squirrel out of a tree" (bragger)

21 league of European countries (abbr.)

22 lizard found in TX: ___ monster

23 "walking on ___"

24 country of Oswald's wife, Marina

30 cassette devices: tape ___

34 big TX case: Roe ___ Wade

35 faints

36 Wise Co.'s "Salt Creek" was aka ___ Creek

37 name of Texas under Mexican rule

39 in '65, Astrorome was called ___ of the World"

43 WWII bomber: ___ Gay

44 TXism: "don't amount ___ of beans"

45 TXism: "he ain't ___ spring chicken"

46 9/11 attack was in George W.'s 1st ___

47 bullfight cheers

48 soccer's abbr. for what is OT in football

50 adverb describing keen interest

53 Susan of TV film "Disappearance" with TX-born Jeremy Leighton

54 TX Holly's "___ Boy"

55 cart for heavy loads

56 film: "Last ___ the Alamo" ('83)

59 this golfer Sam won Dallas Open in '45, '57, & '58

60 famous Nike shoe: "___ Jordan"

61 Amarillo hosts the "___ State Fair"

62 fed. ID (abbr.)

DOWN

1 TXism: "___ mark" (conform)

2 TV film with UT grad Eli Wallach: "Legacy ___" ('92)

3 TX Motor Speedway cars go at 190 ___ hour

4 Lone ___ State

9 TX semiconductor company (abbr.)

10 TX writer of "A Personal Country"

11 TXism: "never ___ eyes on it"

12 Round Rock FM

13 French card game similar to Euchre

14 a good-hitting Ranger (abbr.)

15 Devine h.s. class

17 Mexican state near Laredo, TX

19 UT-OU relationship

20 Margaret Lea was ___ Houston"

24 actor Randolph of "The Tall T" (init.)

25 this Blab was Mav 1st-rounder in '85

26 TX Linda Ellerbee's "And ___ Goes"

38 this Billy was at TX Willie's Farm Aid I

40 TXism: "he'll never drown in ___ own sweat" (lazy)

41 this Lamb was a TX Populist leader in 1880s (init.)

42 TXism: "hot as ___ July"

49 TX Kristofferson's "___ Old Road"

51 got a UNT degree

52 chow down

57 small mosquito-resembling flies

58 inheritors

27 TX Charley Pride's "You're ___ When You're Bad"

28 take in air

29 "As Nasty ___ Wanna Be" ('89)

31 TXism: "bit off more than he ___ chew"

32 TXism: "___ as sin"

33 soldier guard

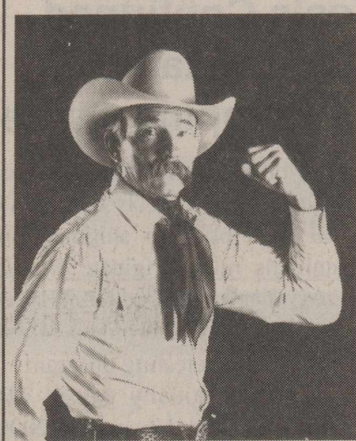
TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

by Baxter Black,
DVM

BEETLESS TUESDAY

I felt a twinge of sadness when I heard that the SEAM (Social Engineers And Manipulators) had declared BEETLESS TUESDAY in Missoula. It cast a pall over folks in Montana. Little school children begging the cafeteria lady, "Please, please, we need our beets!"

It's a three-purpose vegetable;

1) A Tuber of Play, ancient Viking children from Williston played 'Kick the Beet'

2) It is a Tuber of Art, early Scottish settlers sculpted tall statues of Mr. Potato Head in beets and made the Polish pioneers carry them long distances, thus the origin of the name 'Totem Poles', and,

3) Last but not least, the beet is a Tuber Time Piece. When left on the north side of the tractor shed a beet has a half-life of two years. As it disintegrates, you can measure its weight and circumference to determine how much longer your representative has to serve.

Why would the SEAM pick on beets? To reduce global warming? To improve gas mileage? To lose weight?

Have they thought of No Power Wednesdays? That would have a serious impact on our use of coal, uranium, and hydroelectric dams, not to mention having to cover our solar collectors. But would people turn off their heaters, air conditioners, refrigeration, Prius, CNN news, or factories? Even for an hour?

Better yet, let's have Coffeeless Thursdays! All the Seattle's Best, Starbucks and Columbian burros would be laid off for a day. In seven years we would save enough coffee to make it free for a year!

It would help if we understood why social reconstructionists would be calling for Beetless Tuesday, Shoeless Saturday, Deodorantless Friday, Ben and Jerryless Sundaes or Meatless Mondays. Is it for the common good? If so, who's common good? The beet growers? Where shall we start these social engineering experiments? The Refugee camps in Somalia? The unemployment lines in Detroit? The Terlingua Chili Festival?

If we want to do something serious as a country, instead of taking something away, how 'bout offering something BACK! How about Taxless Tuesday. Everything you earn on Tuesdays you get to keep! If you are making \$650 a week and paying 20% of your income to the government, your tax equals \$26 dollars a day. If just one day a week you could keep all you earned you would have an extra \$1,362 at the end of the year.

Which makes more sense to you...\$1,362 or not eating Beets on Tuesday? Maybe it's just me.

The 501

by
Hanaba Munn Welch

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

Night should be night. Artificial lights are a necessary evil and sometimes not even necessary.

That said, I needed both my headlights the other night as I took a circuitous cross-country route from Brownwood to Wichita Falls via Lake Kickapoo. A few wrong turns added to the circuitousness. At one point, I had to back uphill out of a mesquite pasture. Don't ask.

The Lake Kickapoo part of the journey was a side-trip to see an RV for sale cheap. I didn't get there until around 10 p.m. The guy giving me directions was admittedly dyslexic (some of my best friends are dyslexics), and my glasses weren't strong enough for nighttime map reading. Otherwise, I'd have gotten there sooner and the experience wouldn't have been anything like "The Texas Chain Saw Massacre," not that I've seen the movie. I've seen parts. It didn't help that the guy showing me the ramshackle trailer somewhat resembled the infamous Norman Bates of another movie I haven't seen either.

Anyway, the lights of Wichita Falls had never looked better to me than when I finally rolled safely into the city's welcoming glow.

A different feeling hit me when I drove from Wichita Falls to Vernon and saw a different kind of lights in the middle of nowhere alongside U.S. 287. Powerful swiveling twin beams shot up into the dark sky, swishing this way and that.

Why would those folks at the XXX highway movie store be searching the skies? I looked

up myself to see what I could see. No enemy warplanes. But it was still exciting, like having a couple of very powerful flashlights in the hands of someone very close by. I looked at the searchlights themselves -- oversized animated kettledrums moving to frenetic music I couldn't hear. I forgot all about my own headlights and followed the searchlight beams instead, glancing at the road in front of me only often enough to stay on it. Dancing searchlights can't be taken lightly. They had my attention.

OK. We both know the XXX people weren't worried about a possible air strike on nearby Oklaunion. A traditional non-military use of waving searchlights is to draw attention to glitzy Hollywood movie premieres, as captured in the iconic 20th Century Fox logo. So it can safely be assumed the movie store got in a fresh shipment of DVDs and they just wanted to let everybody know. They must be really good -- or bad.

A few days later, I saw the same searchlight beams from our farm, roughly ten miles away. Like a dog chasing its tail, they chased each other in vain through the overcast sky.

My initial fascination with the phenomenon had faded. From such a distance, so had the rays of light. I saw them for what they were: pollution of the night sky and a waste of energy in the name of pornography. Appropriate.

Postscript:

I didn't buy that bargain trailer at Lake Kickapoo. Go for it. If you like adventure, wait until dark.

KNOX COUNTY AGING SERVICES MENUS FOR JUNE 1ST TO JUNE 5TH

Monday June 22nd
Chicken Fried Steak/
Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Salad
Biscuit
Cobbler

Macaroni & Tomatoes
Cornbread
Cookies

Thursday June 25th
Sliced Ham
Potato Salad
Blackeyed Peas
Hot Rolls
Cobbler

Tuesday June 23rd
Beef Stew
Fried Squash
Cornbread
Pudding

Friday June 26th
BBQ on a Bun
Potato Chips
Cole Slaw
Dessert.

Wednesday June 24th
Meat Loaf
Pinto Beans

PREPARE FOR CANNING SEASON

If you can your own fruits and vegetables and are concerned about the quality of your food and preventing spoilage you will want to have the pressure gauge on your home canner tested for accuracy. Jane Rowan, County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences, will be conducting a Pressure Canner Testing Clinic on Tuesday, June 30 from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Haskell County Extension Office located at 101 South Avenue D in Haskell.

If you plan to participate you will need to bring your pressure canner lid and gauge. The clinic is free of charge and will only take about ten minutes. If you cannot come on June 30th, you may drop off your canner lid and

gauge prior to June 30th and pick it up any time after the testing date.

People are doing more home canning for both economical as well as health reasons. During the clinic, a variety of home food preservation materials will be available to guide you in safely preserving foods. If you have questions about food preservation, canning equipment, and the How To's of Canning please feel free to contact the County Extension Office at (940) 864-2546.

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Dear, V/First

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V/First, If I don't have in stock what you desire, give me just a minute, and I will gladly find it for you. In many cases we can get it within a same day turnaround! This business is known region wide as the best deal on a new car and truck, help me spread the word so we can continue to GROW. We're setting out in 2009 to be #1!

I hope 2009 brings you good luck and remember to please tune into my talk show on ESPN 1230 every Saturday morning to stay up with current news about us and the auto industry (mixed with a little humor to).

Come down to Wolfe Ford Dodge or call me at...

(940) 552-2555 Ext. 818
JWolfe@GoWolfe.com

Sincerely,

John Wolfe
John Wolfe
Owner / President

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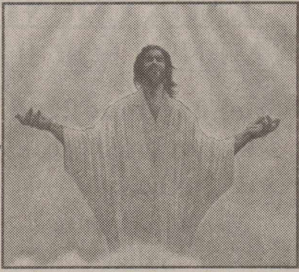


expires June 30, 2009



God's Promises

By Jim Reid, Pastor
O'Brien Baptist Church



The storm that hit our area on Saturday evening truly was alarming. It was reported that winds blew up to one hundred miles per hour. There were areas that were really hit hard. We certainly found it uncomfortable with the heat and no utilities.

I am always impressed with all the utility workers and how quickly they can restore all our utilities in such a short period of time; relative to the damage caused. You may have seen them working in many different areas. Long hours, dangerous tasks and in difficult situations and yet in their perseverance and endurance our comfort zones were restored quickly.

We can always take a cavalier attitude and say, "Well, that's why they get paid, that's what they're supposed to do!" Of course it is, but in the same thought the emergent situation can't help but challenge their grit, dedication and belief in what is good for the whole cause. My thanks and appreciation goes out to them one hundred fold.

The Apostle Paul gave us the mind set to persevere and endure the hard times. He knew that many times we would be outside our comfort zone. Even outside our spiritual comfort zone. There is a difference in how we approach each and every situation; be it emergent or burdensome. There is one sure way to always be on top, to persevere, to endure and always be victorious. In Colossians, chapter 3 verses 23, 24 Paul ensures that our dedication to do all for the Lord will always bring about completion and well being.

Col 3:23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men;

Col 3:24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

As Christians we choose to do all unto the Lord. We give him the glory for all that we do and he continually blesses and has us to live in all "comfort zones".

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

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Timothy Trimble, Pastor

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Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6 p.m.

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Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Mid-Week, Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

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Obituary

Phyllis McNelly

Phyllis McNelly, 63, of Rochester, passed away Thursday, June 11, 2009 in Wichita Fall. A funeral service will be Monday, June 15, 2009, 2 pm, at the First Baptist Church in Rochester. Burial will follow in Rochester Cemetery under the direction of Smith Funeral Home. Visitation will be today from 2 to 4 pm at the funeral home.

Phyllis was born on April 21, 1946 in New Mexico, to the late Earl Whitfield and Edna Gladys Davis. Phyllis was the youngest of 12 brothers and sisters. She was married to Richard McNelly who preceded her in death in 2008. She enjoyed sewing and quilting. She especially loved visiting with friends and spending time with kids and grandkids. Phyllis was a member of the First Baptist Church, Rochester. She will be greatly missed.

Survivors include three sons, Morgan McNelly and wife Trecia of Houston, Stephen McNelly and wife Lisa of Glen Rose, and David McNelly of Walnut Springs; grandchildren Ricky Carver, Julie Clem, Jael Garcia, Joshua McNelly, Ethan McNelly, Will McNelly, Keifer McNelly and Anabella McNelly; great grandchildren Genica Carver, Caden O'Neal, Jace Garcia, Ashley Garcia, Mason Garcia and Joshua Clem; two sisters Manita Rodden of CA and Glenda Harrington of Oregon; a dear friend Virginia McNelly and many nieces and nephews.

Quick Draw Event Highlight of Stamford Art Foundation Preview Party

Many of the artists will participate in the popular "Quick Draw" event at the 36th Annual Preview Party. In this event, artists are given one (1) hour to complete a painting from a blank canvass and frame it. The artwork is then auctioned off to the highest bidder with proceeds benefiting the West Texas Rehab Center. Patrons can mingle and watch these awesome works in the making. Artists participating this year are: Gary Bailey, Bill Barrick, George Boutwell, Anthony Brown, R. Russell Brown, Hugh Campbell, III, Jimmy Dyer, Paul Friske, M. S. Hollis, Mike Irvin, Daniel Maldonado, Steven Napper, Tom Paulson, Doug Prine, Theda Rhea, Paul Cameron Smith, Kathy Tate, Gary Ward and Jim Ward.

Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame Artist, Wayne Baize is unable to attend the Show, but is donating a print on canvas to be used in the Auction. Baize was an original artist in the Stamford Art Show in 1974 and continues to be supportive of the Show's endeavors. There will also be a drawing for two (2) \$100.00 gift

certificates to be used toward the purchase of any art work in the Show.

The 36th Annual Stamford Art Foundation Show and Sale is July 1st through July 4th with the Preview Party on June 30th. The Show will be held at the John Selmon Memorial Gallery located at the Texas Cowboy Reunion Rodeo Grounds. The Show is held in conjunction with the Texas Cowboy Reunion Rodeo.

The art for the 36th Show can be seen for the first time at the Preview Party held on June 30th at 6:30 p.m. at the Texas Cowboy Reunion Rodeo Grounds. Those attending will have the opportunity to visit with the artists, enjoy a steak dinner with all the trimmings catered by Joe Allen's of Abilene and dance to music by Gary Miller and the Key West Band.

Tickets for the Preview Party are \$37.50 each. For information regarding the Show or reserving tickets, contact Dawn Ham at 325-773-9094 or the West Texas Rehabilitation Center at 325-793-3512.

Survive the Summer: Hot Weather Myths You Need to Know!

NEW HYDE PARK, NY – As all new parents know, the summer months provide greater opportunities to enjoy the outdoors; however, they also present seasonal health risks and challenges. "There are many myths and misconceptions regarding hot weather activities, and unfortunately, these can pose serious health risks," says Dr. Andrew Adesman, Chief of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics at Schneider Children's Hospital in New Hyde Park, NY, author of a new book on pediatric myths entitled "babyfacts."

Although most people likely know that you don't get warts from touching toads, many other health misconceptions persist regarding outdoor activities. **For example, many people believe that you need to wait 30 minutes or longer before swimming after a meal when, in fact, there really is no need to wait at all.** Another popular myth is that potato salad is the first thing to go bad at a picnic. According to Dr. Adesman, this may have been true years ago when it was prepared with home-made mayonnaise (which contains uncooked eggs). Today, this is much less of a concern if the salad is made with commercially prepared mayonnaise.

Here are some other hot weather myths that will help you survive the summer:

Poison ivy rash is contagious
Fans are a good way to prevent heat stroke
You can catch a cold immediately after leaving an air-conditioned room

Urinate on a jelly fish sting to soothe the pain
You should suck out the venom from a snake bite
Sparklers are a safe alternative to fireworks
Dark skinned people do not need sunscreen
Citronella candles are an effective mosquito repellent

The higher the percentage of DEET, the more mosquitoes will be repelled

Wearing less clothing makes you feel cooler
You need to put on sunscreen right before you go outdoors
*There is no harm in urinating in a public pool that is properly chlorinated

*Regarding this last myth... although there are no special dyes in pools that detect urine (a popular myth that may serve as a deterrent for some), urine can cause eye irritation and breathing difficulties when it mixes with chlorine. **Dr. Adesman notes that in a very recent survey of 1000 adults, 17% admitted urinating in a swimming pool,** indicating that many people obviously consider this to be acceptable behavior. A word to the wise...

These are just some of the 160 myths debunked in Dr. Adesman's book. Parents and other childcare providers wishing to see how many myths they unknowingly believe to be true can take a fun and informative quiz at [HYPERLINK "http://www.babyfacts.com/"](http://www.babyfacts.com/)

Advertising Deadline
is Friday at 2 p.m.

Cattle Tuberculosis Confirmed in Texas; Check with States of Destination Before Shipping Cattle

Cattle tuberculosis (TB) has been confirmed in a west Texas dairy that has been quarantined since April when some cattle in the herd responded to a TB test being conducted prior to a sale. (The sale was cancelled.)

The cattle TB diagnosis was confirmed at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa, where *M. bovis*, or cattle TB bacteria, was grown or "cultured" from tissues that had been collected during the necropsy of the test-positive cattle.

"The infected herd remains quarantined while the final disposition of the herd is determined either slaughtering the herd, or repeatedly testing and removing infected animals until the herd is free of cattle TB," said Dr. Bob Hillman, Texas' state veterinarian and head of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency. "Dairy, calf-raising and dairy animal replacement operations with epidemiological links to the infected herd are being tested to determine both the origin and potential spread of the disease."

"I encourage ranchers or accredited veterinarians to call the state of destination prior to shipping beef or dairy cattle out of Texas," said Dr. Hillman. "Some states may impose enhanced TB entry requirements on Texas cattle and bison. Keep in mind, too, that many states, like Texas, have implemented cattle trichomoniasis testing requirements, so call before you haul."

Dr. Hillman said Texas' cattle TB-free status with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) could be in jeopardy, if the infected dairy cannot be depopulated, or if a second infected herd is detected within 48 months.

Nebraska, in early June, confirmed TB infection in a beef herd. Currently, California and Minnesota are not cattle TB-free, and areas in Michigan and New Mexico have specified zones that are not TB-free. When TB-free status is lost, breeding cattle

and bison moved out of a state need a negative TB test within 60 days prior to shipment, or animals must originate from a herd that has accredited TB-free status, achieved through a formal testing and retesting program.

Texas initially gained TB-free status in November 2000, when all counties except El Paso and portions of Hudspeth Counties were declared free of the disease. (The El Paso Milk Shed had a history of recurring infection, and eventually, the dairies were depopulated. Dairies no longer operate in this area along the U.S.-Mexican border near El Paso.)

In June 2002, Texas lost TB-free status after infection was detected in a beef herd and in an operation with both beef and dairy cattle. To regain TB-free status, 2,014 Texas purebred beef herds and the state's 818 dairies were tested for the disease from October 2003 through August 2006. One TB-infected dairy was detected and depopulated. In September 2006, the USDA issued the coveted TB-free status for all of Texas' 254 counties.

When exposed to cattle TB, an animal's immune system will fight the invasion by encapsulating the bacteria. This can cause the formation of lesions or growths in and on lymph nodes, mammary glands, lungs and other internal organs. Although infected, the animals may appear healthy, until the latter stages of the disease, when signs may include weight loss, coughing or breathing difficulties. The disease is not treatable in livestock.

"Cattle TB is a serious, transmissible disease that can spread among herds," said Dr. Hillman. "In the early 1900s, when the national cattle TB eradication program was initiated, more than five percent of the country's herds were infected with the disease. At that time, cattle TB posed a significant human health threat, because consumers could become infected when they drank raw, unpasteurized milk that had not been through heat-

See CATTLE page 8

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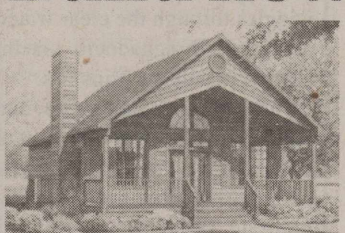
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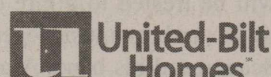
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2009 Weekly Weather Report

Date	Temperature (F) Low / High	Rainfall inches
06/09	69/90	.27
06/10	66/88	.12
06/11	64/93	
06/12	75/101	
06/13	75/98	1.49
06/14	69/97	
06/15	77/97	

Total Rainfall 1.88
2009 Rainfall (ytd) 8.16

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BENJAMIN NEWS

By Gladene Green

Have we gotten spoiled to all these modern day conveniences on what? This weekend has been a good example of how we can make it when the electricity goes off. It's been an experience when all's going well, we tend to forget what we have to go through when things "go away". Our first thoughts are- How are we going to cook or how are we going to see in the dark, or, most important, how are we going to stay cool! Well, we made it & thankfully no real storm damage here in town, however, out where my kids live (what used to be part of the League Ranch) they got quite a lot of damage- Roof, porch, windows, etc.- But, again, no one injured & these material things can be replaced.

About Our Ill

My daughter, Debbie Moorhouse spent Thursday nite in a Wichita Falls hospital after having some problems at home. Drs. at Knox City saw no indication of real trouble, but thought she needed to be checked further. She was having some vision problems, speech problems and was weak & naturally we all got concerned. Hopefully, it was something that won't re-occur.

Olivia Gloria's dad, Alfonso Del Hierro of Knox City is in Hendrick Medical Center & according to his family is having a pretty hard time. No indication how long he may be in the hospital.

Lana Mendoza of Seymour, daughter of Jane Gideon will have back surgery tomorrow (Mon) in Wichita Falls. It's where they fuse the vertebrae together where a problem has developed. She shouldn't be down too long, however, she is a nurse & does not need to rush back to work too soon.

Mark Brown was in Dallas last week & will go back for another week of testing (& drs. deciding what to do next,) this next week. Right now, Mark is not feeling well at all.

Judy Barnett is to have surgery on June 22 in Houston on her leg. This will be the first of three she will have to correct some damage from an automobile injury several years ago.

Here 'N There

Lorene Powers was in Sulfur Springs last week to visit relatives. She accompanied Jimmy and Helen Green of Guthrie. They reported a good time.

The Conner family held their annual reunion last weekend here in the Ex-Students building. The crowd was not as big as usual but there was much visiting & lots of good food. The auction in the afternoon gathered a good bit of money to help with the next reunion. Vern & Maxine Griffin Stubbs visited with Earlene Meinzer one day last week. And also stopped by to see Reba & Charlie Morrill. They travel quite a lot but were en route to their place at Coleman where they plan to be for a while.

Imagean & Dutch Young & Mike Young attended the Greenbelt football game in Childress Sat. nite. Mike's grandson, Dustin Brown of Snyder played on the south team, which, by the way, won 22-7. Said they had rain & lightning which delayed the game some but no storms.

Erika and Wes Holmes were in Austin last weekend for the state track meet. Their children, Jayden & Jacy enjoyed a weekend with grandparents, Alan & Jennifer Holmes at O'Brien this past weekend attending a family reunion of Jennifer's family at Clyde. I'm thinking they got lots of attention at that get together.

Eva Atwood called to say how much her family appreciated the kindness and generosity of the Benjamin folks during the recent death of Skipper Hamilton. The food provided & a cool place to visit before the burial was a comfort to them all. Skipper's daughter, Becky, said they couldn't have asked for a warmer homecoming. Those kind comments are appreciated by all of us. We are always glad to help out in a time of need.

Several local 4-H members were at A&M last week for method demonstration contest.

They didn't win, but got some good experience. Attending were Leah & Jessica Vanderpol, Brittany Coop, Devon Jones, Shelby Russell, Mitchell Welch and Raquel Acevedo.

Kim Moore took some of them & she & daughter, Shelby visited with former resident, Doug Brown while in the area. Said Doug is doing well & sends his best to friends back home.

Jack and Mary Young also attended the Greenbelt game in Childress Sat. nite.

Texas State Parks Showing Patriotic Fervor This Year

AUSTIN – From two diamond anniversary celebrations and fireworks extravaganzas to live music performances and bicycle parades, more than a dozen Texas state parks are planning a host of special events to commemorate the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

Two of Texas' oldest and best known state parks – Palo Duro Canyon in the Texas Panhandle and Caddo Lake in the northeastern corner of the state – will celebrate 75 years of welcoming the public to some of the Lone Star State's most spectacular natural wonders. Both parks were developed in 1934 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's most ambitious public works programs instituted during the Great Depression era.

Palo Duro Canyon State Park's 75th anniversary celebration stretches over two days, with Saturday, July 4, events including a special daytime program on the canyon's history and the Independence Day version of the renowned outdoor musical drama, "Texas!" that night. Park entry fees are waived.

On Sunday, in the same Pioneer Amphitheater, music fans will be treated to a rare concert by Texan-born music legend Boz Scaggs and his band. Amarillo's famous Big Texas Steak Ranch will cater both events. Tickets for both nights' entertainment can be purchased by visiting <http://www.texas-show.com> or by calling (806)655-2181.

Caddo Lake State Park & Wildlife Management Area will commemorate the park's opening on July 4, 1934, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a special program on the CCC and Caddo Indians that will include traveling exhibits, the unveiling of a time capsule buried 15 years ago and collection of items for burial in a new time capsule to be recovered at the park's 150th anniversary in another 75 years. Local park supporter Mary Jane Sanders, who attended the original park opening in 1934, has been invited to share stories of the park's early days.

The state park gets its name from 26,000-acre Caddo Lake, a sprawling maze of cypress swamps, bayous and slough that once comprised the only natural lake in Texas until it was dammed below. It was the state's first planned CCC park project with land acquisition beginning in 1933. The original recreation hall and cabins still stand. Cabin 1, renovated in 2001, will be open for tours during the celebration. Several local organizations, including the Caddo Lake Institute

See PARKS Page 8

Russell Graves Outdoors

CONFESSIONS OF A POND JUMPER - Part 1
Whether in neighborhood parks, or at pay-per-use facilities, Texas boasts about a million reasons to try pond fishing.

By Russell A. Graves

I can't remember what exactly got me addicted to pond fishing. I can come up with a litany of reasons, but none stands out as the primary rationale for my passion.

Maybe the tug of a tight line first piqued my attention. Perhaps it was the way I felt when I first saw a bass explode from summer's still waters and spank a Hula Popper with incomprehensible quickness. On the other hand, maybe, just maybe, I subscribe to Kevin Costner's explanation of why his Field of Dreams grew from a cornfield: All the cosmic tumblers clicked into place to create magic.

This morning, I stand on the western side of a pond I've fished every year from the time I was eight. The pond is only 200 yards from my parents' front door, and I've followed the same path through the pasture to the pond for so many years. I'm surprised that my feet haven't worn a rut slicing through the blackland prairie.

Nearby, my lifelong friend Garry casts a 6-inch soft plastic bait that looks like a thick, rigid worm; but when it is twitched at the end of monofilament, it dodges and darts like a wounded baitfish. My brother William casts a double-bladed chartreuse spinnerbait that is usually effective for bass on this 2-acre farm pond. I cast a chartreuse lipless crankbait that's spotted black and stirs up some audible commotion as it wiggles through the clear water. As we fish, we speak in short, inarticulate sentences branded with a perfect mix of braggadocio, machismo and trash talk. We catch a few fish, but the chance to tease each other is what makes our trips fun.

Soon the fishing slows, and an hour of angling nirvana comes to an end. We contemplate going to another nearby impoundment, and then another and another — we call it "pond jumping." Growing up in the country, pond access was never much of a problem, as my family maintained good relations with neighboring landowners. Therefore, it's not unusual for us to fish a half-dozen ponds in the course of a morning. If the fish stopped biting at one pond, they'd surely bite at another.

I've never been much of a lake angler, but I do enjoy the challenge of fishing farm impoundments. Sometimes, though, the challenge becomes too tough and I can't get the fish to bite at all. In an attempt to learn more about my favorite fishing holes and how to overcome inevitable lulls in fishing action, I visit with a couple of seasoned pond angling experts in the hope of unlocking secrets that I've never contemplated before.

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Any questions or comments? Contact Russell at russellgraves.com or visit his website at www.russellgraves.com

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Quanah's Mitchell Leads South to Win in 60th Greenbelt Bowl

By RYAN MILLS
CHILDRESS — Mother Nature was the least valuable player in Saturday's 60th annual Childress Rotary Greenbelt Bowl All-Star Classic. The game was delayed three times for rain and lightning for a total of one hour and 45 minutes. Once the contest finally ended at 11:05 p.m. Quanah's Tevin Mitchell earned the Dub

Nelson Most Valuable Player award with 149 yards on 22 carries and a touchdown leading the South to a 23-7 win at Fair Park Stadium. Wichita Falls Hirschi quarterback Harrison Johnson passed for a touchdown and kicked an 18-yard field goal helping the South cause. Harrison completed 13 passes for 113 yards and ran for 30 more.

The South, coached by New Mexico Military Institute's Jeff Lynn, dominated racking up 23 first downs and over 400 yards of offense and forced five turnovers by the North. The North was led by Clyde quarterback Jacob Gonzales who completed 14-27 passes for 123 yards and ran for 45. The South picked him five times however. The South got on the board

first on their first possession of the contest. They went 55 yards in seven plays capped by a 10-yard touchdown pass from Johnson to Canadian's Clint Cockrell. Johnson kicked the PAT and the South led 7-0 with 9:32 to play in the first quarter. The second South drive was interrupted by the first of three lightning delays for 25

minutes but when play resumed they capped an 11-play, 62-yard drive when Grandfield, Okla. quarterback John Brown scored on a 1-yard run. The kick failed leaving the South with a 13-0 lead with 3:45 to play in the first quarter. The second lightning delay came in the second quarter and it delayed another South drive for almost an hour as the South was facing 4th-and-Goal from the 1-yard line. When play resumed the South elected to kick the field goal and Johnson nailed the 18-yard try for a 16-0 lead with 7:43 to play before the half. Later in the second quarter the North finally found the scoreboard when Clyde quarterback Jacob Gonzales scored on a 7-yard touchdown run. Gonzales also handled the kicking duties as the North pulled to within 16-7 with eight seconds to play in the first half. In the third quarter Quanah's Mitchell scored on a 6-yard run capping a 12-play, 92-yard drive to cap the scoring. Wellington's Quenton Patterson led all receivers with six catches for 58 yards for the North. Gonzales led the North in rushing with 50 yards on seven carries while Childress' Michael Ramirez had 26 yards on seven carries. The Morris Higley Outstanding Offensive Back was presented to Gonzales, the

Bob Jones Outstanding Offensive lineman went to Idalou's Sammy Garcia, the Ross Smith Outstanding Defensive Back was presented to Stratford's Manuel Chavoya, the Jackie Smith Outstanding Defensive Lineman went to Frenship's Brandon Jones while the W.C. "Hoot" Voyles Award was presented to Seminole's Nicky Nave. Quanah's Melissa Martinez was crowned the Greenbelt Bowl Queen during halftime ceremonies.

South 23, North 7			
North	0	7	0 - 7
South	13	3	7 0 - 23
South - Clint Cockrell 10 pass from Harrison Johnson (Johnson kick)			
South - John Brown 2 run (kick failed)			
South - Johnson 18 field goal			
North - Jacob Gonzales 7 run (Gonzales kick)			
South - Tevin Mitchell 7 run (Johnson kick)			
	South	North	
First Downs	20	14	
Yards Rushing	258	95	
Yards Passing	190	142	
Total Yards	448	237	
C/A/I	16-27-1	15-31-5	
Fumbles/lost	3-1	1-0	



Photo by Kirby Campbell
Quanah's Tevin Mitchell runs over a North defender during the 60th Annual Childress Rotary Greenbelt Bowl All-Star Classic Saturday in Childress. Mitchell ran 22 times for 149 yards earning the Dub Nelson MVP award and \$1,000 scholarship.

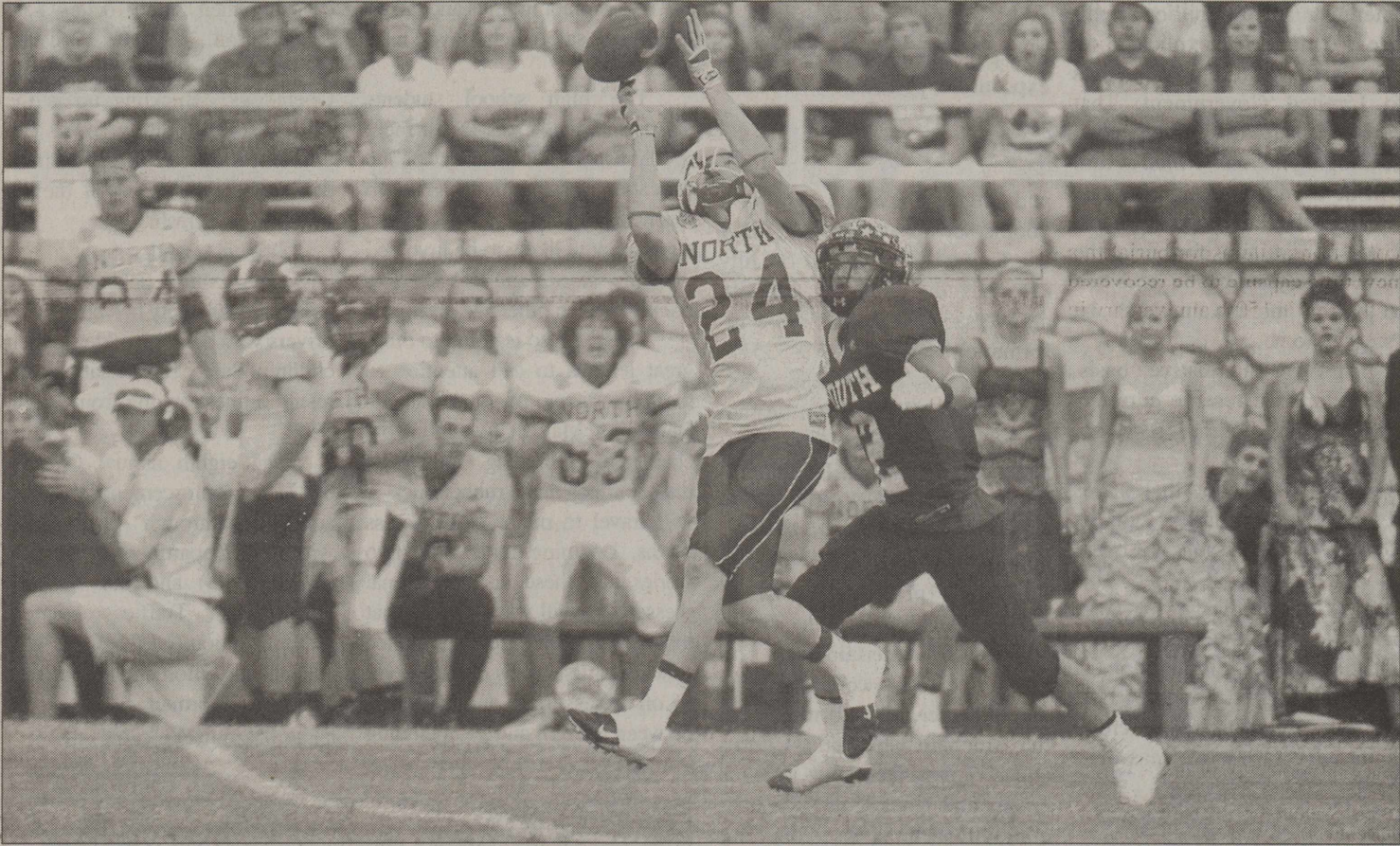


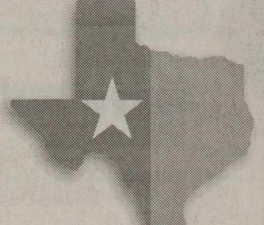
Photo by Kirby Campbell
Childress cornerback Creede Breeding narrowly misses an interception in coverage of Canadian's Clint Cockrell in the Greenbelt Bowl Saturday. The South won the contest 23-7. Munday's Marcos Gonzales played for the North while Knox City's Jordan Carter played for the South.

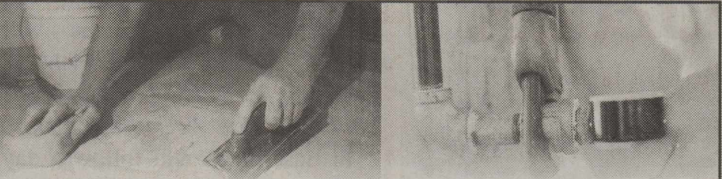
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State Capital HIGHLIGHTS



By Ed Sterling

Governor signs emergency bill enacting reforms for state living centers

AUSTIN — It's bill signing and vetoing time for Gov. Rick Perry.

He suffered a broken collar bone in a June 9 bicycling accident near his residence, but exercised his pen with a pile of legislation awaiting his signature.

On June 11, he signed one of those bills, SB 643,

enacting emergency reforms for Texas' state-supported living centers, formerly referred to as "state schools." The legislation increases oversight and protection for residents of centers and for those enrolled in community-based services.

The projected cost of the package of reforms is \$32.7 million through Aug. 31, 2011, and another \$40 million from Sept. 1, 2011 through the end of fiscal year 2014.

Among its many reforms, SB 643 increases penalties for employees who abuse or neglect residents, or fail to report abuse or neglect, Perry's office said. And, it requires the Department of Aging and Disability Services to contract with an independent patient safety organization to conduct mortality assessments to determine if deaths could have been prevented.

Among the many people present for the signing ceremony were primary author Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Grapevine, and House sponsor Rep. Patrick Rose, D-Dripping Springs.

Looking ahead to November ballot

During the 81st regular session of the Texas Legislature, which ended June 1, the House and Senate passed eight joint resolutions that will appear on the Nov. 3 general election ballot as 11 proposed amendments to the state constitution.

In the coming months, the Secretary of State's office will publish analyses of the proposed amendments, including what supporters and opponents say about each.

Here are somewhat shortened captions of proposals on the ballot:

n To authorize the state to contribute money, property, and other resources for the establishment, maintenance and operation of veterans hospitals in this state.

n To prohibit the taking, damaging, or destroying of private property for public use unless the action is for the ownership, use, and enjoyment of the property by the State, a political subdivision of the State,

the public at large or entities granted the power of eminent domain.

n To establish the national research university fund to enable emerging research universities in this state to achieve national prominence as major research universities and transferring the balance of the higher education fund to the national research university fund.

n To authorize the Legislature to provide for the ad valorem taxation of a residence homestead solely on the basis of the property's value as a residence homestead.

n To set uniform standards and procedures for the appraisal of property for ad valorem tax purposes.

n To authorize the Legislature to authorize a single board of equalization for two or more adjoining appraisal entities that elect to provide for consolidated equalizations.

n To provide that elected members of governing boards of emergency services districts may serve terms not to exceed

four years.

n To protect the right of the public, individually and collectively, to access and use the public beaches bordering the seaward shore of the Gulf of Mexico.

n To authorize the Veterans' Land Board to issue general obligation bonds in amounts equal to or less than amounts previously authorized.

n To allow an officer or enlisted member of the Texas State Guard or other state militia or military force to hold other civil offices.

n To authorize the financing, including through tax increment financing, of the acquisition by municipalities and counties of buffer areas or open spaces adjacent to a military installation for the prevention of encroachment or for the construction of roadways, utilities, or other infrastructure to protect or promote the mission of the military installation.

It'll be back to Austin for lawmakers

Gov. Perry has warned to

the idea, but has not set a date for lawmakers to return to Austin to settle unfinished business in a 30-day special session.

The Senate, the House and Perry are under pressure to pass "sunset bills" that would allow the continuation of the Texas Department of Insurance, the Texas Department of Transportation, the Texas Racing Commission and the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation.

Without the Legislature's approval, those agencies will clock out for good on Sept. 1, 2010.

AG chastizes reorganized GM Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott on June 10 raised Cain with the "new General Motors" for putting thousands of Texas dealers, workers and their families at risk by modifying franchise agreements with take-it-or-leave-it stipulations.

DECLINE

They even have a willing participant in the Obama Administration. While in China recently, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said, "[T]he United States will fully support having China play a role in the principal cooperative arrangements that help shape the international system, a role that is commensurate with China's importance in the global economy." Left unspoken is America's declining influence, but the numbers speak for themselves.

BRIC has a combined \$2.8 trillion in international reserve assets excluding gold, according to Bloomberg News, representing 42 percent of global currency reserves. And they have a combined GDP (PPP) of \$15.446 compared to the U.S. GDP (PPP) \$14.264 trillion: Brazil (\$1.981 trillion), Russia (\$2.261 trillion), India (\$3.288 trillion), and China (\$7.916 trillion).

Comparatively, BRIC should be expected to grow against the

U.S. especially as the dollar continues to decline and predicted inflation ensues with monetary and fiscal "stimuli" taking root. With oil topping \$70 a barrel and gold nearing \$1000 an ounce, there is no question that the next great danger facing the American economy is inflation. As noted by MSN Money's Bill Fleckenstein, "When money printing goes into excess, as it almost always does, speculation follows." And prices shortly thereafter.

All of which facilitates the decline of the dollar, and the fall of the nation as an economic superpower. It is a danger that is certain to hammer the American people over the coming years at the gas pump and in the grocery store with higher prices, on their credit card statements in the form of higher interest rates, and on their tax bills as the next generation is faced with the daunting—if not impossible—task of paying off the gargantuan national debt.

And it only further incentivizes a whole sale run on dollar-denominated assets.

Already, international demand for U.S. assets declined in April, as reported by Bloomberg News. And China has announced \$50 billion in purchases of SDR-denominated bonds, Russia \$10 billion, Brazil \$10 billion, and today India is expected to announce a similar plan.

This is just the beginning.

Today is also an extraordinary day with respect to the decline of the dollar for another reason. For today, the House is expected to vote on whether or not the U.S. shall willingly participate in replacing the dollar as the world's reserve currency by extending a \$100 billion credit line to the IMF, explicated in this background by Americans for Limited Government. That cash will be used to give loans to developing nations, which in turn will be used to leverage the sale of the SDR-denominated bonds. Since it is a fiat currency, the more widely used and accepted it is, the more value will be assigned to it.

And on a relative basis, the dollar as a reserve currency will only have one place to go: down.

nation's leaders have done so willingly.

As noted above, through the ill-advised decisions of a nation's leaders, some nations fall quicker than others. And some appear to be in an outright rush to traverse the road to serfdom.

Robert Romano is the Senior Editor of ALG News Bureau.

CATTLE

treatment to kill bacteria. Today, commercially produced milk is pasteurized. While bovine TB is still a human health threat, other forms of tuberculosis, such as the human and avian strains, now pose the greatest risk of TB exposure to persons."

PARKS

and City of Uncertain, will have booths set up at the event. Day use fees will be waived on July 4 for visitors attending the 75th anniversary event. For more information, call (903) 679-3351.

The seat of Texas independence — Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site between Navasota and Brenham — will host a full day of 4th of July events from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., culminating with "Fireworks on the Brazos" presented by H-E-B. Festivities will include strolling Western entertainers, a Kid Zone, free music concerts at the amphitheater, a performance by the Brenham Children's Chorus and at 7 p.m. free Blue Bell ice cream and Coca-Cola. The celebration event is free, but tour fees apply. Call (936) 878-2214 for details.

Another Texas Parks and Wildlife Department-operated site — the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens — will host "Fireworks at the Fishery" on July 4. What is touted as one of the largest fireworks displays in East Texas will follow a day of free fishing. Call (903) 676-BASS for more information.

Several state parks will be hosting traditional holiday activities. Kids can decorate their bikes for 4th of July parades through Inks Lake, Martin Dies Jr. and Purtil Creek state parks, and participate in sack races, egg relays and three-legged races at the World Birding Center at Estero Llano Grande State Park.

"Fourth of July in the 1900s" at Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site will feature traditional German family holiday fun such as horseshoes, washer pitching and stickhorse races. Historical houses and buildings will be open for guided tours by interpreters dressed in period clothing during the 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. event. Call (830) 644-2252 for information.

Gripping Reminders Urge Motorists to Buckle Up

TxDOT Kicks Off Annual Click It or Ticket Campaign in a Big Way

AUSTIN — Against the backdrop of their mangled pickup, two Salado teens joined transportation officials and law enforcement officers at the Capitol Thursday to launch Texas' biggest-ever *Click It or Ticket* campaign.

Ethan Mitchell, 17, and Trey Mohler, 14, walked away from a potentially deadly rollover crash with only minor injuries and talked about how safety belts saved their lives.

The high school students are part of the Texas Department of Transportation's latest public education campaign designed to reach 18- to 34-year-old motorists, a group more likely to be involved in traffic crashes and less likely to buckle up than other age groups.

TxDOT also is going to other great lengths to call attention to the importance of buckling up. Beginning May 8, five inflatable characters—including Godzilla, a rock star icon and a rubber duck—will travel to major cities across Texas. Looming more than two stories tall, these unconventional messengers will warn Texans that thousands of state troopers, police officers and sheriff's deputies will be on Texas streets and highways between May 18 and 31, including

the Memorial Day holiday weekend, to enforce the state's safety belt laws.

"We are happy that more than 90 percent of Texans obey the law and buckle up, but we're pulling out the stops to reach pickup drivers and passengers, teen drivers and other hold-outs who haven't gotten into the habit of using their safety belts," said John Barton, TxDOT's Assistant Executive Director for Engineering Operations. "Buckling up is the single, easiest thing motorists can do to protect themselves from death or serious injury if they're involved in a crash."

Drivers and front seat passengers can be ticketed for not wearing their safety belt and so can drivers who do not buckle up their children. Safety belt violations can result in fines ranging from \$25 to \$200.

The eighth annual *Click It or Ticket* enforcement effort is supported through partnerships with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), as well as local law enforcement agencies. For more information, visit www.texasclickitorticket.com.



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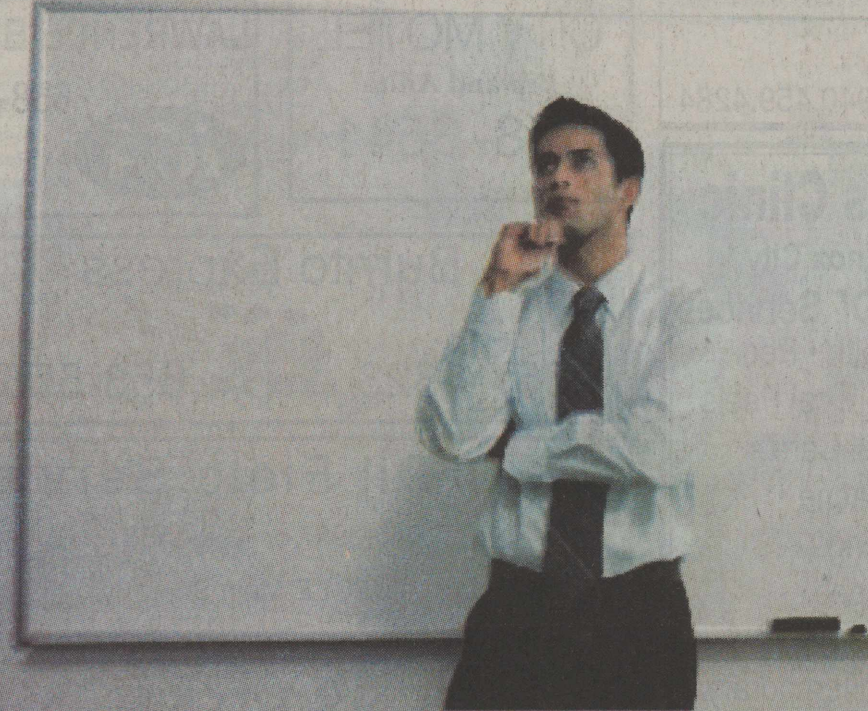
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