

Knox County News

Proudly Serving Knox and King Counties

Volume XXXIV Number 36

Thursday, July 7, 2005

Knox City, Texas

8 Pages +

1 Insert

Price 75¢

# No Verdict After Heated Conference Call

Attorneys involved in the Meinzer vs. Stanton Brown as Chief Appraiser of Knox County Appraisal District and Knox County Appraisal Review Board case engaged in a conference call with 50th District Judge William H. Heatly Wednesday, June 29th in the Judge's office at Paducah.

Attorney's Matt Malone representing the Meinzers, and Kirk Swinney representing the Tax Board, along with Judge Heatly presiding over the call, discussed the rulings of signing and finalizing the 2003 tax appraisal value of the Meinzer's Benjamin home at 85,000. Mr. Malone also pleaded the petition from the Meinzer's to issue sanctions to the tax board for "frivolous activities."

Judge Heatly stated that attorney Kirk Swinney has yet to sign the agreed judgement to set the 2003 value of the Meinzer's property at 85,000. He stated that the debate over the phone was heated. The ferocity of the arguments had not died down over the weeks since the initial courtroom session earlier this month, which were cut short by Judge Heatly's heat related collapse at the bench.

Mr. Malone addressed the issuance of sanctions to be placed on the Tax Board. He said the

main points are as follows.

Mr. Malone accuses the tax board of abusing discovery of evidence by not relating information (mainly the outside appraisal reports of the Meinzers property value) to the Meinzers or their attorneys. Also, failure to engage in good faith conduct by not cooperating with the Meinzers when information was requested.

In addition, according to Mr. Malone, the tax board filed saying they had no evidence when in fact they did, and admitted it in court. Lastly, Mr. Malone claims they harassed his clients, and delayed the proceedings with the intentions of driving up the cost of attorney's fees.

Mr. Malone claims the sanctions were issued in an attempt, if Judge Heatly rules in their favor, to recover a portion of the Meinzer's attorney fees.

Defense Lawyer Kirk Swinney argues the majority of these claims are simply not true.

Mr. Swinney had no comment plan to stay for the live music at on the case at this time.

Judge Heatly stated both sides argued back and forth and not much was accomplished. He has done much research into this case and hopes to wrap things up by the week of July fourth with a final conference call.



# Donald Johnson Memorial 17th Annual Seedless Watermelon Festival and 6th Annual Classic Car Show July 29-30, 2005

It's almost time, once again for Knox City's Seedless Watermelon Festival and Classic Car Show. This year the chamber will be changing a couple of things. We will kick things off on Friday, July 29 with a parade starting at 7:00 p.m. This year there will be trophies given for several different categories, the categories will be given at a later date, so start planning your float now! This year our theme is "Celebrate the Great Outdoors-Knox City Style".

The chamber will be hosting a dance featuring Cut Throat Records Recording Artists Dillion Dean Anderson, and a meal at the city park immediately following the parade, trophies for the parade will be given out during this time. The meal will consist of hamburgers, chips, and drink at a cost of \$5.00. Make sure you plan to stay for the live music at

8:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

On Saturday, the festivities will begin with booths opening at 10 a.m. there will be arts, crafts, homemade items, food, live music, free swimming, free watermelon slices, and plenty for the kids to enjoy including a giant slide, giant bouncer, pony rides, mechanical bull, rock climbing wall, and more.

The Classic Car Show will register from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., judging will begin at 12:30 and this year the Classic Cars will be judged by our sponsors at Bailey Toliver Cadillac-Chevrolet-Ford-Mercury in

Haskell.

The chamber is looking for local talent to play or sing on Saturday, if you are interested please contact the chamber office at 658-3442. More information will follow in coming weeks.

# Surveillance Leads To Drug Arrest In Munday

Knox County Sheriff Dean Holmstad, along with deputies Lee Roland and Chris Mendoza raided the apartment of Terry Larue at approximately 7:00 a.m. at the Munday Housing Authority Wednesday, June 29th.

Deputy Roland stated the subject had been under investigation and surveillance for approximately two weeks after the discovery that Mr. Larue may have a controlled substance in his possession.

After obtaining a search warrant, the officers entered the apartment and found a large amount of codeine, a prescription drug used as a painkiller. They apprehended Mr. Larue and he was placed in Knox County Jail.

Larue, 43, was arrested on a Possession with Intent to Deliver a Controlled Substance charge, a first degree felony, and his bond was set at 15,000. He made bail, and is awaiting a grand jury indictment.

# St. Josephs Celebrates 110 Years



Plans are underway for the Rhineland community to celebrate the 110th birthday of the beginning of the German Catholic Colony, named Rhineland after a town in Germany, on September 17th 2005. The celebration is also to recognize present day members of St. Joseph parish for their continuing faith, and their dedication to working for their parish.

The Rhineland Colony and St. Joseph parish was started in 1895 by Reverend Joseph Reisdorff and Hugo Herchenbach when the two purchased a tract of land from J.C. League and George E. Mann of Galveston. One hundred acres was designated for a town site, with ten acres in one block donated to the Catholic Church.

Mr. League continued to be a good friend to the settlers, especially during some hard years they endured. In return, the community expressed continued gratitude toward him. These first settlers withstood many hardships in their travels to the colony and later as they labored in the fields, their deep faith in God sustaining them.

As time went on, friendships were formed and the colony grew as more as more settlers came. St. Joseph parish continued to grow and prosper throughout the years and still today the parishioners enjoy the fruits of the first

settlers labor.

It is with gratitude to these

first pioneers and appreciation for the continued growth of the parish that the community will celebrate this anniversary.

The celebration will begin at 2:00 p.m. and will end with a Holy Mass of Thanksgiving at 7:00 p.m. Activities will include various games, a concession stand, and food booths serving fajitas and hamburgers. Members of St. Joseph parish invite everyone to come and celebrate this event and enjoy the fun and fellowship.



Catholic Church in Rhineland. He has been seeing to all the parishioners needs since 1999.

# Joyce Greenwood Retires After 13 Years at 9-1-1

Joyce Greenwood was surprised by a retirement party in her honor after 13 years of dedicated service as a 911 op-

erator. On Thursday, June 30th, just after 3 p.m. Joyce Greenwood was in the 911 office, manning her post as usual, when she received a call from Knox City Volunteer Fire Chief Domingo Garcia stating that a fire was reported in the hallway outside her room. Emergency Response and Law Enforcement Personnel arrived and joined others waiting upstairs to surprise Joyce with a retirement party. When she looked outside her office door she found that instead of a fire, many of her coworkers had come to surprise her and wish her well.

Mrs. Greenwood answered an ad in the paper for a position as an operator for the newly installed 911 system for Knox County.

She was hired and started work on June 15th, 1992. She asked for the three to eleven shift because she also worked at the Goree School District, a position she had held since 1966.

Joyce was an instructional teacher's aide with Goree Schools.During the summer, she worked many other part time jobs, including checking out groceries, delivering meals on wheels, driving the senior citizens bus, and for two summers she raised and sold her own vegetables She

retired from the school in 1996 after thirty years.

Joyce was overcome with emotion last Thursday as family and friends greeted her with hugs and well wishes. Not wanted her to retire seemed to be the general opinion of those in attendance, they hated to see her go.

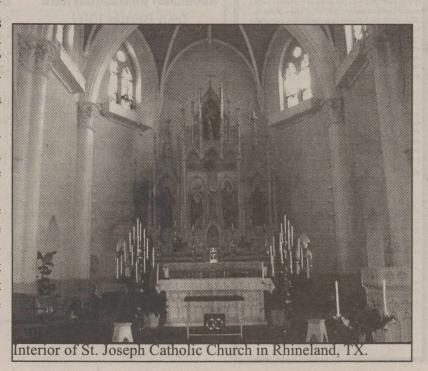
There were banners, balloons, and flowers on display around the hall outside the office, and cake, punch, and finger foods were served to guests.

County Commissioner and 911 director Johnny Berkenfield presented Mrs. Greenwood with a plaque stating, "In appreciation of 13 years of service to the citizens of Knox County."

Always active, Joyce still plans to work part time. She will continue to work for 911 as a fill in on a "just as they need me" basis. She enjoys writing and will keep contributing her "A Moment In Time" column to the Knox County News, and she is working on a childrens book.

She hopes to begin gardening more, and she said she'll definitely spend more time with her grandchildren.

Mrs.Greenwood said she thoroughly enjoyed her time with 911 and the firemen, ambulance, and law enforcement personnel provided the "best memories" of anything she has ever done. Congratulations, Joyce.



# **MOMENT IN TIME**

By Joyce Greenwood

Remember when the Fourth of July meant picnics in the park, horse shoe contests and three legged races? Remember your mother frying chicken while your dad cranked away on an old ice cream freezer and put watermelons in a #2 washtub full of ice? Fireworks weren't as elaborate as today's offerings, but they were still the grand finale to a perfect day.

Seems like these days, everybody has to have a boat and go to the lake on the Fourth of July. My husband, Tommy, and I accompanied our kids to the lake for a boat outing a few years ago, and I decided to see if I could still water ski. I could ski just as well as I ever could--but then, I had to get back into the boat. With some of the kids pulling and others pushing, I finally managed to get into the boat without the help of a helicopter lift.

Not to be outdone, Tommy decided to jump into the water to see if he could still ski. The bright orange life jacket was visible on top if the water for a split second, and then it--along with Tommy--- disappeared from sight. He had just sunk like a rock. We all stood looking down--waiting for him to reappear on the surface of the water. He didn't.

"Butch," I yelled at my oldest son. "Where is he?' But, Butch and his sister, Amy, had already dove into the water to find him. Tommy had jumped at an angle and came up under the boat. Every time he tried to surface, his head would hit the bottom. The cumbersome life preserver prevented his swimming out from

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USPS 903-920

Knox County News. PO Box 188, Knox City, TX. 79529. Publihed wekly at 110 North

Central, Knox City, Knox County, Texas.

Periodicals postage paid at Post Offic, Knox

Texas Press Association

West Texas Press Associaiton

P.O. Box 188

110 N. Central Knox City, Texas 79529

FAX 940-657-3142 kcnews@srcaccess.net

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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under it, so down he'd go again, Butch reached under the boat and pulled him out, spitting water and looking like a drowned

"Just take us back to the bank," I said, when the kids had managed to pull him back into he boat. I could tell it was the news they had all been hoping for.

Perhaps the one Fourth of July that stands out in Tommy's family memory was the year of his accident. He had suffered a roping accident in the fall and was still unable to walk alone that summer. All his family gathered at our house for a celebration after all the long months of his hospital stay. We had a wonderful day and, as darkness approached, we moved our chairs out onto the lawn for a fireworks daily. I don't know why I decided to be the one to set off all the fireworks. I suppose I was trying to be the perfect hostesses.

We saved the really big one for last. It was a giant of an explosive that was supposed to shoot up into the sky "like an enormous spacecraft, exploding into shower of brilliant shooting stars." I don't know why someone didn't point out that I was setting it awfully close to an overhanging tree limb. I lit the fuse and ran, then noticed the tree limb. I realized it was going to be close, but was too late. The imitation "spacecraft" had already left its launching pad with tremendous roar, struck the tree limb and ricocheted back to earth. There, it became a wild creature with a mind of it's own, changing directions at random, DON'S SHOPE

scattering people everywhere.

I had run a few steps when I remembered that Tommy couldn't get our of his chair, and was a sitting target for the savage, racing monster. I turned to go back for him and was almost run down by his mother who had not run in forty years. "Oh Lord, help us" she screamed as she raced past me like an Olympic runner.

In a matter of seconds, the giant spacecraft had gone whistling down the sidewalk, exploding in a "shower of brilliant shooting stars" into the front door of our house. Family members began to come out of hiding places--around the other side of the house--in the shelter of the trees in the pasture and someone caught Tommy's mother before she reached the highway. We had had our grand finale--exceeding everybody's wildest expecta-

We still have the family gatherings at our house on the Fourth of July. If the kids go to the lake, it's earlier in the day and we're not invited. We have an evening cookout, complete with ice cream and watermelon. The grandchildren eagerly anticipate darkness when my sons and sons-in-law treat us to a spectacular fireworks show.

The little ones squeal with delight as the radiant colors light up the night sky. It's a wonderful way to celebrate the freedoms we enjoy as Americans and to remember that brave men fought and died for our right to that freedom--and continue to do so with each passing generation.

(Where's my flag?)



"Celebrate The Great Outdoors Knox City Style"

# **Donald Johnson Memorial** Seedless Watermelon Festival

Friday, July 29, -Saturday July 30

# Schedule of Events

• Friday July 29- Parade starting at 7:00 p.m. following parade there will be a street dance featuring live music performed by Cut Throat Records Recording Artist Dillion Dean Anderson. Food served at citypark at the city park consisting of hamburgers, chips, and drinks at a cost of \$5.00.

•Saturday July 30- Booths open at 10:00 there will be arts, crafts, homemade items, food, live music, free swimming, free watermelon slices, and plenty for the kids to enjoy including a giant slide, giant bouncer, pony rides, mechanical bull, rock climbing wall and more. The Classic Car Show registration will be from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. judging will begin at 12:30 and this year the Classic Car will be judged by our sponsors at Bailey Toliver Cadillac-Chevrolet-Ford-Mercury in Haskell.

RODEO: Will be held Friday and Saturday Nights at the Brazos Valley Recreation Association Arena. Starts at 7:00 p.m., kids events, mutton bustin, goat tying, JackPot Rodeo. Any one interested in Ranch Horse Competition contact Weldon Bowman at 657-5185 or 256-4771

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT 940-658-3442





# Kay Bailey Hutchison **United States Senator** A Comprehensive Water Plan is Crucial for Texas

"We never know the worth of water 'till the well is dry." This proverb, collected by British physician Thomas Fuller, is as true today as it was when he penned it in 1732.

It is especially the case in Texas, as our state continues to grow, adding increased pressure on our water resources. For this reason, I am a firm supporter of taking steps to promote the wise use of water now. Procrastination guarantees we will have a shortage in the future.

Our population is expected to nearly double from 21 million in 2000 to 40 million in 2050. At the same time, a 2005 study by the Texas Water Development Board indicates that water supplies from all existing sources will decrease during the same period by 18 percent. Most of the decline is due to a projected drop of 19 percent in water from the underground aquifers of Ogallala, Gulf Coast, Hueco-Mesilla Bolson and Carrizo-Wilcox, and an 18 percent decline in surface water because our reservoirs are silting up.

Pressure on existing water sources will also increase among our neighbors. The populations of New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana are all rising. According to the U.S. Census, for the period of 2000 through 2010, the population in Texas will have risen by 3,797,000, or 18.2 percent. Our neighboring states of Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico will see their combined population rising during that same period by 647,000. During that same span of time, the Border Research Institute estimates the population in the northern region of Mexico adjacent to our border will grow by over 26 percent, or over 680,000, which is more than all of our other neighbors put together.

Many officials worked long and hard to force Mexico to comply with the 1944 Water Treaty with the United States. As a result, Mexico finally agreed to pay its decade old debt. While that struggle took place, I secured \$20 million in emergency funding for Valley farmers harmed by Mexico's refusal to adhere to the

The answer to the increasing demands for water is to use this precious resource more efficiently. My friends on the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) support creation of a comprehensive water use plan and implementation of conservation strategies. They are right.

Conservation can make a huge difference in water needs for Texas. The TWDB estimates that, while the population will almost double by 2050, actual municipal water demand will go up by only 67 percent if we improve water use efficiency.

We can decrease waste in our vital agriculture industry, which uses more than half of Texas' water. Studies show that agricultural irrigation systems currently lose from one-third to one-half of their water through leaks, seepage and evaporation.

I have made conservation a priority. Congress passed my legislation in 2003 authorizing 15 Lower Rio Grande Valley irrigation districts for construction of water conservation projects and helped them obtain more than \$7 million. I also secured \$26 million in NADBank grants for South Texas irrigation districts. This funding helped line irrigation canals with conservation materials which dramatically cut water losses and are now saving the Rio Grand Valley thousands of acre feet of water each year.

The TWDB reports that Texas farmers and ranchers can take other steps to save water as well. Lowenergy precision application sprinklers, drip irrigation, surge flow irrigation valves, soil moisture measurement and buried water distribution lines on the farms will help use water far more efficiently.

Texas' efforts to use water more efficiently may not be inexpensive, but they are still the most cost-effective way to increase our water supplies. And it is something we must do to ensure that Texans will not go thirsty as our state grows and prospers in the future.

Texas must have an ample supply of water and I will continue to make Texas' water needs one of my top

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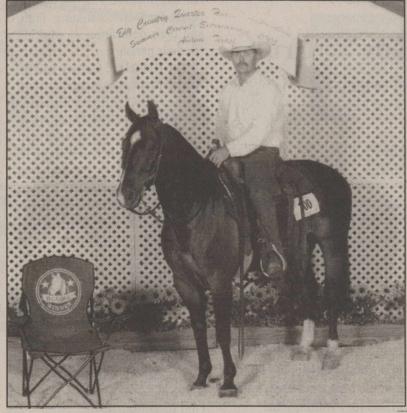
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Bruce Railsback, placed first in the Novice Amateur Reining Class both days of the competition, Bruce was also Circuit Champion in the Big Country Summer Circuit. The competition was held in Abilene, Tx. and was sponsored by the Big Country Quarter Horse Associa-

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# It's The Pitts

by Lee Pitts

This goes against my number one rule of ever admitting that my wife might be right about anything but she made a good point recently. She said," How come you can vacuum your shop three times in one week but in the 18 years we've lived in this house you've NEVER vacuumed your office once? How come you'll wax your 20 year old truck but not our floors? Why will you wash parts but not the dishes? How can you spend so much time organizing your nuts and bolts when no two socks in your drawer match?"

I was pondering the improbability of my wife being right when she asked, "What would it take to get you to help straighten up the house once in a great while?""Cleaning the house is stupid," I accurately replied. "Six months later you just have to do it all over again.

When Hoover makes a riding vacuum with 350 horsepower I'll vacuum the house. If you'll let me wash parts in the dishwasher and put a PTO on the garbage disposal I'll get dishpan hands. I might even dust furniture if I

could use a leaf blower to do it. And instead of a set of dresser drawers if I had a double decker Craftsman tool box to store my clothes in my socks would always match."

I guess I told her! I don't blame my wife for growing weary of the horrors of housework and I think I came up with a viable alternative the other day when we passed the home of a friend. And I mean that literally... Duke was in the slow lane on the freeway. You see, Duke is a team roper and he just bought a horse trailer that is also his home! The trailer has one tenth of a kitchen, a third of a bedroom and a half-bath.

It's a split level home with two beds... if you count the pickup's bed. Duke only paid \$75,000 for his house on wheels, which is twice as much as I paid for my first house. But it's also twice as nice as my first house.

The horse trailer has every creature comfort you'd find in a more contemporary home including a granite counter top and a shower. (Important note: Some gravitationally challenged team ropers are going to need three gallons of grease and a winch to get out of the small shower if they try to turn around. And forget about washing your feet.) The trailer has its own generator so there's electricity at all times, although I did notice when we visited that when you turned on the faucet the lights dimmed.

The custom designed living quarters are something you might see in Architectural Digest... if they ever do a special issue on horse trailer homes. And it has the AQHA good housekeeping seal of approval.

In trying to convince my wife that we ought to sell the house and move into a horse trailer we visited Duke so that my wife could get a closer look. Duke, who previously had the housekeeping skills of a Hampshire hog, made us remove our boots before entering. He even gave us a Perrier along with a coaster to set it on! We were shocked at Duke's newly acquired domes-

Here's a guy who would not know a duvet from a davenport and yet his bed was made, the dishes were done and the towels

THANK YO

Fellow 9-1-1 employees, Knox County EMS, Knox City, Mun-

day, Benjamin and Goree firemen, Law Enforcement officers,

County Commissioners, County Courthouse employees, a simple

"thank you" seems very inadequate for the wonderful surprise par-

ty you planned in honor of my retirement. I will be leaving with

very mixed emotions. I know it's time to let someone else take my

place, but I will miss all of you very much. Thank you for allowing

me to be a part of a great team for thirteen years.

matched. There was even a can of vanilla room deodorizer in the privy. (A can in the can, you might say) I think it was to hide the smell of flatulent horses on the other side of the wall but I'm not sure.

I pointed out the many advantages to my wife. "I admit it's small but the toilet is readily accessible and there's only a couple hundred square feet to clean. The only regular household chores are a lube job and a tire change. It's got a TV so we can watch all your favorite programs, just like we do now.

The kitchen is so small you can only cook one egg at a time but you never cook anyway. There's not much closet or storage space but you can just throw the overflow into the stable right next door. It's the ideal life," I said. "If we get a bad neighbor we can just move and your parents will never be able to find us.

Of course, I'll need a brand new dually pickup to pull our new home but if you buy me one I promise I'll help with the housework and regularly straighten up the house ... every time I park it.

# BAXTER

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

# LINE CAMP TRIBUTE

Dave is a local rancher in the mountain valleys of Central California. Last spring, May 4, 2005 he took 3 of his buddies into the high country to check the summer range. They four-wheeled up into the Alpine zone and finally reached the line camp at Dripping Spring.

The snow-covered peaks were melting like ice cream. The spring was beautiful, the willows were budding. It was still coat cold. Dave checked the corrals, the little outhouse, the tool shed and the spring. To his curiosity he noticed a black bandana tied high in a birch tree that overhung the spruce. He puzzled over its significance; a hiker's souvenir? A hunter's signal? A cowboy's joke? A talisman? A scarecrow to drive off beavers?

He stood on his ATV and was able to reach the bandana and managed to untie it from the limb. It seemed fresh and clean, no doubt. rain and sun had laundered it well. He put it around his neck. It made him feel dashing! Inside the cabin, the larder was checked. It was kept supplied with canned goods, matches, some firewood and blankets. Notes were made on what was needed.

Dave found two cans of Miller Lite beer in the sink. 'Super!' he thought, picking up and taking them out to the spring. He set them in the icy water to cool. They finished the springtime cleanup, repaired a few corral poles, replenished the D-con, nailed a shingle, re-papered

Dave dug one of the beers out of the cool spring and popped the top. Just as he was about to taunt his crew he heard one of the boys holler from inside the cabin. "Look at this," his friend exclaimed, holding up the guest book that stayed in the cabin. He read aloud, "To all those who venerate the tradition of the cowboy, we, his true friends, have scattered the ashes of Charlie Blaine, one of the best buckaroos ever to work for the Dripping Spring Ranch from 1957 to 1971, over the spring as his final wish. May his black bandana wave until it frays and becomes part of the mountains he loved. And instead of a statue, in his honor he asked that we leave two cans of his favorite beer as a monument to his eternal resting place."

The three men in the cabin took off their hats and paused out of respect. Dave walked in with the bandana covering his face like a bank robber and crushing the empty can. The reader continued, "Date, May 5, 2005. May he rest in peace."

# ROMANG PLAINS RAWRIAN

by Morton Scott

Last week we explored the heroic story of Caesar Rodney of Delaware, who rode through thunder, lightening and torrential rains to cast the critical vote for Independence at the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia on July 2, 1776.

The United States became Independent when Rodney cast his vote. That was on Tuesday, July 2,1776, not Thursday, July 4. John Adams, the next day Wednesday, July 3, wrote his wife, Abigail Smith Adams, up in Massachusetts:" The Second Day of July 1776, will be the most memorable Epocha, in the History of America.- I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by Solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade,

with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfire and Illuminations from one end of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more."You will think me transported with Enthusiasm but I am not. I am well aware of the Toil and Blood and Treasure. that it will cost Us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend these States. - Yet through all the Gloom I can see the Rays of ravishing Light and Glory.

I can see that the End is more than worth all the Means. And that Posterity will tryumph in that Days Transaction, "So John Adams, American statesman and president, father of the sixth President of the United States, John Ouincy Adams, accurately predicted our Independence celebrations, however, but thought the date would be the Second of July, not the Fourth. After the Continental Congress passed the resolution of Independence

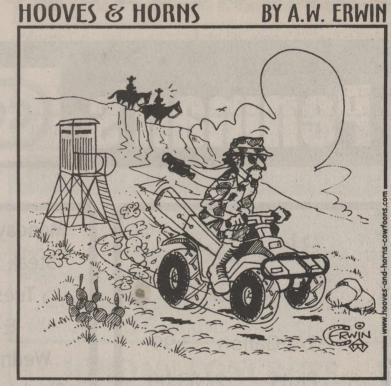
on July 2, the delegates took up Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence.

The delegates felt a declaration was needed to explain the reasons for separating from the mother country, England. The delegates debated the Declaration the rest of July 2, on July 3 and into that magic July 4, changing some of Jefferson's words. Franklin, Adams and Jefferson, in particular, were disturbed by removal of the words condemning the importation of African slaves into the colonies by England. Georgia and South Carolina would not sign The Declaration if those words remained, so they were taken out.

A century later, the nation would pay a bitter price for that. On the Fourth of July, 1776 the Continental Congress adopted The Declaration of Independence. The first public notice of The Declaration appeared on

the bottom of a column on page two of The Pennsylvania Post for Thursday, July 4, 1776. (In those days the news appeared on page two, with items put in, not by importance, but by order received..)The item read"The continental congress declared the united colonies free and independent." The public first read "When in the course of human events "on Saturday, July 6 when the Saturday evening Post printed The Declaration. On Monday, July 8, the words "... all men are created equal ..." echoed across Philadelphia streets in the first public reading of the Deliration of Independence. Among those in the crowd were housewives, business men, farmers, free Negroes, immigrants, and Martha Washington. On Tuesday, July 9, General George Washington's army assembled on New York heights to hear The Declaration of Independence.

Joyce Greenwood



"The great hunter's generator went out,... An' everybody knows yew can't hunt deer without a color TV, microwave and jacuzzi!"

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# Museum Bake Sale Big Success



The first event at the museum building was a big success with the bake sale bringing in over \$700.00 Saturday, July 2.

Benjamin buyers turned out big to purchase the home made baked goods, but buyers from other county town came and bought also of the coffee, breakfast burritos, cakes, pies, special breads, cookies, brownies, watermelon and cantaloupe that was available on the big south porches of the museum.

Worker shifts were planned for 8-10 and 10-2, but the second shift was sold out an packed up by 11 a.m. and disappointing all of shoppers from Munday, Benjamin and Vera.

Tickets were also sold for a digital camera that will be given away by Friends of the Knox County Historical Commission July 30 at the Knox City Watermelon Festival. Museum supporters will also sponsor a home made ice cream booth at the festival and will be taking or-

house on Friday.

CANTALOUP

Hill of Munday.

Others who baked for the event were Lorene Powers, Jessie Roberts, Fila Mae Robertson, and Coreen Parish, of Benjamin, Dories Crownover, Susie Ray, Faye Railsback and Toby Whisenhunt, of Knox City and Toby's daughter from Abilene,

Celia Whisenhunt, Doris Bea-

vers of Goree, Mary Birkenfield

of Rhiineland, Frances Cook of

Gilliland and Ann Therwanger,

Jackie Lowrance and Margaret

from across the whole county

demonstrating the wide spread

The bakers and workers came

um bake sale. One possible exhibit will be Knox County Schools. The school quilt is always a hit when

it is shown at events. Kenneth Roberts of Benjamin is working on a history of Knox County schools which could give

interest in supporting the muse-

tells about a man who plowed a furrow from his house to the school so his children cold find their way across the flat, almost landmark free prairie where they lived. What is your family's school story?

Any memories or records of county schools will be greatly



idea for exhibits. He is interested in pictures, records, artifacts and stories about the schools. Stories help make the records come

around? Who were the teachers? How did they discipline?

The Knox County history

alive. How far did students walk

or ride? Are any old school books



appreciated.

Pictures and names of teachers and students in early days will be especially helpful.

Be a history source, help tell about your community's early schools.

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ders for the memorial bricks and

stones which will help finish the

Emelia Aceveda made and

sold breakfast burritos to their

workers and Mary Jane Young

made burritos that sold at the

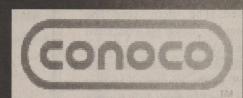
bake sale. Mary Jane delivered

some baked goods to the Court-

museum's interior.

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# 2004 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

CITY OF BENJAMIN

ctions. These people should seek advice at drinking water from their health care viders. The EPA/Centers for Disease Con-

Public Participation Opportunities

Date: 7-14-05 Time: 6:30pm Location: City Hall Phone No: 940-459-3131

Feenl Coliform NOT DETECTED

Our Drinking Water Meets or Exceeds All Federal (EPA)

**Drinking Water Requirements** This report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers. The analysis was made by using the data from the most recet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required tests and is presented in the attached pages. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water.

and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals, and in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water before treatment include: microbes, inorganic contaminants, pesticides, herbicides, radioactive contaminants, and organic chemical contaminants.

En Español Este informe incluye información importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre éste informe en español, favor de llamar al tel. (1909/15/2)-3.J.31. - pura babla con una persona bilingüe en español. Where do we get our drinking

Our drinking water is obtained from Surface and Ground water sources. It comes from the following Lake /River/Reservoir/Aquifer: Seymour Aquifer/Miller Creek Reservoir. TCEQ completed an assessment of our source water and results indicate that our sources have a low susceptibility to contaminants. The sampling requirements for our water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants will be found in this report. If we receive or purchase water from another system, their susceptibility is not included in this assessment. For more information on source water assessments and

ALL drinking water may contain contaminants.

When drinking water meets federal standards there may not be any health based benefits to purchasing bottled water or point of use devices Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and pretnial health effects.

Secondary Constituents
Many constituents (such as calcium, sodium, or
iron) which are often found in drinking water,
can cause taste, color, and odor problems. The
taste and odor constituents are called secondary
constituents and are regulated by the State of
Texas, not the EPA. These constituents are not
causes for health concern. Therefore,
secondaries are not required to be reported in
this document but they may greatly affect the
appearance and taste of your water.

About The Following Pages

The pages that follow list all of the federally regulated or monitored contaminants which have been found in your drinking water. The U.S. EPA requires water systems to test for up to 97

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)

The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

Action Level (AL)

ABBREVIATIONS

Byproduct of drinking water Total Tribalomethanes 82,000 82 82 80 ppb Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

# **OFFICE** OF THE **GOVERNOR**

Rick Perry



**Governor Requests Assistance for Matagorda and Knox Counties** 

AUSTIN-Gov. Rick Perry has requested that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency provide disaster relief assistance for Matagorda and Knox counties, where farms and ranches experienced damage due to severe weather. Matagorda County experienced high winds and tornadoes May 29, and Knox County experienced excessive rain, flash floods, hail, high winds and lightning May 31.

Initial reports from Matagorda County estimate that 3,500 acres of milo and 1,100 acres of corn were damaged by the storm. Damage to farm buildings, equipment and machinery is estimated . . . . . . . . . . . . .

AUSTIN - Gov. Rick Perry issued the following statement today on the announcement by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that a cow recently tested for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy - commonly known as mad cow disease - is from a Texas herd. "I want to urge calm and reassure the public that they can have the highest confidence in our beef supply, and the safeguards we have in place to protect the public from the spread of

at \$248,000. In Knox County, officials estimate 92,137 acres of wheat and 10,000 acres of cotton were damaged.

Damage to farm buildings, equipment and machinery is estimated at \$325,000. If the USDA request is approved, qualified farm operators in designated counties will be eligible for low-interest emergency loans from the USDA's Farm Service Agency.

Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production for physical losses, or a maximum of \$500,000. The agency offers additional programs, such as technical assistance, to eligible farmers . . . . . . . . . . . . .

BSE. There is not, nor has there ever been, a known instance of BSE contaminating the food supply in Texas or anywhere else in the United States.

The animal in question was not processed into food or any other product. Texans can be sure that the beef they buy at their local supermarkets or restaurants is as safe today as it was yesterday, and I encourage Texans to continue to enjoy Texas beef products."

# **Munday Nursing Center**

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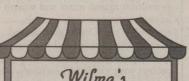
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# Chamber Meeting

July 12th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Benjamin Fire Hall.

# **Aging Center** Lunch Menu

Week of July 11th thru July 15 th

Monday, July 11 th Chicken Pot Pie, Fried Squash, Salad, Peaches With Topping

Tuesday, July 12 th Beef Stew, Pimento Cheese Sandwiches, Crackers, Cobbler

Wednesday, July 13 th Sausage/Gravy, Hash Brown Potatoes, Salad, Biscuits, Dessert

Thursday, July 14th Chicken Fried Steak/Gravy, Buttered Potatoes, Corn Casserole, Hot Rolls, Cookies

Friday, July 12th Chicken/Broccoli Casserole, Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Light Bread, Pudding

> without notification. It is important to contact the site manager so that meals can be prepared.

All menus subject to change

Benjamin

Meeting will be held



Aime Ray displays trophy buckle won at Stamford Cowboy

75TH DIAMOIND ANNIVERSARY OF TEXAS COWBOY REUNION

The 75th Diamond Anniversary of the Texas Cowboy Re-

Knox County entries: Brand Cude teamed up with Carl

Hopokins from Haskell. Brand roped and Carl mugged. They

Nancy Cude, Larami Stewart and Amie Ray entered the

2nd in the finals. Lynna Ray entered the Old Time Sponsor's

Sponsor's Barrel Race. Amie place 7th in the 1st go then placed

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placed 3rd in the Average and 3rd in the 2nd go around.

union was held in Stamford Texas.

Reunion.

Barrel Race.

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# **KC Area Church Directory**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ~ Knox City

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ~ Knox City

John Wade, Pastor Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00 p.m.

> FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ Knox City Tex Cox. Pastor

Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.

FOURSQUARE CHURCH ~ Knox City

Paul Chambers, Pastor Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. ~ Sunday Metning Worship at 10:45 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00 p.m. - Mid Week, Wed. at 7:00 p.m.

SANTA ROSA CATHOLIC CHURCH ~ Knox City Father Leo Schloemer ~ Deacon Ben Vasquez Sunday Bilingual Mass at 11:00 a.m.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH ~ Rhineland Father Leo Schloemer~ Deacon Ben Vasquez Monday Through Friday Mornings, 8:00 a.m. Mass Saturday Mass at 7:00 p.m. ~ Sunday Mass at 9:00 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of Benjamin

John Gillispie, Pastor Sunday School at 10:00 a.m., Sunday Morning at 11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening at 6:00 p.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of Benjamin John Wade, Pastor

Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. ~ Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. GILLESPIE BAPTIST CHURCH ~ Gillespie

Matt Harrington, Pastor
Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00 p.m. ~ Mid Week, Wed. at 6:00 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST ~ Benjamin Bible Study at 9:00 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

THE BELIEVERS' CHAPEL ~ Highway 222

W.O. Smith, Pastor Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m. Mid Week, Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

O'BRIEN BAPTIST CHURCH ~ O'Brien Jim Reid, Pastor

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. ~ Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00 p.m. Mid Week, Wed. at 6:00 p.m.

> WEINERT FOURSQUARE CHURCH Rob Harrison, Pastor Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.

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## Shannan's Health Corner

Evidence that supports vitamin D's profound health benei-

Unprotected sun exposure helps the body to produce the vitamin D it needs to keep bones healthy and ward off cancers and other ailments. For Example:

According to one study, researchers found that men with high exposure to sun had half the risk of prostate cancer than those

Another study found that high levels of vitamin D and calcium appeared to reduce womens risk of premenstrual syndrome, or

Please remember that, in nearly every circumstance, getting vitamin D by exposing your body UV light from the sun is the best option. When doing so, however, there are two extremely important points to remember:

1. Stay away from tanning beds, as they increase your risk of cancer.

2. Avoid staying in the sun long enough to burn your skin.

son, limit your exposure to per-

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LENDER

fits continues to mount.

with low exposure.

PMS.

3. At the beginning of the sea-

O'Brien happenings

By Audie Johnston, O'Brien Correspondent

Spending the weekend with C.H. and Linda Underwood with their daughter Beth, husband and grand daughters Hope and Faith of Roby. They all attended church on Sunday morning and we all enjoyed them.

Beatrice Ellis and Bernice Rowan attended a Reed family reunion in Seymour Saturday. There were alot of talking and eating going on and they all enjoyed it.

Claudale Barnard and his wife Jean have returned to their home in K.C. Claudale was in the hospital for a while, But they are both at home and happy to be

Lowell and Sue Rowan of Denton visited with his Mom Bernice Rowan over the week-

Charlene Brothers was in

Abilene visiting with her son and his family, the Craig brothers and family. It is always good to get to visit your families.

We were happy to have Janoma Stephens back home in church Sunday. She had been helping out for Sue and others who had been absent and needed help of some kind.

I was blessed today (Mon.) to have a nephew, Butch Banner of Hawley and his Mom come to visit me.

David, Laura, and Wade Banner returned to Amarillo over the weekend, after spending two weeks in O'Brien caring for their son, Davy.

Joe Banner got to come home to visit for a couple of days.

Davy left for church camp Monday with four charges, Scotty Reid, Austin King, Makala

Harrington and Leah Tibbets. They will be gone three nights.

We missed Donnie and Diane Roberts Sunday. Davy Wade, youth minister, taught Diane's class then led our music in Donnie's absence.

Sunday afternoon, the Youth studied the thirteenth chapter, of the book the Purpose Driven Life. They studied good and bad choices, then participated in an egg race and egg throw before coming in for a hot dog supper.

I was blessed over the weekend to have my daughter Sammi and husband Kenneth Roberts of Plainview came by to visit. They were going to a family reunion in East Texas. Adelle Herring was blessed Sarurday to have her Grandson Kevin of Goree spend a good while with her and they enjoyed eating cantalope.

## **A Complete Portfolio For Cotton Insect Protection**

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• Tracer® Naturalyte® insect control

provides effective, accurate control of worm pests such as tobacco budworm and bollworm. Tracer allows you to control outbreaks of these damaging pests, and is ideal for a planned worm control program in herbicide-tolerant or conventional cotton, or as an overspray treatment for Bt cotton. Tracer is highly effective at low use rates and offers a three-way mode of action - by contact, by ingestion and through ovicidal-like activity. While deadly to worms, it maintains populations of beneficial insects such as ladybeetles and wasps in your crop, making it an ideal part of an Integrated Pest

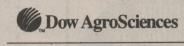
Management program as well.
• Intrepid® insecticide offers unsurpassed control of later season worm pests such as armyworms, loopers and saltmarsh caterpillars. Its unique mode of action mimics the natural insect molting hormone in targeted pests, causing a premature, lethal molt of the larvae within hours of ingestion, and it continues to work for up to 14 days on treated foliage. Intrepid maintains populations of key beneficial insects such as ladybeetles, parasitic wasps and honeybees, and is

ideal for use in Integrated Pest Management and management programs.

To learn more about the complete portfolio of insect protection products for cotton from Dow AgroSciences, see your local ag retailer or visit



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# PUBLIC SERVICE **ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Noah Project-North is having a raffle to raise money to help victims of family violence. Tickets for a \$200 Wal-Mart shopping spree or a 12 gauge shotgun are only a dollar each, or six for five dollars. The drawing will be held Thursday, August 4. Just in time for the tax free weekend! You do not have to be present to win. You may purchase tickets from an advisory committee member or at the Noah Project-North office on the third floor of the courthouse. Call 940-864-2551 if you need more information.

> Thank You! Donna Sue Anderson

# Want Ads Work!! Call today, 657-3142





# Truscott - Gilliland News

\*1605 North Swenson Stamford, Tx

by Clara Brown

Light showers and cool winds were welome across the county Saturday, January 2. We could have use more rain, but something beats nothing.

Showers at Benjamin didn't slow up th museum bake sale any, though they did have to move the tables back from the outside edge of the wide south porches. Several bake sale customers toured the building, tall, wide garage type doors are on the east and west ends of the museum. This will make it easy to exhibit some larger items such as antique cars, wagons, or bug-

A loft has been built over the work and store room on the west end. This will be used for museum storage. Having storage room makes it possible for a museum to change exhibits, and, without storage, exhibits would be almot inpossible to change and the museum would be dull.

Sybil Simmons went to Lake Kemp Saturday with the Ronnie Simmons family. She came home Saturday. Sunday was Ronnie's birthday and all the Simmon's children came in.

Sybil also went to Wichita Falls to visit her neice, Beth Spain, who had surgery, she went down Wednesdy and returend Thursday. Visiting Jodie Miller over

the weekend were her daughter, Mary Nell and her husband, Bill Brown visited his parents Jack and Clara Brown, Saturday and Sunday. He and his family have moved to Breckenridge, where he will be coaching bas-June and Newell Looney went

to Dublin Saturday. His sister, Tonka Kind, passed away Thrusday, June 30 and servives were SAtureday at Barbee Cenetert in Sunday Newell and June vis-

ited "Salute to Veterans" progam at the Vernon First Baptist Church as guest of Mike and Kay Aardage. After servies they had Sunday dinner with their daughter and son-in-law. Steve Baty and a friend of

Carlsbad, New Mexico visited his parents, Lula and Louis Baty, Saturday and Sunday, July 2nd and 3rd.

Guest in the home of Irma and Gordan Bell over the weekend was his cousin from Uvalde, Jack Raine.

Visiting Jerry Bob and Eugenie Daniel are Eugenie's sister, Vicky Skouras of Grewich, Connecticutt, and her two daughters, Marina and Sophia.

The Daniel family and visitors attended the Stamford rodeo Friday and Saturday. Jerry Bob competed in ranch horse competition Saturday.

Plans are underway to have another cutting hores competition at the Daniel arena for the new community center on the last Saturday in June 2006.

# 200 South Aveune E. Haskell, TX 79521 • (940) 846-8555 You Just Won't Find Friendlier **Customer Service** If your past experience makes you dread each visit to the bank, we invite you to visit us for a change. While you're here, take a moment to talk with some of our customers. They can tell you better than anyone that it's

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CLASSIFIED ADS 657-3142

# Help Wanted

**Penman's Convenience** Store

has an immediate opening for Sale Associate-Full Time **Apply In Person** 

# Help Wanted

Rolling Plains regional correctional Facility in Haske-II, Tx. is accepting applications for Full time LVN, EMT, Paramedic, 6p-6a shift. Salary and benefits package much more competitive. Flexible shifts. Apply in person to Lorie Rodruquez at 118 CR 206. Or you may call 940-864-5789. 6 week run. wc 50 6-2-05

# **Now Hiring**

**Penman's Convenience** Store

**Weekend Cook-Mornings Apply in Person** 609 E. Main **Knox City, TX** 2tc,6-19

## For Rent

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## For Sale

Nice Home, located on Hwy 222 between Knox City and Munday. 4 bedroom, 1 bath, all electric, water well, 2 car carport, 1 storage building, new roof, privacy fence. Call Tony or Kendra Hunter at 940-657-3056 nights.

tfn,6-2-05wc 40

FOR SALE Nice two bedroom, one bath home

for sale. Storm cellar, water well. 704 Aspen, 940-657-1064. DT/1\*1-TF/C (15)

!HOME FOR SALE!

Immaculate, two bedroom, one bath with living, den, ceiling fans, window units, shop building in rear. Call 940-864-2411 for appointment. Rike Real Estate, Mary Rike, Broker.

RRE/6\*19-TF/C (26)

Garage Sale Saturday 8 am-2 pm House is located next door to Bill Stewart insurance on Main St. 5 family's. Too many items to mention

# **Part Time** Help Wanted

**KNOX COUNTY** SHERIFFS OFFICE

Seeking Part Time Help

Dispatcher/Jailer

For more information contact Sheriff Dean Homstad or Vonnita Ivie at 940-459-2211

## **Furniture**

You may be getting old-if you try to straighten the wrinkles in your sox and you aren't wearing any. We sell Lz-Z-Boy recliners for less. Over a hundred in stock ready for quick free delivery. Kinney Furniture in Stamford. 325-733-2232

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Kinney Furniture in Stamford. 325-733-2232

# **Legal Notice**

LEGAL NOTICE - THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 30.05 OF THE PENAL CODE OF TEXAS - (CRIMINAL TRES-PASS SENATE BILL III LEGIS-LATURE), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ALL LANDS OF THE W.T. WAGGONER ESTATE ARE POSTED - SAVE AND EX-CEPT WHERE WRITTEN PER-MISSION IS GIVEN TO COME UP ON THE SAME.

GENE W. WILLINGHAM A.B. WHARTON WE (54)

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**Garage Sale** 106 SW 8 th Some Furniture 8a.m.- noon **Bag Sale** 

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# Real Estate

Price Reduced!

58 plus acres farm located west of Rochester on the Stonewall \$450/Acre County line. **Counts Real Estate** 940-658-3390

New Listing!

109 acres Farmland North West of O'Brien in Haskell County. \$350/Acre.

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## Real Estate

**EXTRA NICE CRETA STONE HOME FOR SALE!** 

One owner. Southern edge of Knox City across from the care home. 3 bedrooms/2 bathrooms, central heat and cool, 2 car garage, fire place, covered patio, large den and kitchen with built-in appliances. Concrete cellar and storage sheds, large yard, trees. Sprinkling systems. New eves and windows. Price reduced greatly. Call Danny at 940-864-8660 or 325-698-3326.

### **NEW LISTING:**

5 Br. 4 1/2 Ba. Brick Home on 1.5-Acres. Fenced yard, 2 car Garage, Patio, Indoor Pool/Spa. Beautiful fireplace and high, rustic ceilings in an open, split-level floor plan. Located in a quiet, secluded area, with beautiful trees and gorgeous sunsets. A great place to relax and enjoy the big Texas Sky! Knox City

**Counts Real Estate** 940-658-3390

4 Bedroom, 1 1/2 bath home on 2 plus acres. Large 3 car carport, 2 separate garages. Separate 3 bedroom house. Located approximately 5 miles West of O'Brien, Texas on FM 2229. This property would be ideal for hunters lodging or family reunions. Call for more details. **Counts Real Estate** 

2 story CH/AC, Brick Home on South Fourth Street. 2200 plus Living area, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bath, large carport, 2 shops and other extras! Price reduced!

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940-658-3390

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3 Bedroom. 2 Bath Brick Home. Fireplace, fenced back yard, large utility room. CH/AC Beautiful, well maintained home, ready for occupancy! 606 South Central. **County Real Estate** 

940-658-3390

## In Contract:

3 Bedroom, 2 Bath home. Central Heat and A/C Large rooms, tall ceilings. New tile in kitchen/ den. Metal roof, large corner lot, nice fenced yard, cellar. Included 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment (1200 sq.ft.). A wonderful home for a growing family! 501 South Second \$50,000.

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"Remember, the Lord will pay you for each good thing you do."

T1010



them your very best. Serve them

Christ, doing the will of God with all your hearts.'



SUSAN COMBS

It's springtime in Texas; the birds are chirping, the breeze is blowing - and the fire ants are thriving. They are little insects that pack a big punch both physically and economically. Just ask anyone who has stumbled on a mound or who has to repair property due to pest

The red imported fire ant spread through Texas starting in the 1950s, and we've been trying to find a way to successfully fight them ever since. Fire ants infest more than 80 million acres in the eastern two-thirds of the state and are economically devastating. They cost Texans some \$1.2 billion in damage and control expenses, and much of that approximately \$702 million - is felt in residential households while \$90 million is chalked up to agriculture.

Fire ants can reduce property values and cause structural damage to homes or barns, and they can make wildlife areas and outdoor recreation areas unsafe to enjoy. They can clog up machinery and damage equipment. And in some cases, the stings from these ants can be life threatening

While it's not likely that fire ants will be totally eradicated, it certainly doesn't do us any good to chase the ants from property line to property line. The best way to control them is through community-wide management programs, in which neighborhoods collaborate to treat an entire area at the same time. This should happen each year, usually once in the fall and once in the spring.

Ants are known for working together; people need to work together also. This is the time of year for fire ants - but communities can put their heads together to come up with a plan and coordinate bait control treatments.

# July Renewals

**Elwood Hackney Jay Corley** Florene M. Reese **Wynelle Henche Homer Lowrance Murlene Johnston Bob Graves Knox County Extension Office Mazelle Fletcher Kerri Stiewart Vonnie Elmore** John B. Chilcoat **Connie Holder Juanita Wilcox** La Nell Right **Dorothy Berryman Marilyn Rector** Wilma Hogan Johnny Peysen

Garage Sale 810 SE Fifth St. Saturday July 9 8:00-? Cleaning out the store room. Lots of children's clothes, toys, dishes, adult clothes, misc. items. Sherry Speck and Julie Lewis

## **New Law Changes Highway Use Tax Rules: Installment Payment Option Eliminated**

WASHINGTON - The Internal Revenue Service today reminded truckers and other owners of heavy highway vehicles that the installment option for paying the federal highway use tax will no longer be available.

This change was included in the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 and applies to people who file IRS tax Form 2290, Heavy Highway Vehicle Use Tax Return.

Beginning with the Form 2290 for the tax year that begins on July 1, 2005 and ends on June 30, 2006, the balance due shown on the form must be paid in full by the due date of the return. In most cases, the deadline for filing the return and paying any tax due is August 31, 2005. Payment can be made by check, money order or electronically through the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS).

In previous years, tax payers who timely filed Form 2290 could choose to pay the tax in up to four equal installments. Ordinarily, these installment payments were due on the last day of August, December, March and June. About 148,000 taxpayers chose this option last year, the IRS said.

In general, the highway use tax applies to trucks, truck tractors and buses with a gross taxable weight of 55,000 pounds or more. Ordinarily, vans, pick-ups and panel trucks are not taxable because they fall below the 55,000-pound threshold.

For trucks and other taxable vehicles in use during July, the Form 2290 and payment are due on August 31. The tax is based on weight and normally ranges from \$100 to \$550 per vehicle. A variety of special rules, discussed in the instructions for Form 2290, apply to vehicles with minimal road use, logging

or agricultural vehicles, vehicles transferred during the year and those first used on the road after July.

State governments are required to receive proof of payment of the federal highway use tax as a condition of vehicle registration. Schedule 1 of the Form 2290 is stamped and returned to filers for this purpose. This process remains unchanged.

The Jobs Act also eliminated reduced tax rates for vehicles registered in Canada and Mexico. For vehicles with a base registration in either country, the tax rate was 25 percent below the regular rate.

In addition, the Jobs Act made electronic filing mandatory for taxpayers who file highway use tax returns for 25 or more vehicles. The availability of electronic filing for Forms 2290 is pending. Taxpayers should continue to file paper returns. The IRS will notify taxpayers when the electronic filing program is available.

The electronic payment option continues to be available, and the IRS urges taxpayers to enroll in EFTPS and pay their tax obligations this way.

The new Form 2290 and its instructions are now available on irs.gov, the tax agency's Web site. The form and instructions will be mailed automatically to taxpayers who filed last year.

The form and instructions are available in Spanish and, for the first time this year, in French.

Links:Form 2290 (English) http:// www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f2290.pdf Form 2290 (Spanish) http://www.irs. gov/pub/irs-pdf/f2290sp.pdfInstructions for Form 2290 (English) http:// www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i2290.pdf Instructions for Form 2290 (Spanish) http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/ i2290sp.pdf Electronic Federal Tax PaymentSystemhttp://www.irs.gov/ efilearticle/0,,id=98005,00.html

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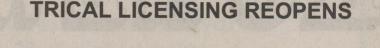
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**GRANDFATHER PERIOD FOR ELEC-**

HB1317 Allows Experienced Electricians to Obtain a State License Without Testing

Experienced electricians who have yet not received a state license now =

have a second opportunity to obtain a license without having to pass the state electrician exam.

House Bill 1317, which was passed by the 79th Texas Legislature and signed by Governor Rick Perry on June 18, reopens the grandfathering period for electrical licenses, effective immediately Under this bill, electricians who hold a municipal or regional license, or who can demonstrate that he or she has the prescribed amount of education and experience, have until December 31, 2005, to obtain a license without passing the state electrician exam. Since the state electrician licensing program began, many cities that previously had a municipal licensing program have chosen to stop issuing municipal licenses and rely instead on the state license, said William Kuntz, executive director of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). The new grandfathering period will allow electricians in those cities to obtain a state license without passing then state electrician exam. But this period is not limited to those individuals. Any electrician who meets the criteria to receive a license, but who didn't take advantage of the first grandfathering period, now has a second chance to be exempted

from the state electrician examination.

The state electrician licensing program was created by the 78th Texas Legislature Since September 1, 2004, all electricians in Texas are required to be licensed, either by the state or by a municipal or regional authority, unless exempted by law. Since the law took effect more than 97,000 electricians across the state have received state licenses.

The original law allowed for a grandfathering period from March 1 to June 1, 2004, during which electricians could qualify to receive a state license without taking the state electrician exam if they met specific criteria including, but not limited to, prior local licensure, education and experience. More than 55,000 electricians took advantage of that opportunity. Since that grandfathering period ended, applicants for=

state electrical licenses except apprentices have been required to pass a competency exam.

TDLR will post documents on its website, www, that will help electricians determine if they are eligible to receive a license during the grandfathering period and how to apply. For more information on the grandfathering period, electrical license exemptions or electrical licensing in general, all interested individuals may contact TDLR Customer Service Division at (800) 803-9202 or (512) 463-6599, or they can visit the TDLR website at http://wwwwlicensetate/electricians/elec



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