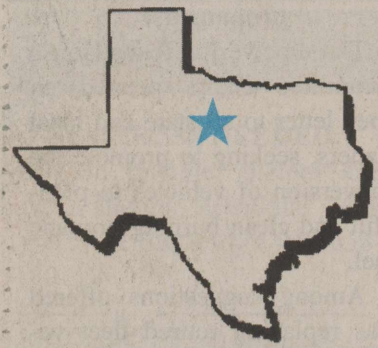


Wednesday, July 23	Thursday, July 24	Friday, July 25	Saturday, July 26	Sunday, July 27	Monday, July 28
High/Low 102°/72°	High/Low 98°/72°	High/Low 98°/74°	High/Low 102°/73°	High/Low 102°/73°	High/Low 100°/73°
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Sunny	Mostly Sunny



# THE KNOX COUNTY NEWS

Proudly Serving Knox and King Counties

Volume XXXVII Number 39 Thursday, July 24, 2008 Knox City, Texas 8 Pages + 1 Insert Price 75 ¢

## Looking Ahead

### JOHN WESLEY ADVENTURE SERIES

Knox City & Benjamin United Methodist Churches will be hosting the Amazing John Wesley Adventure Series on July 27-29, 2008 at the Knox City First United Methodist Church at 406 SE 2nd Street. Dr. Rev. Tom Fuller, General Evangelist for the United Methodist Church will present the series starting on Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. during the regular church service and each evening at 6:30 p.m. A meal will be provided prior to each of the evening programs. The Amazing John Wesley Adventure is a concentrated, three day presentation Dr. Fuller brings to local churches, on the life and beliefs of John Wesley. The public is invited to attend. Please call Knox City FUMC office (940)658-3517 if you plan to attend or need more information.

### O'BRIEN HOMECOMING

Mark your calendar and check your mail--the O'Brien Homecoming is scheduled for October 10-12, 2008. If you are an O'Brien Ex-Student or O'Brien Ex-Teacher please share your email and postal address with us. We want to keep you informed about the Homecoming this year. Email: derobe@srcaccess.net Or O'Brien Homecoming Committee P. O. Box 11 O'Brien, TX 79539

## 20th Annual Watermelon Festival Saturday

Once again it's time for the Annual Donald Johnson Watermelon Festival and Classic Car Show. This year is the 20th year the Chamber has put on the Festival.

The Grand Marshalls in this year's Watermelon Festival will be the Ministerial Alliance.

On Saturday, July 26, at 9 a.m. the Watermelon Festival will kick off with a watermelon theme parade. Everyone is encouraged to enter. The only requirement is that you have a watermelon (real, fake, painted) somewhere on your float.

Ribbons will be awarded for many categories including Best decorated, Most Original, Best Business, Best Out of Town, and What Were You Thinking? The parade entrants will line up in front of the high school, turn south on Avenue D, west on Main Street and then north on Central Avenue.

Watermelon Golf Tournament tee time is 8:30a.m. The tournament is a three person scramble. Cost is \$60 per team. Contact Sammie Offield (940) 657-5001, Betty Starnes (940) 657-3040 or the Knox City Country Club after

6 p.m. at (940) 658-3911. A meal will not be provided.

Registration for the Car Show will begin at 8:a.m. The judging is to begin at 12:30 p.m. There will be trophies and ribbons handed out for first, second, and third places in each category, and plaques for Best of Show and Farthest Distance Traveled. The Booths in the park will open at 10 a.m.

Registration for the Watermelon Eating Contest begins at 10:30a.m. and the contest starts at 11:30a.m.. Gift certificates to local shops will be awarded to the winners. Be sure to be around for the Melon Money Drawings that will be held at 11:45a.m., 2:15p.m., 4:30p.m.

Live music will be provided all day; Glory Bond Gospel Band, 12 noon-2p.m.; Becky Kinniburgh, 2:30-3:30p.m., and Gary Helms, 4-5p.m. and 5:45-6:45p.m. To get a preview of Gary Helms' music, visit [www.myspace.com/gary-helms](http://www.myspace.com/gary-helms).

The Festival will have something for the young the old and the in-between. Most activities including the car show will be at City Park. Everyone should check out the arts and crafts

booths and food booths. There will be a Bounce House, Wizzer, Indian Rope Climb, Ferris Wheel, Tubs-O-Fun, Octopus Ride, Giant Slide, Obstacle Course, Striker Game and official Remote Control Nascar Racing. For all of you that like to play horseshoes and washers there will be a tournament for both. Contact the chamber for more details.

Three Rivers Foundation from Crowell will set up telescopes. The SolarScope for viewing the sun and another scope for night time viewing. There is no charge.

The Knox County Rodeo Arena is hosting it's 2nd Annual Ranch Rodeo on Friday, July 25, and Saturday, July 26, starting at 7p.m. Rodeo events will be bronc riding and team sorting, branding, cow milking, doctoring and mugging. The awards will be handed out on Saturday. There will be a concession stand for those who are thirsty or hungry. Admission is \$5; children ten and under will be admitted free. All proceeds benefit the Knox County Rodeo Arena.

Citizens bank is sponsoring a  
 ■ See Watermelon on Page 8



Haley Tibbets pictured above enjoying a slice of watermelon during last year's Eating Contest.

## Seedless Watermelon Tradition Stems From Johnson Family Melon Business

By Hanaba Munn Welch  
 Correspondent

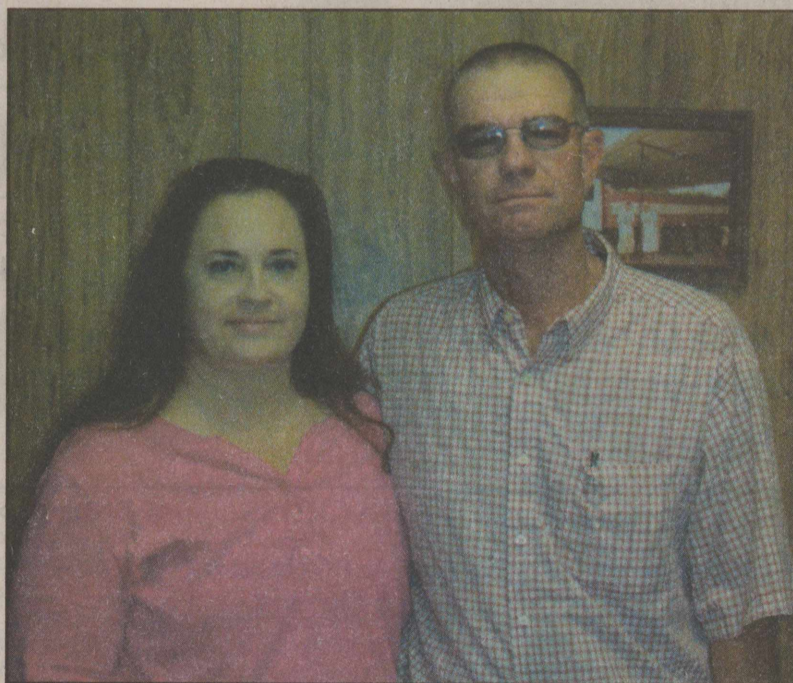
It's the fastest watermelon-eating contest in the West. Nobody stops to spit out seeds.

The competition is part of the Donald Johnson 20th Annual Seedless Watermelon Festival at the City Park in Knox City, where melon eating is much about speed.

"It's a timed event," said Daveine Clark, executive director of the Knox City Chamber of Commerce. "They can really eat them. It's just amazing to me."

The lack of seeds means that seed-spitting isn't on the agenda, but many other activities are -- a parade, swimming, crafts, a street dance, the 9th Annual Classic Car Show.

"We've got a very full day," Clark said. "We're going to have



Dwayne and Cindy Johnson

music all day long."

And everyone gets free slices of watermelon.

"We can't have anything but seedless," Clark said. "I don't eat anything with seeds anymore."

Credit for establishing the seedless tradition in Knox City goes to the late Donald Johnson, a local watermelon grower. Until last year, his son, Dwayne Johnson, was still in the seedless business and supplied the festival with melons.

This year the festival is depending on imported melons.

"We're getting them from Dwayne's contact out of

Midland," Clark said.

Meanwhile, Johnson makes no apologies for switching his farming operation from watermelons to wheat and cattle, and no one seems to blame him.

"It was kind of a family operation," he said. "I lost my dad four or five years ago. I lost my mom last year. The kids are in college. We just decided we'd go a different route."

Growing melons on a large scale is a labor-intensive operation. Raising cattle instead means "one good hand instead

■ See Johnson on Page 8

## Nafeesa Ebraheim Receives A \$1000 Scholarship From Texas Interscholastic League Foundation.



Nafeesa Katrine Ebraheim, a graduate of Benjamin High School, has been awarded a scholarship by the Texas Interscholastic League Foundation.

Ebraheim received a Spalding Sports Worldwide award in the amount of \$1,000, payable \$500 each semester of the first year. The Spalding Sports award was awarded to 40 students who have participated in the University Interscholastic League Academic State Meet and who have compiled an outstanding record of academic and extracurricular achievement.

This year the TILF awarded 393 new awards and will renew approximately 225 awards for a

total of more than 600 scholarships for 2008-08, with a value of over \$1 million. Recipients may attend any approved college or university in Texas.

Ebraheim competed in cross examination debate at the 2006, 2007 and 2008 UIL Academic State Meets. She also participated in UIL one act play, science, headline writing, new writing, persuasive speaking, mathematics, calculator applications, volleyball, basketball, cross country and track and field throughout her high school career. She is the daughter of Debra Ebraheim.

Ebraheim plans to attend Midwestern State University and major in psychology.

Its Watermelon Time Again!  
 Be sure to check out all the upcoming events this weekend from The 20th Annual Watermelon Festival, The Watermelon Golf Tournament & 9th Annual Classic Car show to the KCRA 2nd Annual Ranch Rodeo. This weekend is sure to keep you busy!

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TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital HIGHLIGHTS



By Ed Sterling

AUSTIN - The Public Utility Commission of Texas on July 17 approved a large-scale plan to transmit a high quantity of wind-generated power on new lines from West Texas and the Panhandle to metropolitan areas of the state.

The \$5 billion plan would add about \$4 a month to residential electric bills. The PUC estimated that the new lines will be in service within four to five years.

SB 20, passed by the state Legislature in 2005, directed the PUC to select the most productive wind zones in the state and

Utility Commission Oks Massive Wind Energy Transmission Plan

devise such a plan. **DPS chief resigns from office**

On July 11, Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr., director of the Texas Department of Public Safety announced his resignation.

"After 43 years and 9 months with the Texas Department of Public Safety, I am retiring on Aug. 31, 2008," he said.

Gov. Perry and Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst reacted to Davis's announcement with statements expressing their appreciation of Davis and his many years of service.

Since the June 8 arson fire gutted the governor's mansion, the Department of Public Safety, which maintains a security detail at the mansion, has been under increasing criticism. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

**Restoration fund kicks off**

On July 14, Texas First Lady

Anita Perry held a press conference to solicit private donations to a fund created to restore the fire-gutted Texas Governor's Mansion.

The effort to fix up the 152-year-old state-owned building could take years and millions of dollars. Former Gov. Dolph Briscoe donated \$100,000 to the fund.

**Comptroller leads trade mission**

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs traveled to Spain in mid-July, leading a group of Texas government officials and business leaders on a business recruitment and trade mission.

Combs promoted Texas as a business location for companies and offered the state's assistance in finding opportunities.

She cited Texas' "favorable tax environment, tremendous work force, world-class universities and leadership in innovation and technology."

**Bell to run for state Senate seat**

Sen. Kyle Janek, R-Houston, resigned from office effective June 2, leaving his seat vacant.

A Nov. 4 special election will decide who will fill the vacant Dist. 17 seat in the Texas Senate.

Democrat Chris Bell, a former member of Congress and candidate for governor of Texas in 2006, on July 13 announced his candidacy for the seat.

Republicans Joan Huffman, Austen Furse and Grant Harpold also have declared as candidates for the seat.

**Perry spokesman Black resigns**

Robert Black, the governor's director of communications, announced his resignation on July 14.

Black, who had served on Gov. Perry's staff since 2003, said he plans to form his own consulting business, specializing in public affairs and political and

strategic communications.

**Parks agency reports drownings**

At least 13 people drowned in public waters over the Fourth of July holiday, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department reported.

The total number of water-related fatalities in Texas is 66 so far this year; more than half of those deaths did not involve boats, according to TPWD.

**Toll moratorium gets extension**

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, announced July 10 that she secured her amendment to a federal transportation spending bill that would continue the current ban on placing toll booths on interstate highways in Texas through September 2009.

However, efforts to toll newly constructed lanes or new highways are not prohibited in Sen. Hutchison's amendment.

The transportation spending

bill, S.3261, moves next to the full Senate for consideration.

**Lawmakers promote propane use**

Three powerful Texas House committee chairs penned an open letter to all state and local leaders, seeking to promote the conversion of vehicles to plentiful and clean burning propane fuel.

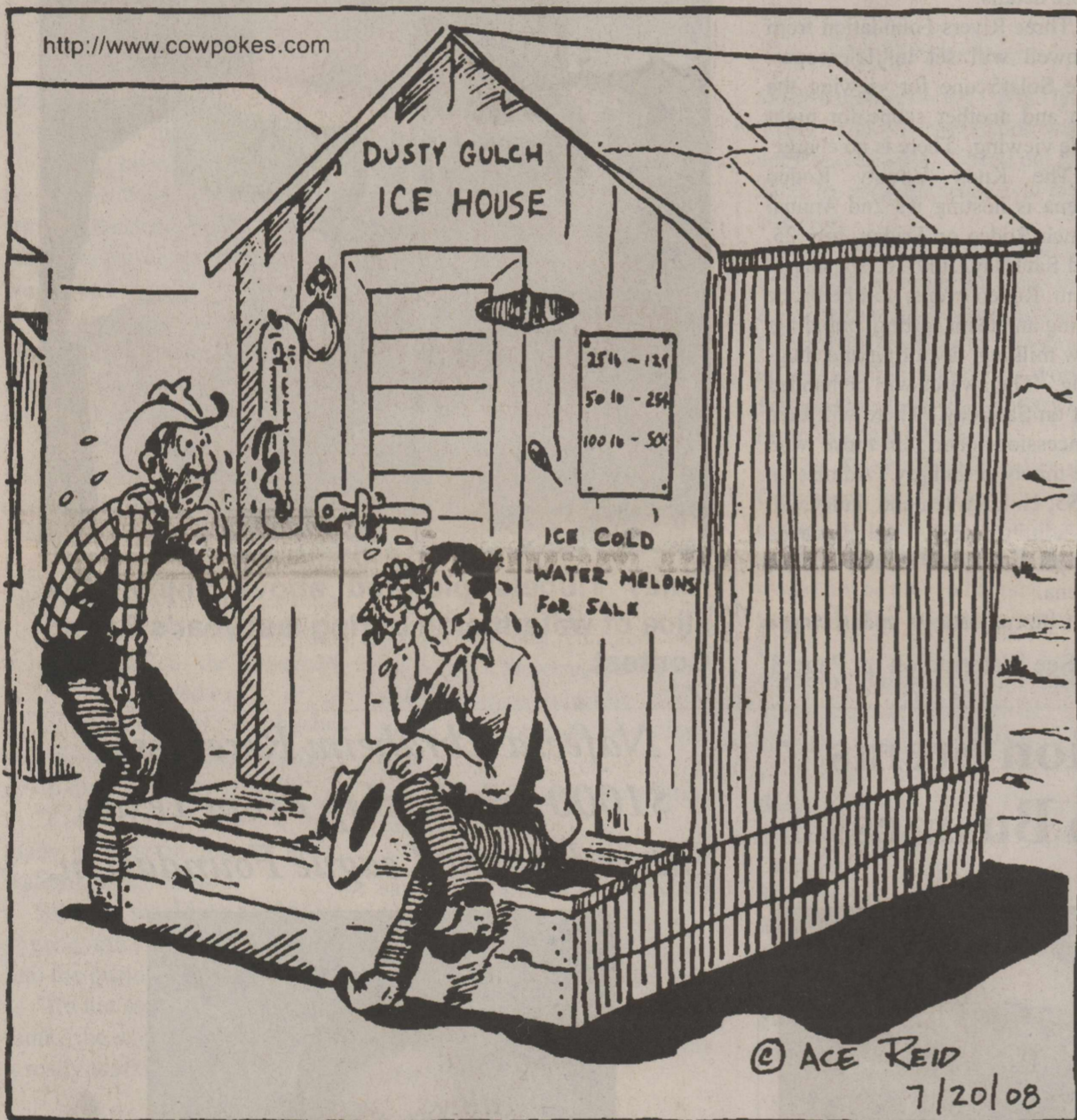
Among suggestions offered was replacing retired fleet vehicles such as school buses and garbage trucks with ones fueled by propane or natural gas.

"Escalating gasoline and diesel prices are threatening our national economy and draining our personal budgets," they wrote.

The letter, dated July 14, was signed by Rep. Jim Keffer, R-Eastland, chair of House Ways and Means; Rep. Warren Chism, R-Pampa, chair of House Appropriations; and Rep. Rick Hardcastle, R-Vernon, chair of House Energy Resources.

COW POKES®

By Ace Reid



"Folks that work in air-conditioned offices go north for vacations every summer. We git to watch thermometers melt off this old ice house!"

Welcome Class of 1988

You have something sweet in store to celebrate your 20th anniversary class reunion with the 20th Donald Johnson Annual Seedless Watermelon Festival

Visit our shop & check out the Sales while you are in town

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Nascar Beanies 3 for \$10.00

Tys Girls to play online \$5.00

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BRANDY WISE Editor

AMANDA SANDUSKY Reporter

LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

SUBMISSION POLICY

PHOTO SUBMISSION POLICY

NOTICE

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

ACROSS

1 \_\_\_ Dulce, TX

5 for TX-born Nimitz, it was Fleet Admiral

6 "Gateway to Eagle Mountain Lake"

7 TXism: "loaded for \_\_\_" (equipped)

8 TXism for "permanent" (4 wds.)

18 to the \_\_\_ degree

19 in 1897, Houston had TX's 1st one

21 5/8/45: "\_\_\_ Day"

22 rodeo org. (abbr.)

23 TXism: "your barn door \_\_\_" (unzipped)

24 the magic word?

29 TX h.s. football players "\_\_\_ up"

30 CSA's General Robert \_\_\_

31 \_\_\_ Vernon, TX

32 TXism for hanging a rustler: "\_\_\_ justice"

34 pecan is the TX state \_\_\_

35 TXism for "far"

36 plow vehicles

37 homecoming floral adornments

38 holder of TX Blue Bell product

39 TXism: "\_\_\_ dog's hind leg"

41 on auto insurance, get \_\_\_ quote

42 TXism: "no flies on \_\_\_" (pretty gal)

43 in Lamb Co. on 70

44 a drunk often \_\_\_ his words

45 TX Ross Perot started this co.

46 protectors of the 2nd Amend. (abbr.)

47 poetic horse

48 Marlin newspaper

50 give a drug to a race horse (2 wds.)

51 TX-born Roger Miller sang "trailers for sale or \_\_\_"

52 \_\_\_ City, TX

53 San Antonio shoemaker

DOWN

1 TX Kristofferson gets involved with \_\_\_ in "Rollover" ('81)

2 Burnet newspaper: "Citizen's \_\_\_"

3 untie the rope

4 this Fred was UT coach '77 to '86

9 TX singer Steve who also was on HBO's "The Wire"

10 follows 16-down: FX series in which TX-born Hagman appeared

11 TXism: "call \_\_\_ day" (quit)

12 TXism: "\_\_\_ hill for a stepper"

13 golf ball cuts

14 Texas has lots of sights \_\_\_

15 double-reed woodwind instrument

16 see 10-down

17 "braving the \_\_\_"

20 chicken fried steak at a TX cafe

22 gal's matching accessories: \_\_\_ shoes

24 unoffensive today (abbr.)

25 TXism: "heap of"

26 full initials of TX-born "Star Trek" Roddenberry

27 a TX Indian tribe

28 church name in TX: "\_\_\_ Heart"

29 this TX golfer Jack was big in the 50s

30 humorist Bombeck

33 TXism: "\_\_\_ big for his britches"

34 buttocks

35 Crowell is the seat of this county

37 across the border from Brownsville

38 small dining table container

40 noted TX physician: "\_\_\_ Duke"

41 "\_\_\_ of faith"

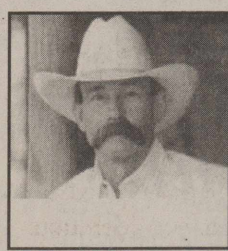
44 TXism: "he could \_\_\_ sitting down" (big ego)

47 "Dallas" exterior \_\_\_ were filmed at Southfork

49 TXism: "horse \_\_\_" (western)

The Original TEXAS CROSSWORD by Charley & Guy Orbison

Copyright 2008 by Orbison Bros.



# BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

## SERIOUS ROPIN' UPDATE

If yer a sorry roper, friend, let me commiserate

And pass along some wisdom that may help to set you straight.

The reason that yer just no good and why you've never won

Is...You've got the false impression that ropin' should be fun!

Don't kid yourself. It's just like golf. We're talkin' sacrifice!

To rope and win consistently you have to pay the price.

Eliminate the little things that busy up yer life,

Those bothersome distractions like house payments and a wife.

Quit yer job! Forsake the kids! Sell everything you own

And buy a dually goose-neck so you'll never be alone.

Then enter every jackpot where the fools'll take yer check

And practice 'til yer ropin' dummy's got a crooked neck!

Survive on beer and road food. Never falter, never fail

'Cause fingers will grow back, ya know, just like a lizard's tail.

Keep ropin' 'til yer spoken word degenerates to grunts

Or simply, "I'm a heela... but sometimes I woipe the fwonts."

And maybe you might beat the odds but be prepared because

Each dally man will have to face the roper's mentalpause.

Eventually the time will come when nothin' reconciles.

You'll be burnt out from front to back with cavities and piles,

Yer rope won't reach out like it did, yer loop just won't quite fit.

You can't remember if yer can is filled with beer or spit!

There's only one place left to go, to change your sad condition,

Find yourself a catchy phrase and become a horse clinician!

## Knox County Farm Bureau Scholarship Opportunities

Knox County Farm Bureau is looking for students to compete for scholarships through Texas Farm Bureau.

Knox County Farm Bureau is looking for one young lady to participate in the Miss Texas Farm Bureau competition with a chance to win a \$2000 scholarship.

We are also looking for one student (boy or girl) to participate in the Texas Farm Bureau

Talent Competition, with the opportunity to win a \$2000 scholarship.

Students must be between the ages of 16-19 by September 1, 2008.

Anyone interested in more information, please contact the Knox County Farm Bureau office at 940-422-4555 or stop by the office at 132 North Birch in Munday. Entries must be received by August 4.

## \$1,500.00 1st Place To Be Awarded At "Off The Hook" Bass Tournament

The third annual "Off the Hook Bass Tournament" sponsored by the Stamford Chamber of Commerce will be held Saturday, August 9, 2008 at Lake Stamford Marina. Guaranteed prize of \$1,500.00 for 1st place will be awarded, (\*2nd and consecutive places based on entries). Registration fee for the Tournament is \$125.00 per team, (2 person team), which includes \$5.00 for the "Big Bass Pot". Contestant registration will be Saturday, August 9 from 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. at the Tournament Headquarters, (pre-registration prior to tournament is encouraged). For information or an entry form, contact the Stamford Chamber of Commerce at 773-2411 or visit the website at [www.stamfordcoc.org](http://www.stamfordcoc.org).

## Kid Fish Tournament Set For August 9

The third annual "Off the Hook Kid Fish Tournament" sponsored by the Stamford Chamber of Commerce will be held Saturday, August 9, 2008 at Lake Stamford Marina from 10:00 a.m. until Noon. The Tournament is limited to children ages 12 and under. Registration will be at 9:30 a.m. on August 9, (pre-registration prior to tournament is encouraged). Registration fee is \$8.00 and includes a hot dog lunch, live bait, and a Tournament t-shirt. Trophies will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Places. Each participant will need to bring their own rod and reel. For information or an entry form, contact the Stamford Chamber of Commerce at 773-2411 or visit the website at [www.stamfordcoc.org](http://www.stamfordcoc.org).

## KCHS Class of 1968 Reunion

A 40 year class reunion is planned for Saturday, August 30, 2008. Help is needed to locate everyone who was a student at anytime in the class of 1968. Reunion is planned for Saturday, August 30, 2008 at the home of Cathy Richardson Marion of Graham, Texas. Contact Cathy with names and addresses of former students so a personal invitation can be sent to each student. Thanks for any help My contact information is 5610 FM 61, Newcastle, Tx 76372. email : [marionteam@yahoo.com](mailto:marionteam@yahoo.com), Phone numbers 940-846-3517 home and 940-456-1998 cell...

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# Watermelon Festival

## Donald Johnson Memorial 20th Annual Seedless Watermelon Festival and Classic Car Show

July 26, 2008 • Knox City, Texas

8:00 a.m. - Registration for Classic Car Show  
9:00 a.m. - Downtown Parade  
10:00 a.m. - Booths open  
11:30 a.m. Watermelon Eating Contest  
11:45 a.m. Melon Money Drawing  
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Free Swimming  
12:30 p.m. - Judging for Car Show by Car Show Sponsor  
2:15 p.m. Melon Money Drawing  
3:30 p.m. - Car Show trophies awarded  
3:40 p.m. Melon Money Drawing

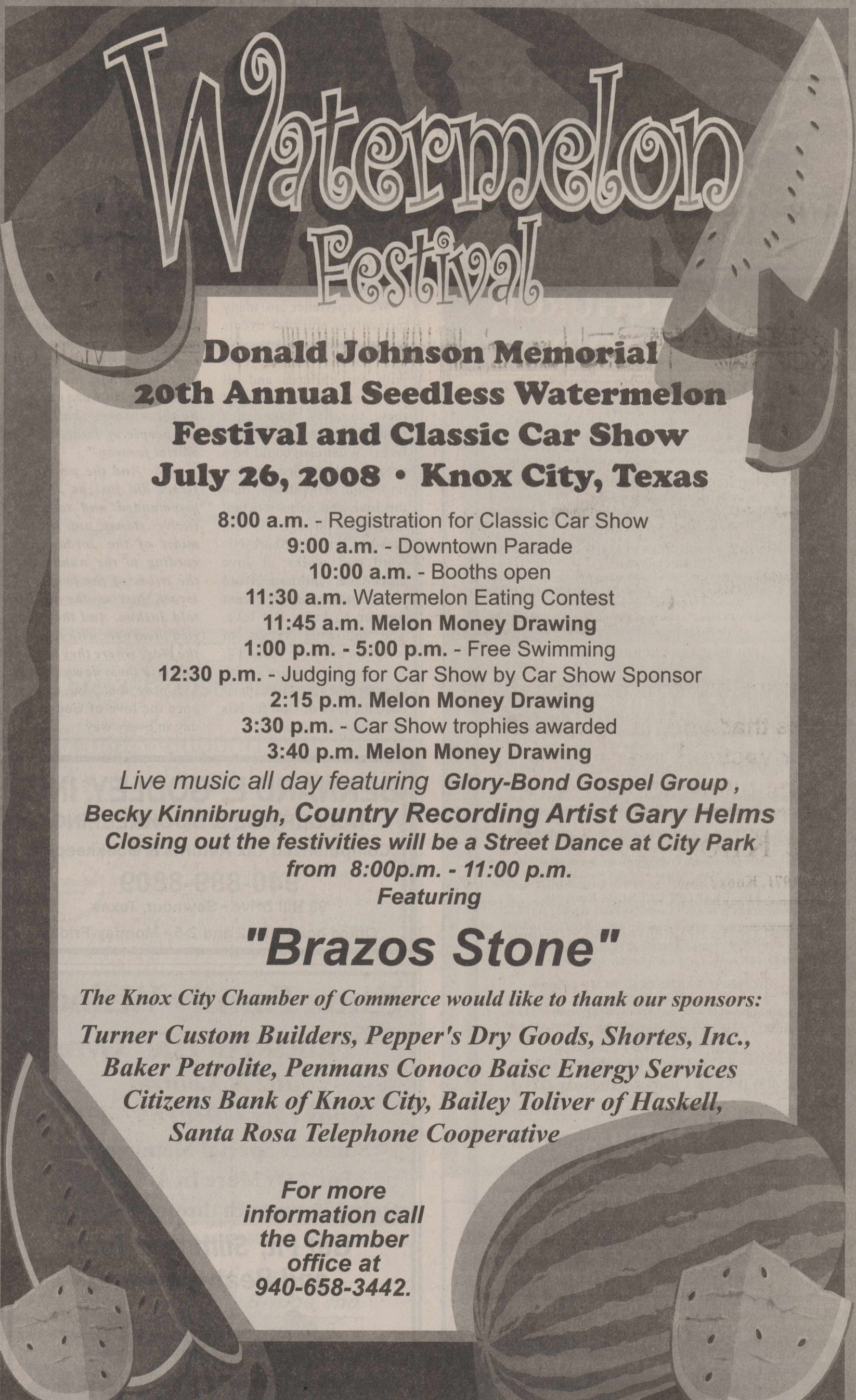
Live music all day featuring *Glory-Bond Gospel Group*, *Becky Kinnibrugh*, *Country Recording Artist Gary Helms*  
Closing out the festivities will be a *Street Dance at City Park* from 8:00p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Featuring

## "Brazos Stone"

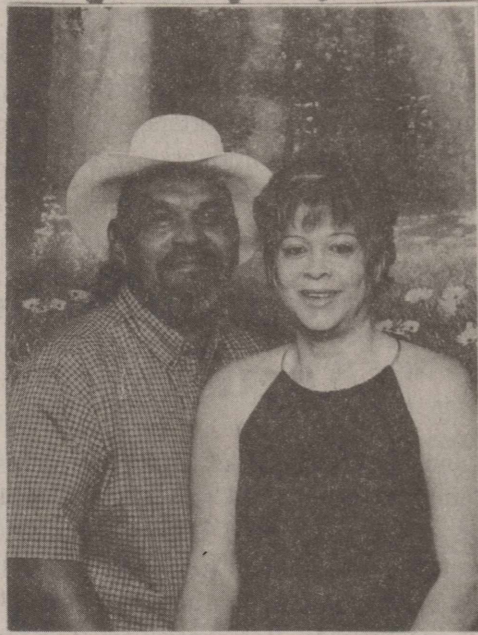
The Knox City Chamber of Commerce would like to thank our sponsors:  
*Turner Custom Builders, Pepper's Dry Goods, Shortes, Inc., Baker Petrolite, Penmans Conoco Baisc Energy Services, Citizens Bank of Knox City, Bailey Toliver of Haskell, Santa Rosa Telephone Cooperative*

For more information call the Chamber office at 940-658-3442.



Engagement News

...happily



ever after.

The time has finally come for Elda and Alejandro's long courtship to end. They will exchange wedding vows Saturday, the twenty-sixth of July two thousand and eight at six o'clock in the afternoon at the Benjamin Memorial Building Benjamin, Texas.

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KC AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

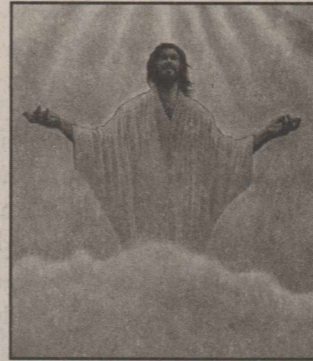
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - Knox City**  
Rick Neal, Pastor  
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10:55 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship at 6:30 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6:30 p.m.  
FBC Sunday School, and the worship services at 10:55 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. are telecast live on Classic Cable, channel 6 in Knox City and O'Brien
- FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Knox City**  
Timothy Trimbel, Pastor  
Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.  
No Sunday Evening Service
- ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP - Knox City**  
Tex Cox, Pastor  
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Classes 5:00 p.m. • Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Prayer Warriors 6:00 p.m.  
"Discovering God's Word" radio broadcast Sunday mornings on AM 1400 The River 8:20 - 8:50 a.m.
- FOURSQUARE CHURCH - Knox City**  
Don Jackson, Pastor  
Sunday Morning Worship at 10:50 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6:30 p.m.
- SANTA ROSA CATHOLIC CHURCH - Knox City**  
Father Leo Schloemer • Deacon Ben Vasquez  
Sunday Bilingual Mass at 11 a.m.
- LIBERTY COMMUNITY C.O.G.I.C. - Knox City**  
Gene Ward Jr., Pastor  
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Services - 11 a.m.  
Monday Evening Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
- ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - Rhineland**  
Father Leo Schloemer • Deacon Ben  
Monday through Friday mornings, 8 a.m. Mass  
Saturday Mass at 7 p.m. • Sunday Mass at 9 a.m.
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - Benjamin**  
Sunday School at 10 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.
- FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Benjamin**  
Timothy Trimbel, Pastor  
Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. • Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.
- GILLESPIE BAPTIST CHURCH - Gillespie**  
Matt Harrington, Pastor  
Sunday School at 10 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6 p.m.
- CHURCH OF CHRIST - Benjamin**  
Bible Study at 9 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10 a.m.
- THE BELIEVERS' CHAPEL - Highway 222**  
W.O. Smith, Pastor  
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.  
Mid-Week, Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
- O'BRIEN BAPTIST CHURCH - O'Brien**  
Jim Reid, Pastor  
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m., Mid-Week, Wed. at 6 p.m.  
Sunday Mornings on KVRP 97.1 at 9:05 a.m.
- WEINERT FOURSQUARE CHURCH**  
Rob Harrison, Pastor  
Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.
- MUNDAY CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Adrian Fletcher, Pastor

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God's Promises



By Jim Reid, Pastor  
O'Brien Baptist Church

We have so many memories in a lifetime. I wonder how many you really hold dear. Those special memories that are so close, you'll never forget them. These are the memories that we can't help but share with loved ones. Is there one very special event out of all these memories that you want to be sure to share with your children?

I'm sure you have many and have shared them many times together. A commemorative memorial is one intended as a reminder of person or event or as a celebration of somebody's life and work.

God told Joshua to build a memorial to the parting of the Jordan River as a commemorative event unto the tribes of Israel. He knew that if they would share throughout all generations this miraculous work of God that this nation would always be faithful unto the Lord. If we share, our nation will also always be faithful unto the Lord our God, and we are certainly in a time that we need the Lord our God.

We experience so many miraculous spiritual events in our Christian lives. We must share these events with our children and all our generations so that they to may experience God's love throughout their lives. What else could be a greater inheritance to pass on to our generations, than the love and salvation that God offers through His son, "Jesus Christ"? Share His word and works of love unto your children. Read the scriptures that are meant for you to know His love. The following verses of scripture are from Joshua 4: 1-8. Read the entire fourth chapter and you will experience the love of God for His children.

4:1 *When all the nation had finished passing over the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua,*

4:2 *"Take twelve men from the people, from each tribe a man,*

4:3 *and command them, saying, 'Take twelve stones from here out of the midst of the Jordan, from the very place where the priests' feet stood firmly, and bring them over with you and lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight.'"*

4:4 *Then Joshua called the twelve men from the people of Israel, whom he had appointed, a man from each tribe.*

4:5 *And Joshua said to them, "Pass on before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel,*

4:6 *that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?'*

4:7 *then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever."*

4:8 *And the people of Israel did just as Joshua commanded and took up twelve stones out of the midst of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, just as the LORD told Joshua. And they carried them over with them to the place where they lodged and laid them down there.*

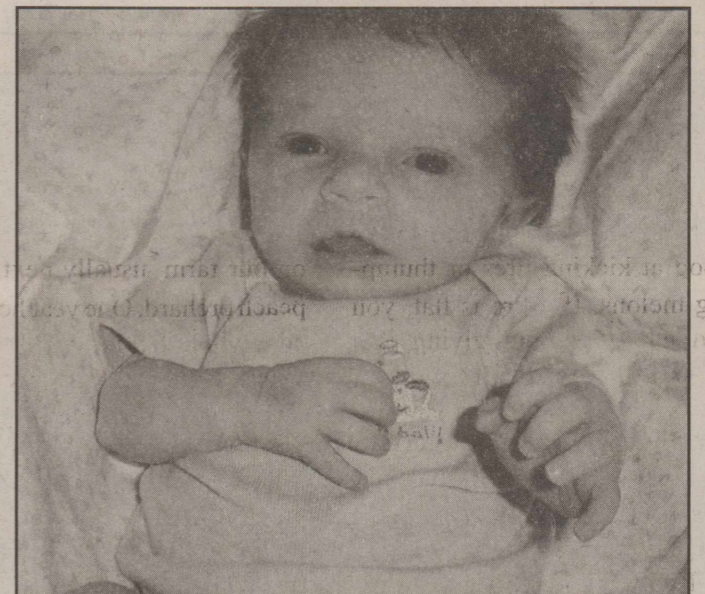
I pray that you experience the love of God every day in every way.

Happy Birthday Shea Edmunds



And Happy 20th Class Reunion

BABY NEWS



Jathan Dale Bishop

Russell and Kristin Bishop of Wichita Falls are proud to announce the arrival of their son, Jathan Dale Bishop. Jathan was born June 13, 2008 at 5:18 am. He weighed 5 pounds and 0 ounces and was 18 1/2 long. Jathan was welcomed by grandparents Buddy and Tonya Cypert of Haskell and Craig and Debbie Wilde of Knox City. Great grandparents are Billy and Donna Cypert of Munday and Pansy Hale of Knox City. Proud aunts and uncles are Cody and Breann Cypert of Lubbock, Brad and Jacy West of Haskell, Tiffany Wilde of Abilene and Jarek Wilde of Knox City.

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# The Paperboy

By CHRISTOPHER BLACKBURN

Winner of The Paperboy's Dumbest Idea Award goes to: Virgin Mobile, one of the largest cell phone companies in the country, and the National Network For Youth, a Washington, D.C., lobbying group for more than 150 organizations which help homeless youth.

Seems the two groups decided last week to begin testing a new fund raising idea. The new national Web campaign encourages young people to post strip-tease videos of themselves as a way of raising clothing donations for homeless youths.

As part of the campaign, entitled "Strip2Clothe," the campaign carries the moniker, "You take off yours, we donate ours." Young people were asked to post videos of themselves stripping to music. In exchange, clothing companies would provide donations of new clothes based on the number of times the videos were viewed. No full nudity was permitted. Rightfully, the idea has been greeted with outrage because of its tasteless nature and exploitation of teenage girls.

"It was a shock to everybody," voiced Trudee Able-Peterson, co-

ordinator of outreach services at StreetWorks, a Twin Cities collaborative of outreach programs. "This is the message we send kids? That my granddaughter, who's 17, should strip to provide clothes for other kids?"

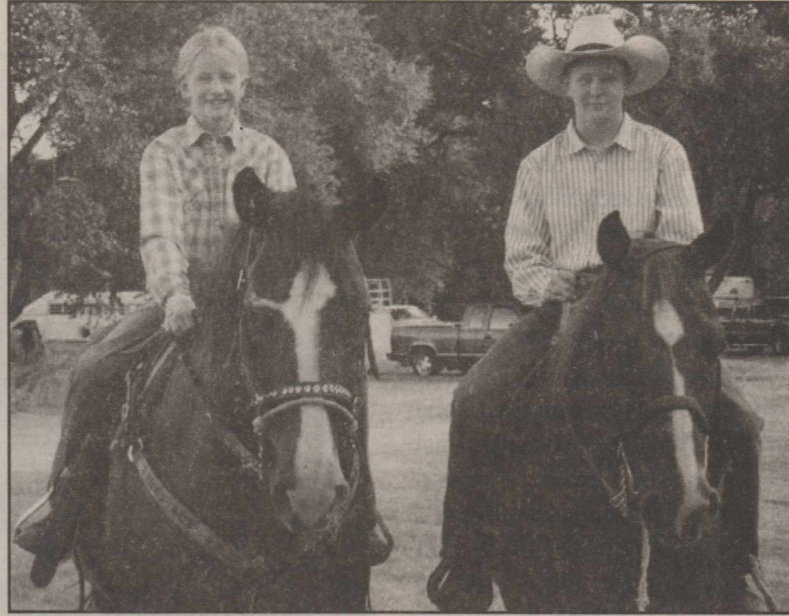
What in the world makes someone think this is a good idea? How can a group of people sit in a board room and come up with this and not think there would be some backlash from the public?

Honestly, I think there is something in the atmosphere which is somehow draining common sense from the human brain.

That, or the moron farm is having another bumper crop.

When companies think of campaigns which make me scratch my head, it reminds me of a "WKRP in Cincinnati" episode I saw on television when I was a child. Mr. Carlson, the radio station manager, decided to drop turkeys from a helicopter over a mall parking lot. He thought they could fly. Next thing you know, it's raining 12 lb. birds all over the people and cars below.

## Knox County 4-H's Place at District Horse Show



L-R: K. Cude, R. Cude

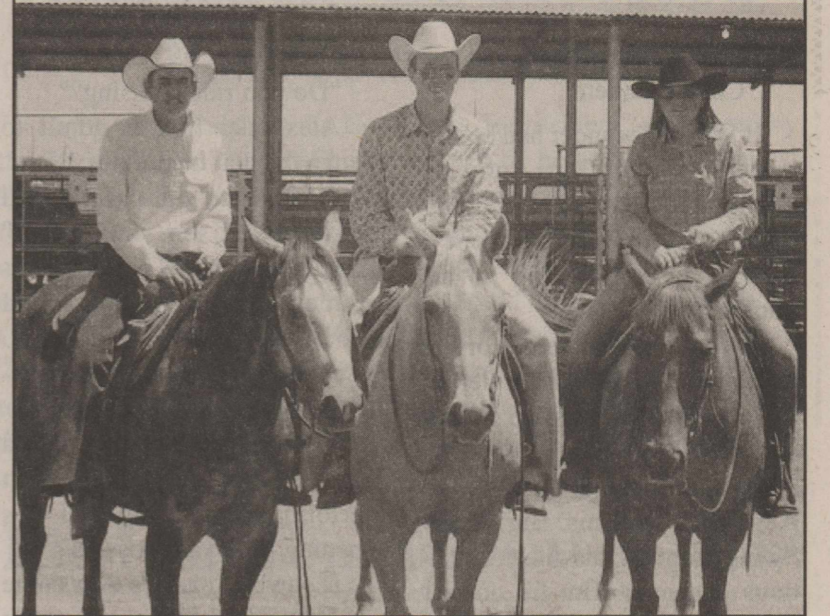
Knox County 4-H had five members participate in the Rolling Plains District Three 4-H Horse Show in Vernon. Ryder Cude placed 2nd in Pole Bending, 3rd in the Stakes Race, 6th in Barrel Racing, and 8th in Team Penning.

He also participated in the Tie-Down Roping, and the Breakaway Roping.

Kathryn Cude competed in Pole Bending, Barrel Racing,

and the Stakes Race. Pate Stewart was 5th place in the Working Cow Horse Division, 5th in the Cutting, and competed in the Reining, 2 Year Old Western Pleasure, 3 Year Old Stock Horse, and Team Penning. Larami Stewart placed 7th in Pole Bending and 2nd in the Three Year Old Stock Horse Division.

She also participated in the Cutting, Barrel Racing, 2 Year



L-R: Propps, P. Stewart, L. Stewart

Old Western Pleasure, Working Cow Horse, and Team Penning. Cody Propps competed on the team penning team with both Pate and Larami. These 4-H'ers had a good showing at the district level and are now preparing for the State 4-H Horse Show in Abilene.

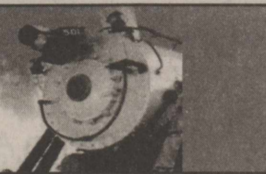
The State Show will be all week from July 20 thru July 26 at the Taylor County Coliseum.

SEQ CHAPTER 14 14

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## The 501

by Hanaba Munn Welch



Buying a watermelon is like buying a car. You don't want to get stuck with a lemon.

Here's the first rule: Be nonchalant. Act like you know what you're doing - even if you don't. In the spirit of kicking tires, give the melons some thumps.

Not that I've ever been very good at kicking tires or thumping melons. If a tire is flat, you can tell it without giving it a kick. What's the point?

But melon thumping is different. Everybody does it, so there must be something to it. It's easy as kicking tires. But what are we listening for?

This week I decided to do the research. I thumped several melons and bought three.

My results: A melon that thuds when thumped is ripe - maybe too ripe. A melon that rings when thumped may not be ripe enough. The perfect melon is somewhere in between. Good luck. So far I've eaten an over-ripe thudder and an under-ripe ringer, in that order. I enjoyed them both. The other melon remains to be cut. It sounds promising.

But you'd probably better do your own research. I'm no expert, even if our family crest does have a melon on it - or should.

In the historic photograph collections of most families, some old pictures seem to have been taken to show off the cars more than the people. I'm thinking of Uncle Horton's Reo and my grandmother's Columbia Super-Six.

But among our keepsake photographs, my favorites are the studio shots of my father, circa 1908, with prize watermelons

grown by his father. Sort of says it all.

Remember, in those days, melons weren't made to fit in refrigerators. My father, barefoot but dressed in his finest, looks to be about 3 years old. The melons look older. Talk about some big watermelons.

Later, Daddy grew melons on our farm, usually next to the peach orchard. One year he planted a whole field of watermelons where cotton usually grew. I'm guessing he was disgusted with that cotton ground and wanted to follow his own father's melon-planting rule: plant melons on your poorest land.

The rule must work. We ended up with lots of watermelons that year.

We loaded some nice ones one day in a small trailer and hauled them north across the Red River to Oklahoma to sell to families living in pale yellow railroad cars in a railroad work camp. The whole place looked to me like a dusty gypsy encampment minus the horses and campfires. That's how I remember it.

But I've searched the Internet, source of all knowledge, and I find nothing about transient families living in railroad car villages in Southwest Oklahoma in the mid-1950s.

So what do I know? Just that we sold them melons.

What we didn't sell, we froze in special jars. It's July in January when you thaw out a jar of watermelon for dessert - a little mushy, but still a taste of summer.

It's enough to make you want to thump a good melon.

### Sen. Hutchison Secures \$24 Million for Amarillo Armed Forces Reserve

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), Ranking Member of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee, today announced that the full committee has approved the Fiscal Year 2009 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill, which includes \$24 million that Sen. Hutchison secured for an Armed Forces Reserve Center Building in Amarillo. The bill is now ready to be con-

sidered by the full Senate.

"Our reserve forces play an integral role in the War on Terror," said Sen. Hutchison. "This funding will help provide modern facilities and resources for our reservists."

Amarillo will utilize the \$24 million to construct an Armed Forces Reserve Center Building.

The appropriations legislation funds military construction projects for the U.S. Department of Defense. Sen. Hutchison

successfully secured more than \$2.5 billion in the bill for Texas military construction projects and BRAC projects.

The overall bill provides \$10.3 billion for active duty military construction.

It also provides \$3.2 billion for family housing construction and operations and \$240.9 million for the NATO Security Investment Program. A BRAC fund provides more than \$9 billion for BRAC 2005 implementation.

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# Musical Cowboy Dave Alexander Makes Tracks Accross North Texas

By Hanaba Munn Welch  
Correspondent

If Dave Alexander had been a contemporary of Gene Autry, he might have given "The Singing Cowboy" a run for his money. Instead, he's following in his tracks.

Thrice nominated for a Grammy Award, Alexander is known for both Western Swing and cowboy songs -- also Autry's musical domain. Dave Alexander and his Big Texas Swing Band is his most ambitious endeavor. But he doesn't always take the whole 14-piece band on the road.

"I trim that down to nine," he said. "That's just my Little Texas Swing Band."

That's not to mention his six-piece group.

"My little cowboy band," he said.

But when it comes to taking his cues from Autry, it's Alexander himself on horseback, singing and opening rodeos.

"He's the one that talked me into it," Alexander said. "I sang at his 90th birthday party."

The year was 1997. Alexander still remembers the conversation between him and the aged singer, star of radio and the silver screen.

"Do you ride?" Autry asked. "Yes," Alexander replied. "And you sing?"

"Yes."

"Do you ride and sing?"

Alexander had to admit to Autry the that he did not.

"He looked right at me, and he said, 'Well, son, you should,'" Alexander said. "Then it haunted me. I thought, well, maybe I should do that."

Alexander spent a year getting his act together.

"The following year, I had 125 rodeos (counting each performance as a rodeo) I was opening," Alexander said.

If cowboy movies ever come back in grand style, Alexander might have a chance to make it in the movies too, just like Gene Autry. Squeezing one more activity into his already busy life would be in character.

Between him and his energetic wife, Sherri, the couple could rack up enough points to win a ranch rodeo.

Together they raise cattle and horses -- namely, traditional longhorns and fancy Gypsy Vanners.

Sherri Alexander is an artist whose current favorite medium is a two-phase process that draws on her skills as a photographer and painter.

She paints her own photographs on canvas -- images of quintessential ranch subjects like the Alexanders' longhorn mama cows and their calves. The name of her line of artwork

is "La Coda," named for their ranch.

"I do a lot of consignment pieces for people," she said.

Besides tapestries, leatherwork and pillows that feature her art, she also markets lingerie that she advertises as "travel lingerie for the prissy cowgirl."

No slouch herself, Sherri Alexander was carrying one of her own beaded purses last Monday, as she and her husband pulled their horse trailer-RV out of Ole Towne Cotton Gin RV Park at Goodlett, west of Quanah on U.S. 287.

They were headed back to their home at Coppell, near Dallas, from Greeley, Colo.

"I did the Greeley Independence Stampede," Dave Alexander said.

They were also shopping in Colorado for Gypsy Vanner mares and fillies didn't buy any. A trip to Minnesota may help them find just the right stock.

Like Dave and Sherri Alexander, the horses are special -- a bold and colorful breed, usually black and white with the same sort of random coloring that characterizes paint horses. Long manes are another trait and so is long hair on their legs -- hair that "feathers" onto their hooves.

Vanners, historically, have pulled gypsy wagons, but now they've also found their way



Musician Dave Alexander shows off the talents of his artistic wife, Sherri, who markets a line of pillows and purses plus oil paintings based on her photographs. On her shoulder is one of her creations in leather embellished with beading. Alexander's shirt sports a vintage flour sack design from the era when Alexander's brand of music -- Western Swing -- was popularized by groups like Bob Wills' Texas Playboys and the Light Crust Doughboys in connection with radio programs that advertised flour.

into higher social circles. "We have our famous stud horse, (British) Sterling," Sherri Alexander said. "His daddy was owned by the Queen."

"There's only about 400 of them in the States," Dave Alexander said.

Despite their background as draft horses, most Gypsy Vanners nowadays don't just pull wagons -- not that some

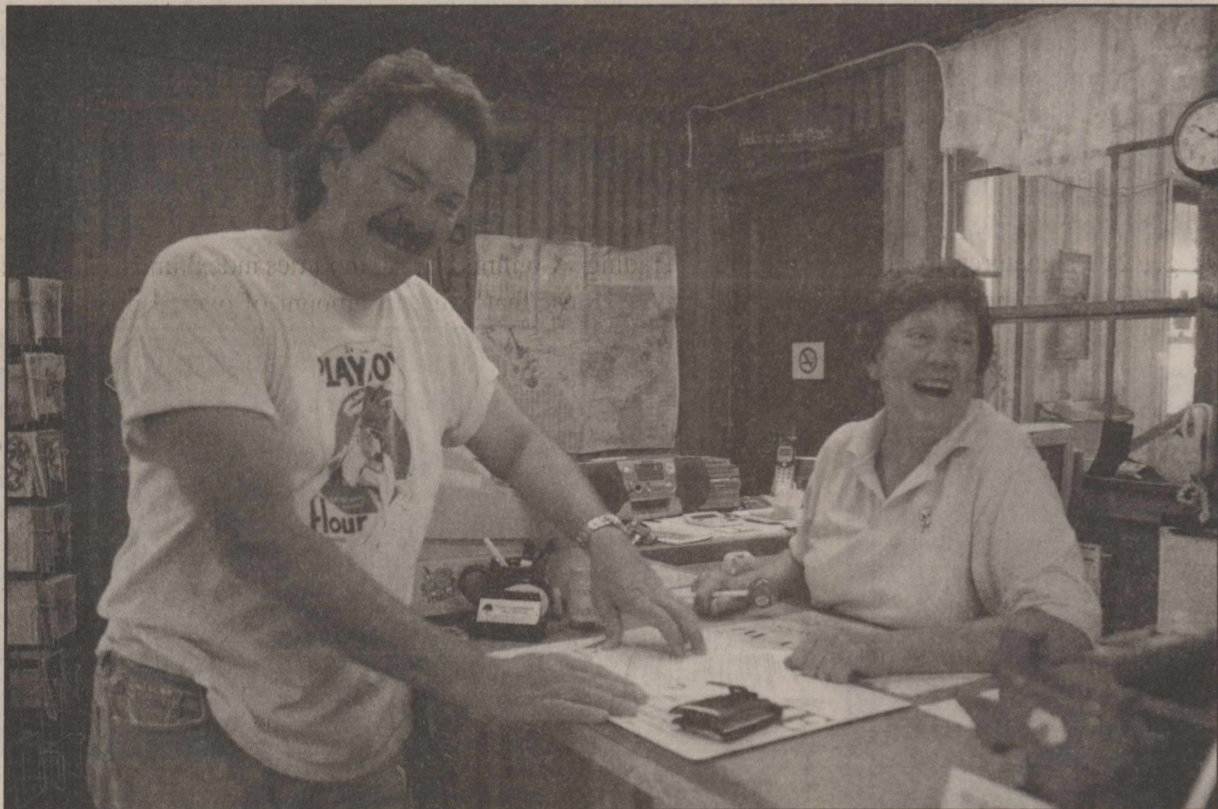
aren't still owned by gypsies.

"They still use them to pull their wagons," Dave Alexander said. "They still trade them. The Queen bought them because they were so beautiful. She's got a line of them."

"They're used for dressage," Sherri Alexander said. "They use them to carry the drums for the Royal Band. They're very strong."

Whether Gene Autry ever played for the Queen, maybe Dave Alexander will get his chance. If he does, he and his wife won't be at a loss for something to say to Her Royal Highness. They can talk about horses.

Web sites of interest: <http://www.davealexander.com> and <http://www.gypsyvannerhorsesociety.org>



On his way home from Colorado from the Greeley Independence Stampede, bandleader Dave Alexander, a three-time Grammy Award nominee, stops at Ole Town Cotton Gin RV Park headquarters Monday morning to check out of the park and visit with owner Norma Trolinder. Alexander is known both for his "singing cowboy" performances at rodeos and for managing three bands, including his Big Texas Swing Band. He and his wife, Sherri, an artist-photographer, are also in the horse business, raising Gypsy Vanners. It was the couple's first visit to Goodlett. After leaving Goodlett, they took a driving tour of historic downtown Quanah. In his singing cowboy performances, Alexander is following a tradition established by fellow-musician, the late Gene Autry, who suggested to Alexander that he combine his musical talents with his horsemanship and keep the act going. Both Autry and Alexander fall in the same musical category -- cowboy and Western Swing.

## CONGRESS RESTORES 35-YEAR EXEMPTION FOR RECREATIONAL BOATS FROM PROPOSED EPA PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS NO NEW PERMIT FOR BOATS REQUIRED

ALEXANDRIA, VA July 22, 2008 -- In a remarkable display of bipartisan support for recreational boating, both the House and Senate today passed S. 2766, "The Clean Boating Act of 2008" which will permanently restore a long-standing exemption for recreational boats from permitting requirements under the Clean Water Act.

The legislation now goes to the White House for the President's signature.

Congressional action was spawned by a U.S. District Court decision in September 2006 under which an estimated 17 million recreational boats would have fallen under Clean Water Act permit requirements effective September 30, 2008. The permit would have dictated maintenance and operation procedures and potentially subjected boaters to citizen lawsuits as well as a penalty system designed for industrial polluters.

"This is a fabulous victory for common sense and it just goes to show what can be done when the boating public, the marine industry and its representatives in Congress row together in a bipartisan way," said BoatU.S. President Nancy Michelman. BoatU.S. Government Affairs Director Margaret Podlich was quick to shower praise on a boatload of legislators who did much

See Permits on Page 8

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## LAKE AND RIVER SWIMMERS SHOULD BE AWARE OF POTENTIAL HEALTH RISKS

July 18, 2008 – Texans throughout the Brazos River basin are beating the heat by taking trips to the river and lakes nearby. The Brazos River Authority encourages visitors to enjoy the water, while keeping in mind the health risks associated with swimming in or around stagnant or slow-moving water.

Most prevalent during the summer months, primary amebic meningoencephalitis (PAM) is a rare disease that is caused by an ameba found in almost all untreated, fresh surface water and in soil. The disease-causing ameba thrives in fresh water that is above 80 degrees and is stagnant or slow-moving.

The PAM infection occurs when water containing the organism is forced into the nasal passages – usually from diving or jumping into water. Upon making its way into the brain and spinal cord, the ameba destroys the brain tissue.

Symptoms of the almost always fatal infection include severe headache, high fever, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting, seizures and hallucinations as the condition worsens. Although PAM is rare – affecting about one to three people a year in Texas – those infected usually succumb to the disease within a week.

To prevent infection, it is recommended that those taking part in warm, fresh water-related activities use nose clips or hold their nose shut while jumping into the water. With the ameba often found in soil,

it is best to avoid stirring up the sediment under the water. The Texas Department of Health recommends that people avoid stagnant or polluted water and take “No Swimming” signs seriously.

PAM cannot be spread person to person nor by drinking water. Swimming pools that are properly cleaned, maintain and chlorinated are generally safe, as is salt water.

For more information contact the Texas Department of State Health Services Public Information Office at (512) 458-7400.

About the Brazos River Authority

The Brazos River Authority, with headquarters in Waco, is the oldest river authority in Texas. Created by the Texas Legislature in 1929, the Authority's 42,000 square-mile territory includes all or part of 70 counties; extending from the Texas-New Mexico border west of Lubbock to the Gulf of Mexico near Freeport.

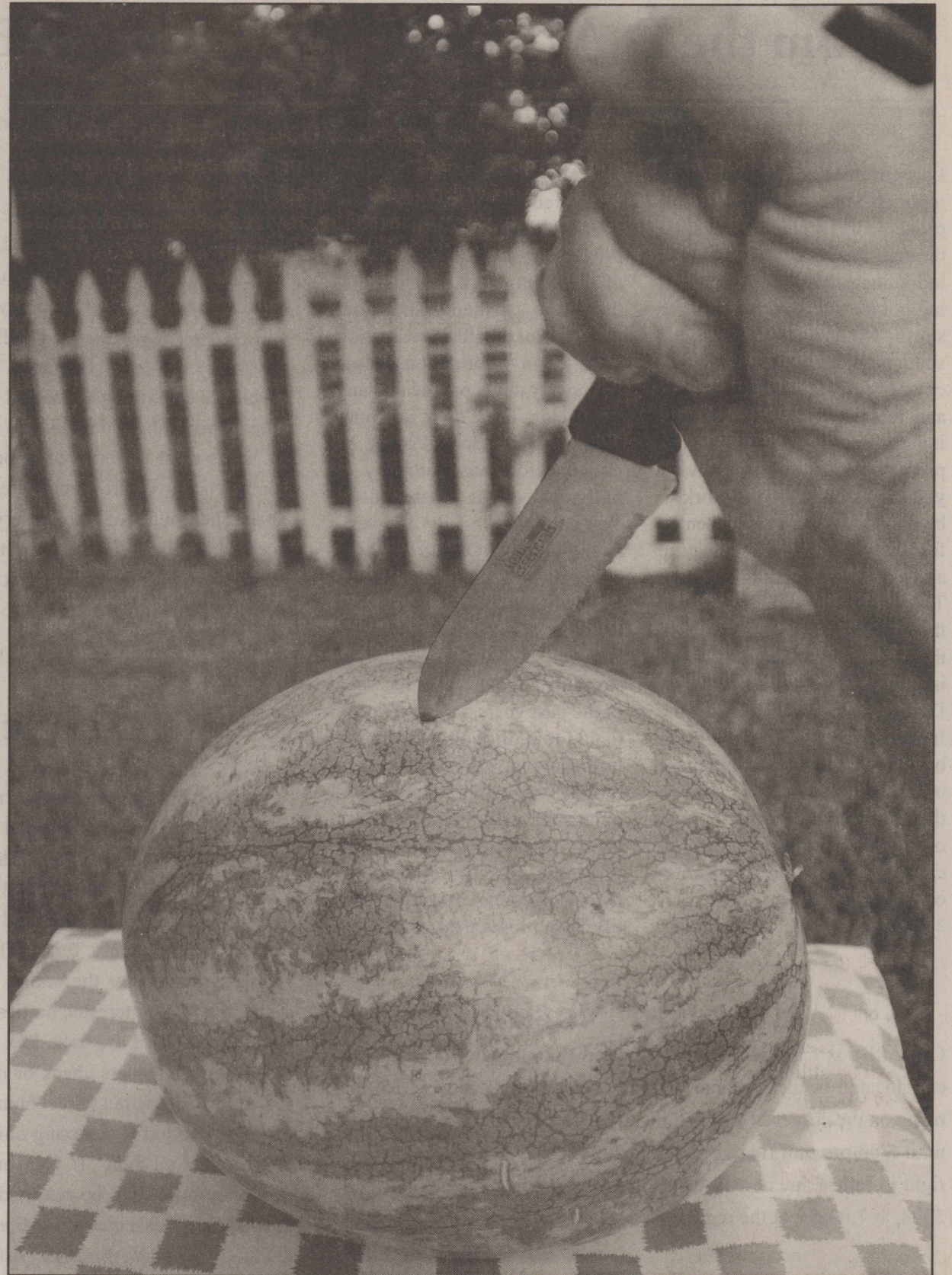
The Authority built, owns, and operates three reservoirs (Lakes Possum Kingdom, Granbury, and Limestone). In addition to these water supply reservoirs, the Authority contracts with the Corps of Engineers for the water supply storage space at eight federal multi-purpose flood control and water conservation reservoirs (Lakes Whitney, Belton, Proctor, Somerville, Stillhouse Hollow, Granger, Georgetown and Aquilla).

The Brazos River Authority owns and operates a regional wastewater system for the cities of Temple-Belton. The Authority also operates wastewater treatment plants for the cities of Georgetown, Dime Box, Clute-Richwood and Sugar Land. Through an alliance with the Lower Colorado River Authority, the Brazos River Authority operates wastewater treatment plants at Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System in Round Rock, the city of Hutto and the city of Liberty Hill.

The Authority owns and operates water treatment systems at Lake Granbury (which supplies potable water to wholesale customers in Hood and Johnson Counties), and the City of Taylor. The Authority also operates a potable water treatment plant for the City of Dime Box. A water treatment plant for the City of Leander is operated by the Brazos River Authority through an alliance with the Lower Colorado River Authority.

The Authority also engages in water quality monitoring activities throughout the Brazos River basin. As a member of the Texas Clean River Program, the Authority samples and tests water from 157 locations throughout the basin on either a monthly or quarterly basis.

For further information on the Brazos River Authority, please contact Judi Pierce, Public Information Officer at 254-761-3103.



IT'S WATERMELON SEASON across Texas, but Knox County residents are saving their appetites for Saturday -- the Donald Johnson Memorial 20th Annual Seedless Watermelon Festival. Starting with a parade at 9 a.m. and ending with a street dance, the festival will offer a day's worth of activities for all ages and all tastes, plus free watermelon slices.



By Dr. Alex Mills

Congressional Democrats pushed bills recently that would put further restrictions on offshore leasing and drilling, provide new punishment for “speculators” in the crude oil and natural gas industries, and new taxes on profits.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid continue to push legislation that would punish the industry.

But, apparently \$4 per gallon gasoline prices have caused the attitude of the American consumer to become more supportive of

increasing supplies of crude oil and petroleum products.

A recent Gallup Poll found that 57% support drilling in U.S. coastal and wilderness areas now off limits, and another poll reported by Fox News has 76% supporting increased oil drilling in the U.S. A poll by the Dallas Business Journal has 81% believing that Congress should lift the offshore drilling ban.

Texas Congressman Mac Thornberry has introduced a bill called the “No More Excuses Energy Act,” H.R. 3089, which would allow oil and gas explo-

ration in areas that are currently off limits. It also would provide incentives for new refineries and new nuclear plants. It would extend the tax credit for wind energy for 10 years.

“The name of the bill came from my frustration with Congress for making excuses and pointing fingers of blame at others, while ignoring the fact that the actions of Congress have contributed to the problem by making it harder to produce domestic energy,” Thornberry said. “I believe Congress should stop making excuses and actually do something that can help solve the problem.”

Thornberry has not been able to convince the Democratic leadership to allow the House to vote on his bill.

Therefore, he has been trying

to get 218 signatures from fellow House members (a majority of the 435 members in the House) to sign a discharge petition requiring that the bill be brought for a vote.

Additionally, a coalition of Democrats and Republicans met last weekend to discuss oil and gas drilling issues to see if they can come to a consensus of opinion. Led by Rep. Neil Arbercrombie (D-Hawaii) and John Peterson (R-Pa.), the group wants to put aside political differences and see if they can come up with a plan to increase drilling offshore and on federal lands and increase supplies.

More testimony last week in the House and Senate on “speculators” and their role in rising energy costs. Walter Lukken, acting Chairman, Commodity

Futures Trading Commission testified in the House that while the liquidity provided by speculators has benefited commercial participants in the markets; speculators can harm the operations of markets. He also noted that the CFTC has not found any evidence of illegal trading.

Meanwhile, Senators Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Joe Lieberman (I-CT) introduced the Commodity Speculation Reform Act of 2008, S. 3248, which they claimed would curb excessive speculation in the commodity markets, which is contributing to the costs of food and energy. The bill includes three proposals to (1) prohibit pension funds and governmental entities from investing in commodities, and prohibit other large institutional investors from investing in com-

modities index funds; (2) cap the amount of overall market share in any one commodity that can be held by financial speculators; and (3) close the so-called swaps loophole which allows large investors to skirt the individual speculative position limits created by Congress in 1936.

Congress will have about one week left to conduct business before it takes its traditional August recess.

They will come back in September but out again in October to campaign for reelection.

So, there isn't much time to get these issues moving through the process. And, now with consumer attitudes changing regarding drilling on federal lands House and Senate leaders face a real dilemma.

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# "From the D.A.'s Desk"

## DONT GET NAILED

Law enforcement agencies have reported yet another home improvement scheme traveling through the area. At least three individuals have been contacting homeowners with a deal for storm windows, storm doors, shutters and siding. The homeowner is contacted by a male and female, with the male taking the measurements of your property and the female giving you the estimate of the work to be done. A contract is presented for the homeowner's signature and a down payment is required. The catch is - you never see them again. They simply cash the down payment and the work is never done. KB Exterior Design and KustomBilt Home Improvements are two of the business names used by these unscrupulous people known thus far to have come through our area. It is important to be cautious when you hire someone to work on your most valuable financial asset - your home.

Your best bet is to check out their credentials. Ask friends or neighbors who have had improvements done and the names of the contractors they used, if they were satisfied. Check out the references and previous job satisfaction information before giving any down payment to any contractor. The City of Seymour requires a Vendor's Permit be issued before any company or individual solicits door to door. You can call the City and verify the permit. Questions about any previous complaints on a business can also be checked through the Better Business Bureau. With the amount of storm damage this area has seen in the past years, you don't need to add to a difficult situation by hiring a con. Be sure you are hiring a reputable/capable contractor that will finish the job at hand to your satisfaction. And of course, if you are contacted by a questionable business, notify law enforcement.

## City Bid Notice

City of Knox City will be taking Sealed Bids to purchase the property located in the Original Town, Block 42, Lots 13, 14, 15, this being on the corner of SW 2nd St. and Birch Ave. Bids will be taken until 5:00 pm on Friday, August 8, 2008. The Council reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. Bids will be opened on August 14, 2008, at 7:00 pm at the regular Council meeting.

## Public Notice

A sealed bid was received on the following property:  
 In Knox County Trust located at Truscott, Texas Block 58, Lots 7, 8 and 11 in the Elandel Addition, Parcel Number # 8538,  
 Account #01100-00010-07013-00000 further described as being, in Volume 21, Page 250 and Volume 25, Page 165 of the Deed Records, Knox County, Texas. The Knox County Appraisal District, acting as trustee for the taxing units is offering this property for sealed bid to all interested parties. Sealed bids may be sent to Knox County Appraisal District, P.O. Box 47, Benjamin Texas 79505, along with a cashiers check or money order for the amount of the sealed bid. Please put the parcel number on the outside of the envelope of the sealed bid. The taxing units, owners of the property, reserve the to reject all bids. If your bid is rejected, your cashiers check or money order will be returned. Sealed bids will be opened and considered at least quarterly. For further information please contact the Knox County Appraisal District at the above address or phone: (940)459-3891.

# County Bid Notice

The County of Knox is offering the following vehicles for sale through sealed bids:

- 1984 Chevrolet Blazer 4-wheel drive. Diesel engine, needs some repairs but runs good. Good overall condition, fair tires.
- 1995 Benson semi-trailer flatbed, fair tires

Sealed bids must be mailed to:  
 Knox County Sheriff's office  
 P.O. Box 257  
 Benjamin Texas, 79505

Envelopes containing the sealed bids must be clearly marked on the outside indicating the sealed bid inside and for which item the bid is for. Bids must be received prior to the August 2008 Knox County Commissioner Court meeting tentatively scheduled for August 11, 2008. The County of Knox reserves the right to refuse any or all bids received. All vehicles are currently registered to Knox County. Vehicles are located at the Knox County Sheriff's Office, 104 South Stewart, Benjamin Texas.

## Public Notice

A sealed bid was received on the following property:  
 In Knox County Trust located at Truscott, Texas Block 75, Lots 5 and 7 in the Elandel Addition, Parcel Number # 8542,  
 Account #01100-00010-07031-00000 further described as being, in Volume 17 Page 260 and Volume 25, Page 165 of the Deed Records, Knox County, Texas. The Knox County Appraisal District, acting as trustee for the taxing units is offering this property for sealed bid to all interested parties. Sealed bids may be sent to Knox County Appraisal District, P.O. Box 47, Benjamin Texas 79505, along with a cashiers check or money order for the amount of the sealed bid. Please put parcel number on the out side of the envelope of the sealed bid. The taxing units, owners of the property, reserve the to reject all bids. If your bid is rejected, your cashiers check or money order will be returned. Sealed bids will be opened and considered at least quarterly. For further information please contact the Knox County Appraisal District at the above address or phone: (940)459-3891.

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

2008 Weekly Weather Report

Date	Temperature (F)	Rainfall inches
	Low / High	
07/15	75/97	.25
07/16	73/97	
07/17	75/97	
07/18	69/97	
07/19	72/98	
07/20	67/98	
07/21	73/98	
	Total Rainfall	.25
	2008 Rainfall (ytd)	10.18

If any questions, call us at 658-3922.

# BENJAMIN NEWS

By Galdene Green

Hot and Dry - That's the order of the day with not much change in sight. And just think we still have August to contend with! Some of our hottest days may still be ahead for us. Let's hope it doesn't get too bad.

### News of our ill

Donnie Hertel is a patient in HMC in Abilene. He was admitted on Friday. Was very weak and run down and Doctors are going to build him back up before they start running a bunch of test and scans. Of course the results of those test will determine what kind of treatment he will get. He was feeling better Sunday morning. Please remember him in prayer.

Lorene Powers is feeling much better after a couple of days in the Haskell Hospital. she got a couple of units of blood so that "perked" her up a lot. She has bit been "up to" having company but says now she would welcome anyone coming by for a short visit. She still tires pretty easily.

Deann Lamb is feeling better. Her ribs are finally getting over the soreness after having fractured them a few weeks ago.

### Here 'n There

Jane Gideon and her daughter, Lana Mendoza of Seymour spent the weekend in Dallas with their daughter and sister, Sue Terry and family. Lana's children who had spent last week with the Terry's returned home with them.

Tib Burnett returned home about mid week after a 2 week visit with his kids and grandkids in South Carolina. He came back with lots of pictures and several stories of a very enjoyable vacation.

Dennis and Pam Duke and all their family enjoyed a vacation in Colorado last week. The only thing to mar the entire trip was a mishap in Loveland

(about 20 miles for their destination) when Dr. Zeke's car was hit from the rear while stopped at a light. No injuries to his family and none to serious to the occupants of the other car but the Duke's car was heavily damaged. Everyone was just so thankful no one was badly injured. The car can be repaired or replaced.

Randi and Dielon Keys of Childress are here for a week's visit with grandparents Mike and Debbie Moorehouse.

Shannon and Danny Crinion and Aiden of San Diego, California spent a few days recently with her parents Linda and Jerry Parked and other relatives and friends.

Kim Moore and Samijo Russell were in Lubbock Thursday for Sammijo's orientation for college. She will be leaving about mid August and Kim is already missing her. Many of us have had that experience and can relate to her feelings.

Brittany Kuehler has been awarded the Orrin Brewer scholarship in the amount of \$1700 for the 2008 - 2009 term at Vernon Regional Junior College. Brittany is a 2007 graduate of Benjamin High School and is an accounting major. She is the daughter of Mark and Teresa Kuehler.

Anthony and Jessica Lamb have moved to Wichita Falls. she will be going to Midwestern University in the fall and he will be working.

### Shower Honors Bride To Be

Amy Barns, bride-elect of Josh White was honored with a bridal shower on Saturday July 19 at the Church of Christ Anne calling hour was from 2 to 3. The young couple who will be married in August received lots of useful things for beginning their life together.

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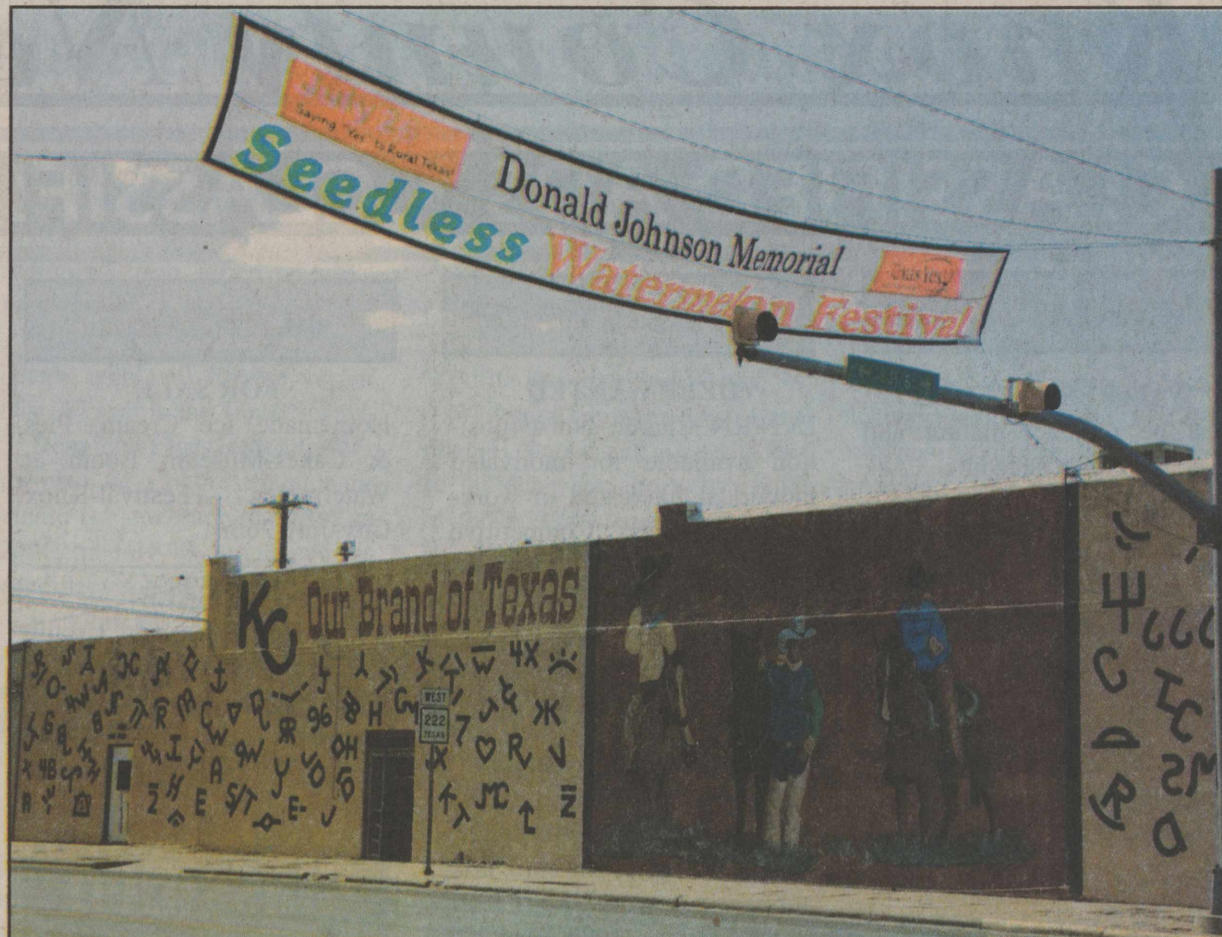
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Watermelon banners along North Central Avenue catch the last rays of the sun Tuesday. The seeds applied onto the fabric are a nice decorative touch, but all the melons at the Donald Johnson 20th Annual Seedless Watermelon Festival will be, of course, seedless.



The best of both worlds, a banner over the street proclaims a celebration of the sweet side of farming -- watermelons -- while three cowboys in a mural, amid authentic cattle brands, capture the romance of the Old West. Like highways intersecting, farming and ranching will cross paths this weekend in Knox City with both a watermelon festival and a rodeo, not to mention other events guaranteed to please both old and young.

**Johnson**

of 35," Johnson said. He doesn't miss the melons. "I don't even have a garden," he said Monday, just back from a trip to Ruidoso, N.M. "We can go places and do some things that we haven't done in 30 years."

A decade ago, at the peak of the Johnsons' melon growing operation, the family was farming 1,000 acres of melons.

"We sold pretty much nationwide," he said. "We shipped all over the United States. We had sheds where we packed and loaded. ... My dad was part-owner of the American Seedless Corporation. He pretty much helped establish the common market for the seedless."

The shutdown of the Johnson melon operation leaves no growers in the Knox City area.

"I don't think there's too many waiting in line to grow watermelons," he said.

Johnson would no doubt tell anyone thinking about getting into the business to think twice.

"It's not as easy as you might think," he said. "When it works it really works, but ...."

Labor, weather and shipping costs are factors that make melon growing risky.

"Everybody is scared of the labor situation," Johnson said.

High fuel costs also influenced Johnson's decision to abandon growing melons.

"It was just a good time to get out," he said.

The Johnsons ended big, but their business didn't begin that way.

"We just started about 30 years ago in a little garden," he said. "We started with one or two acres and just grew from there."

The watermelon festival has grown too and changed over the years. This year, for the first time, Dwayne Johnson will be biting into someone else's melons.

At least he won't be spitting seeds.

"I'm partial to seedless," he said. "That's what got us where we are today."

For the Johnsons and the rest of Knox County, Saturday will mark a turning point -- the end of an era. Call it the beginning of a legacy.

**Watermelon**

street dance from 8-11 p.m. featuring Battle of the Bands winner Brazos Stone. Check out the band at [www.myspace.com/brazosstone](http://www.myspace.com/brazosstone).

The Chamber is still needing volunteers to work on Saturday. Any help will be appreciated. Contact the chamber or just show up on Saturday ready to work. Watermelon festival T-shirts will be on sale at the festival.

The Knox City Chamber of Commerce would like to thank all of the sponsors. Without sponsors the Watermelon festival would not be able to happen.

- Pepper's Dry Goods of Knox City
- Citizens Bank of Knox City
- Turner Custom Builders of Knox City
- Bailey Toliver Chev. Cadillac of Haskell sponsoring the Classic Car Show
- Shortes, Inc. of Knox City
- Baker Petrolite of Knox City
- Penman Conoco of Knox City
- Basic Energy of Knox City
- Santa Rosa Telephone Cooperative

**Permits**

of the heavy lifting including Sens. Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Representatives Jim Oberstar (D-MN), Steve LaTourette (R-OH), Candice Miller (R-MI) and Gene Taylor (D-MS). A complete listing of all legislators involved will be available at <http://www.BoatUS.com/govsoon>.

BoatU.S. has worked for more than a year with the National Marine Manufacturers Association and a broad coalition of stakeholders to resolve the problem before the permitting deadline.

"One of the real keys to success here was our collective ability to activate the grassroots," said Podlich, noting that tens of thousands of letters and e-mails were generated by boaters and anglers over the course of the past 12 months.

BoatU.S. is the nation's leading advocate for recreational boat owners with over 650,000 members.

**Citizen's Bank Presents**

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**TUESDAY JULY 29TH**  
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**WEDNESDAY JULY 30TH**  
FISH/TARTAR SAUCE  
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CHICKEN FRITTER ON A BUN  
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