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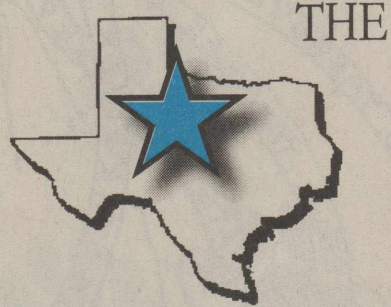
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THE KNOX COUNTY NEWS

PROUDLY SERVING THE KNOX COUNTY AREA

10 PAGES PLUS INSERTS
 VOLUME XXXVIII

KNOX COUNTY, TEXAS
 THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2009

75 CENTS
 NUMBER 25

Knox County and FEMA to host Workshop for All-Hazards Preparedness

By Tamara Smart

Terrorist attacks and hurricanes fill many pages of national news periodicals lately, and while many locals may read these articles and think positive thoughts for the victims, many are under the false presumption that Knox County being so rural and removed from the worldly eye unlike big cities is not susceptible to like tragedies.

On Thursday, April 2nd, the Parry Patton Community Center in Munday was filled with 44 people who came together for some serious planning. Hosted by Knox County and FEMA, a full day was spent preparing for any type of disaster which may befall local communities under the direction of Jim McClung and Mike Dodd, two reps from TEEX (Texas Engineering Extension Service). All the local towns were represented by city administrators and police officers. Judge Travis Floyd, Knox County attorney, Megan Suarez, & many other county employees were accounted for. The Fire Departments of both Knox City and Munday took more days to volunteer their time and sat through the 6 hour class. Stephen Kuehler of the Knox County Hospital and the Knox County first responder EMS units were on-hand. The Knox County Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff as

well as the Knox County Extension agency were available. A huge group from neighboring Haskell County attended this program, which included their Judge and several city and county employees.

The point of the day was to light a bulb over the heads of the local powers-that-be that a serious devastating situation is capable of taking place in Knox County at any time. While terrorist threats and hurricanes are unlikely in this region, a gas spill that could possibly cause a noxious breathing environment is something that is not far fetched which could happen on the roadways leading through town. With the main populous of local townships so tightly interwoven, and the amount of wind in this part of Texas; a "small" plume of gas could cause a mass disaster.

Most every local entity has their own disaster plan. The schools have a response plan in case of emergencies, the city has one, the county has one, TxDot even has one for this area. Knox County Hospital has planning meetings for this kind of local trauma already. The problem that Judge Floyd noticed which preempted him to pull together this program was the fact that most different units have no idea what others plan to do in case of emergency. This meeting was designed to take all

those already existing plans and mesh them together.

About the success of the meeting, Judge Floyd had to say this: "Before the meeting, if I had gone to every individual involved and requested face to face for this kind of planning session, I would've gotten some push back- now, people will embrace meetings to get better prepared."

This is the first meeting of this kind in Knox County. While there are meetings for EMS and first responders, this is the first that got ALL the local police, cities, media, medical care, schools and authorities together to discuss the issue. In the future, more hazard preparedness meetings will take place. These meetings are infrequent and rare in that a lot of local care givers and responders act in those positions voluntarily, which means taking time off work in order to attend such meetings. It is appreciated though.

The day was one of thought and intuition. The jobs and expectations of different people were realized by several and situations which had not occurred to some were taken under consideration.

Knox County News plans to continue in it's role supporting the community in it's efforts to be prepared for the unthinkable.

LOOKING AHEAD

Relay For Life is coming up next weekend April 25th. Luncheon for Survivors will be held at the First Baptist Church in Knox City at noon. The walk will start 3 p.m. and continue to 3 a.m. Be sure to come check out the vendors and booths that will be on display.

City of Benjamin will be having a Citywide Clean Up this Saturday April 18th

O'Brien Middle School will be starting Spring Volleyball April 20th against Wichita Fall Christian and Munday, here in Knox City beginning at 5 p.m.

Knox City Volunteer Fire Department will host a 3-person scramble Golf Tournament May 16th at 1:30 p.m. 1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners will receive cash prizes. Food and Drinks will be available on the course. Only 24 team spots available! Come and support our K.C.V.F.D. in their efforts to raise money for new and much needed equipment. Call Juli Ledesma at 940-657-4560 for more information.

Cinco De Mayo Festival April 25

The 2nd Annual Cinco De Mayo Festival will be held Saturday, April 25 on the Square in Stamford, Texas, beginning at 10:00 a.m. and concluding at 10:00 p.m.

Entertainment will be provided by Ballet Folklorico of Abilene, Mariachi Alma Mexicana of San Angelo, Grupo Viento Band of Anson, and a DJ.

Food, craft and activity vendors from Lubbock, Idalou, Hawley, Abilene, Anson, Hamlin and Stamford will be located on the Square. A "Cow Potty Bingo" will be held on the lot behind Compass Bank located on the corner of S. Swenson/W. Hamilton Streets.

Other activities and games are being added. If you are interested in having a food or craft booth or have questions regarding the Festival or would like to make a donation, please contact Sandra Villanueva at 325-773-5602 or 325-370-4817.

To Advertise Here Call 657-3142



Photo by Amy Schnable

On Palm Sunday, April 5th, most of Knox City gathered at the O'Brien Baptist Church to celebrate by watching local youth perform a rendition of "The Resurrection" as written by Nancy Hendrick Harper. Jesus was played by Garrett Fox, Mary by Leighton Pepper, Mary Magdalene by Allison Lynn. The rest of the cast was as follows: Grandma: Tanna Moeller; Grandkids: Jackson Meador, Cassidy Correll, Lane Tibbets, and Laura Mayberry; JoAnna: Jessica Wilburn; Salome: Tayler Pepper; Guards: Preston Lynn and Aaron Arrieta; Angels: Andrea Lynn and Sierra Lynn; Caiaphas: Lyndon Baty; Disciple John: Sheldon Baty, Disciple Peter: Scotty Reid; Hannah: Denise Havner

Knox City Elementary PK Round-Up and Enrollment

Pre-Kindergarten Round-Up and PK enrollment for the 2009 - 2010 school year is slated for April 21st, 22nd, or 23rd at Knox City Elementary. Mrs. Bowen, Pre-Kindergarten teacher, is inviting all students who will be four years old before September 1, 2009 to visit the Pre-K classroom on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday morning.

The children may come to school at 9:00 A. M. when they will join this year's Pre-Kindergarteners in the classroom for the regular Pre-K schedule. The children will participate in music and movement, hear a story, and complete a project to take home. They will play on the playground before going to the lunchroom to eat. Cost of the meal is \$2.00. Children will be dismissed from the Pre-K room at 11:45 A. M.

To enroll for the 2009-10 school year, you will need to bring to school your child's original Social Security Card (not a copy), current Immunization Record and Birth Certificate. Please bring these to the Elementary Office after you have dropped off your child at

school.

Mrs. Bowen is requesting that parents call the elementary office at 657-3147 to make a reservation to visit on either April 21st, 22nd, or 23rd.

Starting school is exciting for children. They've heard about it from brothers, sisters, and friends and now, they're ready to begin. However, school may mean being away from home and family for the first time. It is your child's first step to independence. Getting off to a good start is a team effort. We all must work together to make school an enjoyable place to be. Teachers, administrators, specialists are all here to help you, the parent, be involved in your child's learning experience.

Your child will be taught:
 Basic skills like language, reading, math, and writing
 Art, music, movement
 Self-help skills
 He or she will learn to:
 Work with others
 Respect authority
 Develop self-control

Arrive on time but not too early. A long wait for class to begin with other parents and

children around may increase stress.

Leave cheerfully. Don't linger. Your presence may distract from this new and exciting world. (Teachers are experienced at handling distraught children.)

Keep a positive attitude. If you look forward to the first day of school for your child, he/she

will probably do the same.

It is natural for children to have some fears about school. For example:

- Who's going to help me?
- Will I miss home?
- Will the other kids like me?
- Will the teacher like me?
- What happens when I have to go to the bathroom?
- Who is going to meet me after

school?

Let your child talk to you about his or her fears and feelings. Tell your child that everything will be all right. Do all that you can to help your child feel happy and confident about school. Let the teacher know your concerns. Teachers care about how children and parents feel.



Knox County News Photo
 Pre-Kindergarten Round-Up and PK enrollment for the 2009 - 2010 school year is slated for April 21st, 22nd, or 23rd at Knox City Elementary.



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OPINION

Now Let's Personalize Health Care

By Gary E. Applebaum, M.D.

A recently released national survey shows that many Americans want "personalized medicine" to be a top priority in President Obama's healthcare reform efforts.

Obama would do well to heed the survey's results. And he can best address voters' desire for more customized medical care by promoting an emerging healthcare model known as "medical homes."

The survey, conducted on behalf of the Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative, found that of the respondents open to having their opinions on the then-presidential candidates changed, 75 percent would increase their support for the next President's healthcare platform if it included creating and supporting patient-centered medical homes.

The medical homes model puts a single personal physician as the point of contact between a patient and the medical establishment. The physician coordinates all of the patient's care for the entirety of her life, with particular stress put on preventative medicine and the use of health information technology (HIT).

If enacted nationwide, the medical home model has

the potential to create more personalized care for every patient and help prevent chronic illnesses.

Currently, patient care isn't well coordinated among doctors. Different physicians for a single patient often don't communicate with each other about ongoing treatments or drug prescriptions. And many physicians still rely on paper files to track patients' medical history.

The use of HIT in medical homes would make it significantly easier for care givers to access a patient's medical files and coordinate care. And HIT enables patients to receive certain medical services without having to go to the doctor's office.

HIT has been used to great success already. In Massachusetts and Washington, for example, hundreds of thousands of patients use the state-level HIT program to file drug prescriptions and get virtual check-ups.

When I was the medical director of the one of the largest geriatric group practices in the country, HIT allowed us to dramatically improve patient satisfaction with our quality of care. And it allowed the people in our care to become more aware of their health.

This year, a nationalized

HIT system connecting labs, pharmacies, hospitals, doctors, and federal agencies is supposed to go live. What is needed now is the political will to ensure that even the least privileged have access to this technology.

The medical home model would also cut down on soaring health care costs by increasing the use of preventative care.

In 2006, 75 percent of national healthcare spending was on treatments for chronic illnesses. The most common chronic illnesses cost the United States more than \$1 trillion annually -- and that number is on the rise.

Small changes in patient lifestyle can ward off future medical catastrophes. Proven preventative medical steps include weight control, improved nutrition, increased exercise, smoking cessation, and early disease detection.

A study by the Milken Institute estimated that a national preventative medicine program could decrease the number of chronic illness cases by 40 million, and that the resulting increases in labor productivity would add \$1 trillion to the economy by 2023.

The Tufts Health Plan shows how HIT can be successfully utilized by medical homes to

bolster preventative healthcare.

Tufts' staff uses Web-based predictive software to target patients at risk of developing certain diseases. Nurse case managers then follow up with patients to see if they're encountering barriers - such as transportation problems or dietary challenges - that are hindering them from following through on the doctor's preventative medical program.

Other health technology monitors patients' heart rate so that doctors can intervene with non-invasive treatment before a heart attack or stroke occurs. In its first year of operation, this technology prevented 50 percent of patients from having a heart attack.

The medical home model is urgently needed today to ensure all Americans have access to the personalized health care they want. Fortunately, President Obama consistently voiced his support for patient-centered medicine during his campaign. Let's hope he lives up to his promises now in office.

Gary Applebaum, M.D., is a senior fellow at the Center for Medicine in the Public Interest. He is the former Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of Erickson Retirement Communities.



Thanks for Reading!



The Paperboy

By Christopher Blackburn

Thanks For The Theft!

I had a building burglarized last week. Thieves broke in and stole some valuable items and vandalized the place. Here's how I feel about it: It would be worth them breaking in, if I could catch them breaking in.

I wonder if we could get the laws changed where the victim can get five minutes alone with the perpetrator(s).

I guess that wouldn't fly. Our liberal friends would have a fit if we did that. Too bad. That would be five minutes well spent.

It's frustrating when people decide to hit you where it hurts. You go through a gambit of questions and feelings.

Luckily, we have a group of people capable of getting things done regardless of the situation! I'm sure proud of them!

So many times newspapers are regarded as the bad guy for printing the news.

I've put family and friends in print ... and not for scoring the game-winning touchdown either. I've even placed myself in the not-so-flattering limelight.

As far as I'm concerned, having your name published is a risk you incur when you decide to do something which might get your name in the newspaper. In other words, before knocking off the local Allsup's, you might consider the fact that your name may indeed, end up in the newspaper.

I suppose you can consider the publicity you receive a deterrent of sorts. It should also encourage law enforcement to release names and information so they get the credit they deserve for keeping us safe and sound.

As for the criminals which burglarized my building - I certainly hope I get to publish your names soon!

President Obama made a great call giving our U.S. Navy SEALs the okay to rescue Capt. Richard Phillips, who was taken hostage when his freighter ship, the Maersk Alabama, was hijacked by pirates off the coast of Somalia last week.

"I am very proud of the efforts of the U.S. military and the many other departments and agencies that worked tirelessly to resolve this situation," Obama said.

The SEALs, which everyone should know are weapons unto themselves, were the perfect solution to the problem.

Obama deserves credit for not only making the call, but letting would-be pirates know our stance on piracy and kidnapping.

The following is some feedback I received recently. It is regarding a recent column I wrote which had the word "puke" in it.

Mr. Blackburn,

I was agreeing with you all the way down the page. Couldn't have said it better myself. Nodding my head and sitting in the "amen" corner on everything you were saying and then you had to ruin it by saying "puke."

Why couldn't you have just said something like regurgitate (for polite society) or maybe up chuck, throw up, vomit (I always want to when I see that word) or toss your cookies or even hurl ... or one of my favorites that it was sick enough to "gag a maggot."

I really never even thought before writing the word "puke." I guess it's one of those things that is in the eye of the beholder. One man's puke is not another man's regurgitation. I hope none of you are trying to enjoy a meal while reading this. If so, I apologize.

Copyright Christopher Blackburn 2009

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACROSS

1 TX Steve Martin film: "___ of Faith"

5 Monte ___ TX

6 Gulf fabric

7 TXism: "___ pen" (hospital)

8 TXism: "___ slinger" (writer)

9 TXism: "took everything but the ___ lungs" (robbed)

16 agcy. of Thomas, Sup. Ct. nominee of TX George H.

18 TXism: "has to sneak up ___ to fix her hair" (homely)

21 TX Nolan specialty: "___ hitter"

22 Alford's county

23 dir. to Houston from Dallas

24 "Honor the Texas flag" is beginning of state ___

30 Spurs arena ('93-'02)

34 this Boone starred in TX-filmed "State Fair" (init.)

35 TXism: "trapped like ___ possum"

36 oil drill bit made a fortune for TX Hughes ___ Co.

37 Ewel Knievel might accept this (2 wds.)

39 song by TX Henley group, The Eagles

43 last name of lead TX Ranger announcer

44 cross of cattle and buffalo

45 ___ Campo, TX

46 TXism: "if he ___ giddyup, you better go"

47 weight watchers

49 they're off the main track

52 TXism: "got the short ___ of the stick"

53 TX Tanya (init.)

54 this Augustus and Bernardo Gutierrez fought Spain in TX

55 TX "Babe" quote: "___ you lose"

58 song "Eyes of Texas" started as a ___ by UT Glee Club

59 TXism: "run it ___ lawyer"

60 TX pest: fire ___

61 born

DOWN

1 TX Wrather produced this dog TV series

2 John Steinbeck's TX wife

3 TXism: "he could put a loop over ___ mule's back" (good roper)

4 Livingston is seat of this county

9 ex-Rockets star when he was Akeem (init.)

10 TXism: "a sheep ___ clothing"

11 surprise attack

12 TX B.J. Thomas sang "___ Lonesome I Could Cry"

13 TX Larry L. King was ___ fellow at Harvard

14 ___ Sam Rayburn

15 14-down was U.S. House speaker for 17 of these (abbr.)

17 Astros early name: "___-Fives"

19 TX-developed aircraft, V-22s

20 CSA soldiers?

24 Gov. "___" Ferguson

25 it's now Yought Co.

26 first name of 43-across

27 ten years

28 TXism: "get while the ___ is good" (leave)

29 prepared for publication

31 popular ISP

32 cow sound

33 actor in TX-filmed "JFK"

38 familiar saying welcome or rasslin'

41 Grand ___ Opry

42 get rid of

48 "___ N Go"

50 disagreeably damp

51 TXism: "if he says go, ___ (intimidated)"

56 TX-filmed ___ Cowboy" ('80)

57 this John was "Davy" in '80 Alamo film

TEXAS CROSSWORD
 by Charley & Guy Orbison
 Copyright 2009 by Orbison Bros.

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Horse Validation News

Students who are interested in participating in any 4-H horse shows need to validate their horse(s) before April 24, 2009 by contacting the Knox County Extension Office at Benjamin. Students who are not in 4-H can enroll for free by simply contacting the office at 940-459-2651. The 4-H horse shows are for 4-H'ers age 8 or in the third grade to age 18. The district and state 4-H horse shows offer cutting, team penning, roping, barrel racing, stakes race, western pleasure, 2 year old pleasure, 3 year old stock horse, halter classes, and much more. The district show will be at Vernon and the state show will be at Abilene. Horses must be validated by April 24, 2009 to enter. Please contact the Knox County Extension Office for more information. Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in a meeting or program are encouraged to contact the Knox County Extension office at (940)459-2651.

Lamb and Goat Tag Orders Due April 15

Lamb and goat validation tag orders for the State Fair of Texas are being accepted at the Knox County Extension Office in Benjamin until April 15, 2009. If you are interested please call the office at 940-459-2651 or talk to your Ag Teacher about securing a tag for the State Fair of Texas. All lamb and goats must have a validation tag to be eligible to show in the State Fair of Texas. Lambs and goats will be tagged and validated between June 1, 2009 and June 30, 2009. Lamb and goat tags cost \$10.00 each and late orders after April 15, 2009 will be available for \$20.00 each.

Steer Tag Orders Due April 15

Steer validation tag orders for the 2009/2010 stock show season are currently being accepted at the Knox County Extension Office in Benjamin until April 15, 2009. If you are interested please call the office at 940-459-2651 or talk to your Ag Teacher about securing a tag for the 2009/2010 stock shows. All steers must have a validation tag to be eligible to show in any stock show. Steers will be tagged and validated between June 1, 2009 and June 30, 2009. Steer tags cost \$7.00 each and late orders after April 15, 2009 will be available for \$10.00 each.

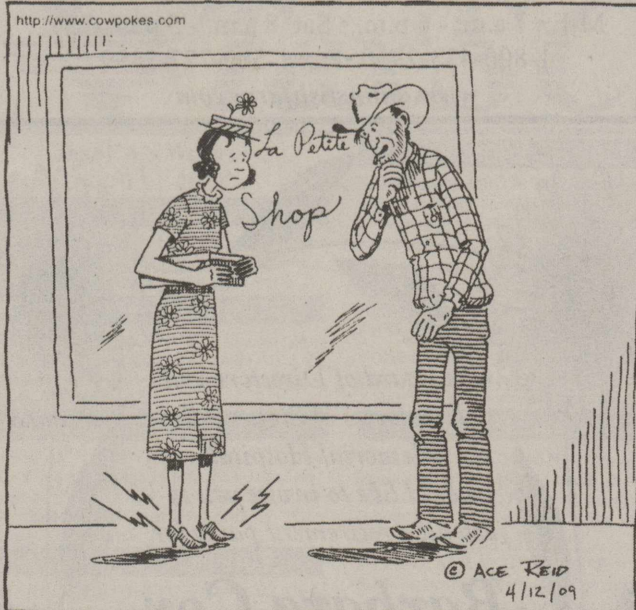
State Fair Swine Tag Orders Due April 15

Swine validation tag orders for the State Fair of Texas are currently being accepted at the Knox County Extension Office in Benjamin until April 15, 2009. If you are interested please call the office at 940-459-2651 or talk to your Ag Teacher about securing a tag for the fair. All hogs must have a validation tag to be eligible to show in the State Fair. Hogs will be tagged and validated between June 1, 2009 and June 30, 2009. Swine tags cost \$10.00 each and late orders after May 1, 2009 will be available for \$15.00 each.

Thanks for Reading
The Knox County News

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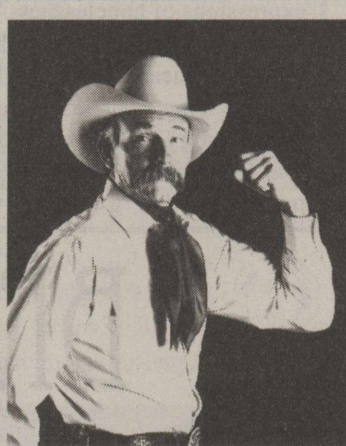
By Ace Reid



"Shore they're pinchin'... them shoes are Italian!"

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**ON THE
EDGE OF
COMMON
SENSE**
by Baxter Black,
DVM

IF THE WORLD WAS UP TO ME

I was at coffee shop communion with a couple of Nebraska wise men. After we had outlined, opined and refined solutions for the deficit, global warming, the ethanol fizzle and the movement to hold the next winter Olympics in Ogallala, we became introspective.

"If it had been up to you, Jay, where would the world be today?"

"Well," he said, "If I'd been there at the beginning we'd never have discovered electricity, alimony or the four-door sedan." Jay is a horseman. His interest, expertise and education has made him the man to turn to regarding the health, breeding and training of the magnificent equine. He would never have taken the time to worry about hydraulic dams, transformers, alternating current or sonograms. But he would have allowed civilization to harness the horse as a beast of burden. He would have been quite influential until they invented the steam engine.

"What about you, Bob?" I asked.

"I farm and I'm a pretty good welder," he said. 'A good start,' I thought. For his skills he would have needed fire, metallurgy and the art of complaining. But, by his own admission he probably would not have thought of the Museum of Fine Art, creating the corn maze or Carhenge. Yet he would have discovered things like grain: enough for his family and his neighbors, fire: to keep his cave warm, and a live version of a round-the-campfire right-wing talk show!

When my turn came, I realized if the world had been populated with people who had my natural limitations, we would never have put a man on the moon, discovered the ballpoint pen or eaten Italian food. We'd have no wheel, no fluorescent lighting or cell phone. We'd never have discovered Greenland or Antarctica, Cream of Wheat, margarine or deficit spending.

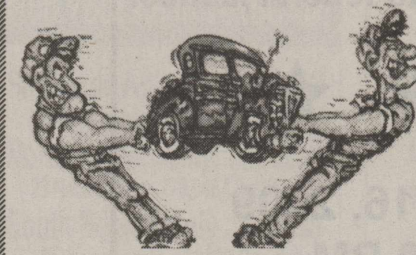
I'd like to think I might have thought up palpating cows. I've always had a curiosity of how the body works. I remember the first time I ran my arm up the back of a cow and discovered a whole new world! I guess I could have invented veterinary medicine, although I might have been sidetracked by my insistence on curing critters with chants, cures and cowboy poetry!

So, in the end we concluded that we were glad that Thomas Edison, Bill Goodyear, Snoop Dog, John Browning and Raquel Welch came along or the world today would be a less civilized place. I mean, can you imagine living without porch lights, split rim tires, droopy pants, the 30.30 or grape juice?

Sesame Seed Meeting

Texas AgriLife Extension Service in cooperation with SESACO will have a Sesame Seed Meeting at the Perry Patton Community Center in Munday, TX on April 17, 2009 at noon. Jerry Riney from SESACO will discuss the benefits of planting sesame in our region and how it can be placed into rotation with cotton, peanuts, sorghum or wheat to increase yields and control nematodes. CEU's will be offered at the meeting. Lunch will be provided but please RSVP to the Knox County Extension Office by calling (940) 459-2651 before April 16, 2009. Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in a meeting or program are encouraged to contact the Knox County Extension office at (940)459-2651.

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The 501

by
Hanaba Munn Welch

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

A pigeon by any other name is a big dove. There's not a dime's worth of difference between the town birds and their country cousins. And they all coo.

Previously, I thought differently. Context ruled. A dove on the farm was a dove. If I saw a similar bird in town - whether perched in the courthouse window or flying over St. Mark's Square - it was a pigeon. No relation.

One of my memories of Venice involves a pigeon that flew over me in 1969 as I stood alongside the Grand Canal wearing my new red and white striped gondolier's shirt. Splat. Right on my shoulder. Not very dove-like.

Indeed, pigeon droppings are the main reason the substantial birds are considered nuisances in urban settings, although more for historic buildings than random human targets.

Speaking of terminology, pigeon excrement by any other name is guano. Bats don't have a corner on that market. I thought they did. Even seal dung is defined as guano. Who'd have thought it?

Guano is hot stuff, whatever the source. For the same reason it makes excellent fertilizer it damages old buildings, especially masonry. Apparently it's the acid-based content of the guano versus the base-based content of mortar. If my high school chemistry explanation isn't right, it's something like that.

Back to pigeons and doves. They're the perfect birds to see our country through our current economic crisis.

For one thing, in the hawk vs. dove realm, they're politically correct.

Secondly, they're edible

and especially palatable if you call them by their French name, which is *pigeon*.

When I dined at Antoine's in New Orleans, circa 1971, *pigeon* was on the all-French menu. Someone ordered the pigeon. It arrived looking like a very small chicken. We all asked, "How's the *pigeon*?" He probably said it tasted like chicken. I don't remember. I wondered if it came from nearby Jackson Square, the New Orleans version of Piazza San Marco.

Anyway, if this country plunges into an economic depression to rival the last one, people who live on the land can eat dove and wild hogs - many already do anyway -- and people who live in big cities will be able to dine on pigeon, or *pigeon*.

By the time all the city pigeons get eaten or flee to join country relatives, the economy will be turning around, and we'll be left with a legacy of survival stories, some involving pigeons and doves.

Meanwhile, as gun laws tighten and ammunition costs rise, how to kill the birds? Traps? Maybe. But aren't traps inhumane?

Not to worry. Considering mankind's predilection for guns, someone will figure out how to make homemade ones from plowshares or urban equivalents thereof, if it comes to that.

As for ammo, there's good news. If gunpowder has to be concocted at home, guano works as the main ingredient. Not to overlook vegans, guano can fertilize the most intensive organic garden.

In the end, everyone is likely to survive it all, even the pigeons.

Especially the pigeons.

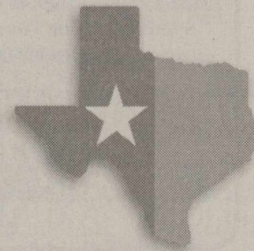
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Obituary



Claydene Hoge Steakley
The most gentle, kind, loving person - a true lady - has been reunited with her wonderful husband of 72 years. She is also

reunited with so many loved ones and friends who have entered Heaven before her.

Claydene was born on February 6, 1913, to Clay C. and Libbie Hoge in Knox City, Texas. Growing up there, she remembered the ice wagon delivering ice to her home for the ice box. Her family was also the first in Knox City to get a telephone, due to her parents both having worked for the telephone company. During the Depression, she went to college "on a shoestring" at Tarleton State Teachers College in Stephenville and Southwest Texas State Teachers College in San Marcos where she obtained her teaching degree. She met the

"love of her life" during that time and married Dan L. Steakley on November 30, 1934. She taught third grade school in Knox City during the Great Depression and through WWII and actually traveled by herself to California to meet Dan for a "R&R" he was allotted from Pearl Harbor. After the war, they moved to McAllen where Dan taught school and then on to Houston where he taught at the University of Houston. He soon received the Chevrolet dealership in Knox City and they moved back there for 10 years, before acquiring the Chevrolet dealership in Temple in 1957. Both in Knox City and in Temple, Claydene was active in her church, teaching Sunday School and Vacation Bible School for many years and being active in church women's groups. She was a Camp Fire Girl leader while her daughter was in elementary school. She was active in the Tuesday Study Club and loved the City Federation of Women's Clubs where she served as President in 1965-1966. She loved children and wrote a children's book about the miraculous relationship between a four-legged mother-son team, Go Smokey, Go, when she was 86 years old. This delightful book captivated the hearts and minds of many children.

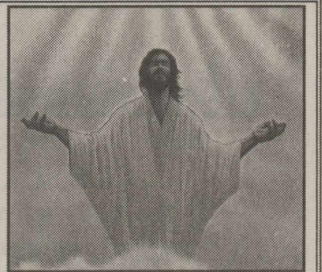
Claydene was preceded in death by her husband Dan L. Steakley, her parents Mr. and Mrs. Clay Hoge, her sister Mary McMurray, brother Paul Hoge and her grandson Dan McClaren. She is survived by her daughter Sue Steakley of Temple, granddaughter and husband SueAnn and Brad Altman of Wichita Falls, TX, great-grandchildren Tyler and Colby McClaren and Brooke and John William Altman. She invested so much in her family who are blessed with many fond memories.

The grace and class Claydene demonstrated is found in very few women. If you knew Claydene, you were given a gift. The family celebrates her long life, and know as believers in Christ, we will be reunited with her one day in Heaven.

A memorial service will be held for this celebration on Wednesday, April 8 at 5 pm at Crawford-Bowers Funeral Home in Temple. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial in her honor to the Steakley Endowed Scholarship Fund at The University of Mary Hardin Baylor, UMHB, Box 8433, 900 College St., Belton, TX. 76513 or "The Greater Things" outreach campaign at First Baptist Church of Temple, 102 W. Barton Temple, TX 76501.

God's Promises

By Jim Reid, Pastor
O'Brien Baptist Church



Have you ever heard the expression, "there are no atheists in foxholes"? You probably have. Of course the expression means that when all hope is gone and fear for one's life is immediate, everyone will cry out to Holy God! There are many other circumstances in life that we would also cry out to God; to save us, to heal us, or to protect us and many more expressions of hopelessness.

Christians cry out also, but our cry is heard by God. He is our hope, our assurance, the loving God that we know. We live with a viewpoint or perception that we know we

will live eternally with God. Many people who do not know God personally would ask a believer, "how do you know?"

We know through prayer. We speak with God and He speaks to us. Jesus made it perfectly clear in the Bible as He spoke, "It is written, and My house shall be a house of prayer" (Luke 19: 45a; NASB). You may think of the church as a place of activities, or programs, or funerals and weddings, or a place where people no better than you try to tell you how to live. His House may be a place that you choose not to enter. Let me encourage

you to enter God's house of prayer. God's house is a place where you can speak to Him.

God is faithful to hear the prayer of sinners. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us." (1 John 1: 9, 10) I pray that you will enter God's house this Sunday morning and cry out to Him, that He may hear you and assure you of His love for you.

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Benjamin

Timothy Trimble, Pastor
Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. • Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.

GILLESPIE BAPTIST CHURCH - Gillespie

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

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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

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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.

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BRIGHT IDEAS



By Alex Mills

President Obama has claimed that tax subsidies to alternative energy and environmental penalties to fossil fuels "can create millions of additional jobs and new industries." Obama has even cited the government of Spain "where they are making real investments in renewable energy." However, a new study of the subsidy program implemented by Spain reveals that every new job created by the Spanish government in the alternative energy area destroyed an average of 2.2 other jobs.

The study - prepared under the direction of Dr. Gabriel Calzada, an economics professor at Juan Carlos University in Madrid - discovered that only one in 10 jobs created by the program in Spain were of a permanent nature (operations, maintenance, etc.), and two-thirds consisted of temporary jobs in construction, fabrication and installation.

"Spain's experience (cited by President Obama as a model) reveals with high confidence, by two different methods, that the U.S. should expect a loss of at least 2.2 jobs on average, or about 9 jobs lost for every four created, to which we have to add those jobs that non-subsidized investments with the same resources would have created," the study stated.

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"The study's results demonstrate how much 'green jobs' policy clearly hinders Spain's way out of the current economic crisis, even while U.S. politicians insist that rushing into such a scheme will ease their own emergence from the turmoil... This study marks the very first time a critical analysis of the actual performance and impact has been made," Dr Calzada wrote in the study's introduction.

Dr. Calzada notes that no other country has given very broad support to the construction of alternative fuels to generate electricity.

Spain has spent about \$774,000 to create each "green job" since 2000, including subsidies of more than \$1.3 million per wind industry job. However, about 113,000 other jobs elsewhere in the Spanish

economy were destroyed because of the subsidies, or 2.2 jobs destroyed for every "green job" created.

"The loss of jobs could be greater if you account for the amount of lost industry that moves out of the country due to higher energy prices," Dr. Calzada said.

"The price of a comprehensive energy rate, paid by the end consumer in Spain, would have to be increased 31 percent to begin to repay the historic debt generated by this rate deficit mainly produced by the subsidies to renewables, according to Spain's energy regulator. Spanish citizens must therefore cope with either an increase of electricity rates or increased taxes (and public deficit), as will the U.S. if it follows Spain's model," the study found.

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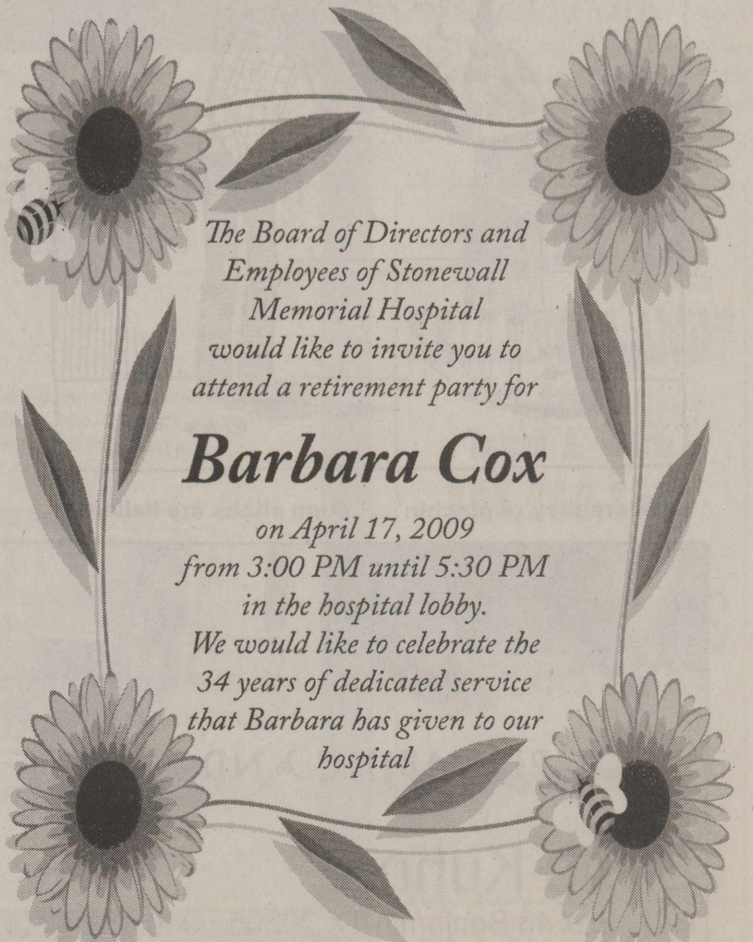
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The city of Knox City will be taking applications for the position of Swimming Pool Manager for the upcoming season until May 1, 2009, Information at City Hall. EOE

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Notices

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BID NOTICE

ASPERMONT SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER, INC. is accepting invitations to bid for the 2009 Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) in the Heating and Cooling component. Bidders must be qualified to assess, as well as, repair, replace or retrofit central units, window units and all other major heating and/or cooling appliances for individuals who qualify. Counties to be served include: Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Stonewall and Throckmorton. To request a bid package please contact Wilda Giles at 940-989-3538 or 800-722-0137 or reply to PO Box 188, Aspermont TX 79502.

Tracksters Run at District

Benjamin High School traveled to Jayton for the District track meet Friday April 10th.

Several of Benjamin's athletes have advanced to the Area meet in Trent next Friday. Of those student Benson who ran the 800m placed first with a time of 2:08.66, Nevarez took Second place in both the Pole Vault with the 7'6 distance and the 3200m

run with a time of 12:22.80. And Jones placed sixth in the 1600m run with a time of 5:33.56.

The Lady 'Stangs also did well at District track with Baly taking fifth place in the 3200 run with a time of 15:02.42. Jones placed sixth in the Discuss with 70'3 _ distance and Vanderpool also placed sixth in the 100 Dash with a time of 0:14.01.



Blain Bradley of O'Brien Middle School took 1st place in the Mile and 1/2 relay at the district track meet. Look in our next issue for Jr. high District Track Meet results.

BENJAMIN NEWS

By Gladene Green

I hope everyone had a nice Easter and enjoyed the rain on Sat. & Sun. after that terrible wind all week and being especially strong on Thurs., the thunder-storm really didn't seem to bad. Tho we are thankful there was no hail or tornados winds, we are very thankful for the 1 inch of rain. We need more & maybe will get some later this week. The sunrise service Sun. morning was well attended. It was held at the Methodist Church with the Baptist being in charge this year.(the churches alternate each year) Charles Jones led the Congregational singing, Jesse Jones did a very stunning rendition oh "He's Alive" & Troy Culpepper brought the Easter Message. Breakfast followed in the fellowship hall & everyone made it home in time to get ready for morning services at their own Church. Here 'N There

Montana" the movie while in the "city".

Visited with Jesse Roberts Sun. She said Mr. Roberts is doing pretty well. Is taking physical therapy to help him get back to walking again.

Mark Brown was in Abilene Thurs. for more test no results but is feeling pretty well

Weldon Gideon was in Wichita Falls for a check up after his Cataract Surgery. Got a good report & was fitted for his glasses.

Jan Carver was in Dallas Wed. to see her Dr. he said her knee is doing as it's supposed to & to come back in three months. She is having to do exercise at home and also has a physical therapist coming to her home so she is getting pretty good work outs daily, they have had lots of company in & out . Stacia Antilley, Ryan, Callie & Ryder Antilley were here part of Easter weekend. Jan & Fred had lunch with daughter Tammy Lyles & family on Easter Sunday.

Tomas Acevedo who has been Iraq came home last weekend for a few weeks visit with his parents Emilio & Pancho & other relatives & friends.

My family had our own Easter get together at the home of Debbie & Mike Moorehouse present for fun & lots to eat were Diane Evens & Ashlee & Beckie Keys & family of Childress. Cody Taylor & family of Amarillo. Michael & Lynn Rogers of Snyder, Jessica Moorhouse of Tarlton State, Stephenville, Liz & Nathan Herring & Taylor of Munday & myself. Lexie Taylor returns home with her parents after a 10 day visit here with her grandparents.

Bud Conner, Kim Moore & Hazel Stockton attended the Wedding of Casey Conner & Lacy Barker in Midland on Sat. Casey is the son of Keith & Pam.

Mr. & Mrs. Pete Ruthledge former Benjamin residents, now residing in Lindale stopped by the Museum Mon. for a "look-see" & visit Jack & Mary Young. Mary Jane said the were very impressed with the Museum I it's content, They were enroute home from Lubbock

Easter guest of Charles & Linda Griffith were Vince & Amy Tyson, Keith & Abby of Lubbock & Kemp & Becky Jones & family of Benjamin. Also Ronald & Verna Griffith of Minnesota(and Benjamin) On Thurs. Charles & Linda were in Lubbock to attend Kate's Spring Choir Program

Kim Moore honored her daughter Shelby with a sweet 16 birthday party Thurs. nite at the wooden nickel in Knox City, Shelby's friends gathered for nachos, sodas, birthday cake & just an evening of lots of fun. Shelby's birthday was Fri. the 10th.

Lorene Powers & Gloria West were in Munday on Wed. for the one act play presentation the Aspermont play (of which Gloria's granddaughter is a member of the cast advanced & will be competing at the next level in Abilene and I bet Gloria & Lorene will be there once again to see the performance. We are always proud when ones grandchildren do well.

The citywide clean up has been rescheduled for Sat. April 18th. There's still time to get your "big trash" out by the road for pick up. Just call City Hall & let Tammy know.

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Thanks For Reading!

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR WATER QUALITY LAND APPLICATION PERMIT FOR MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ001162001

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. City of Benjamin, P.O. Box 286, Benjamin, Texas 79505-0286, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of Permit No. WQ001162001, which authorizes the disposal of treated domestic wastewater at a daily average flow not to exceed 42,500 gallons per day via surface irrigation of 10.5 acres of non-public access pasture land. This permit will not authorize a discharge of pollutants into waters in the State. TCEQ received this application on November 25, 2008.

The wastewater treatment facility and disposal site are located south of the City of Benjamin, approximately 0.75 mile south of the intersection of U.S. Highway 82 and State Highway 6 and approximately 800 feet west of State Highway 6 in Knox County, Texas. The wastewater treatment facility and disposal site are located in the drainage basin of Brazos River Above Possum Kingdom Lake in Segment No. 1208 of the Brazos River Basin.

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at Benjamin City Hall, 303 South Hinton Street, Benjamin, Texas.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ holds a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting a contested case hearing or reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name; address, phone; applicant's name and permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; and the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are germane to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission will only grant a contested case hearing on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application. Further, the Commission will only grant a hearing on issues that were raised in timely filed comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. The Executive Director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the Executive Director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and request to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

All written public comments and public meeting requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically at www.tceq.state.tx.us/about/comments.html within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. If you need more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Office of Public Assistance, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea informacion en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040. General information about the TCEQ can be found at our web site at www.TCEQ.state.tx.us.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Benjamin at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Ronnie White, City Manager, at 940-459-3131.

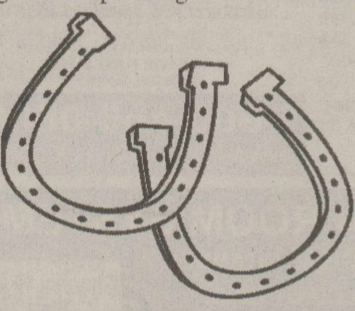
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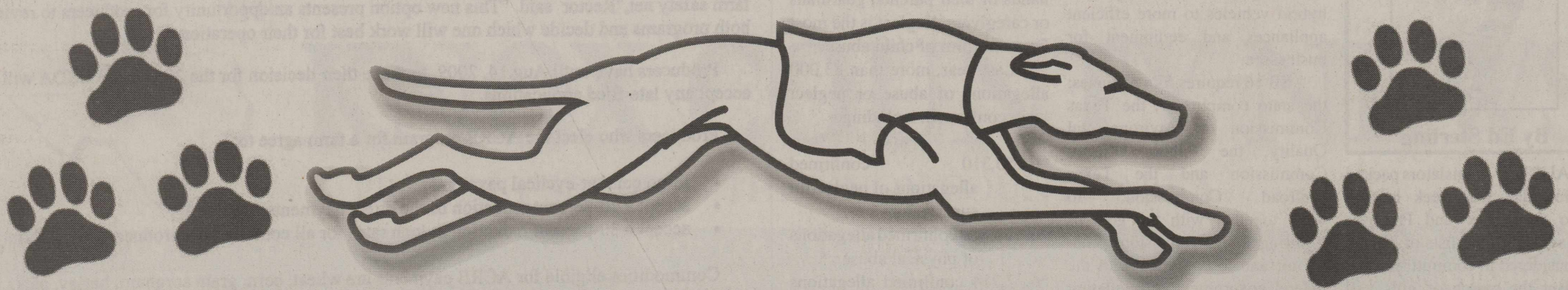
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KNOX CITY SPORTS



Knox City High School has every reason to celebrate this week with the Houndettes taking First place and the Hounds taking second at the District track meet.



ORDER OF CANCELLATION ORDEN DE CANCELACION

The City Council of the City of Knox City hereby cancels the election scheduled to be held on May 9, 2009 in accordance with Section 2.053(a) of the Texas Election Code. The following candidates have been certified as unopposed and are hereby elected as follows:

El Concejo de Knox City por la presente cancela la eleccion que, de lo contrario, se hubiera celebrado el 9 de Mayo, 2009 de conformidad, con la Seccion 2.053(a) del Codigo de Elecciones de Texas. Los siguientes condidatos han sido certificados como candidatos unicos y por la presente quedan elegidos como se halla indicado a continuacion:

Candidate (Candidato)	Office Sought (Cargo al que presenta candidatura)
Jeff Stanfield	Mayor
Danny Lewis	Council member
Heath Turner	Council member

A copy of this order will be posted on Election Day at each polling place that would have been used in this election.

El Dia de las Elecciones se exhibira una copia de esta orden en todas las mesas electorales que se hubieran utilizado en la eleccion.

Daniela Lector
City Administrator (Administrador de la ciudad)

Johnston
City Secretary (Secretaria de la ciudad)

(seal) (sello)

49-09
Date of adoption (Fecha de adopcion)

Houndettes District Champs!

The Knox City Houndettes showed spirit and determination in bringing home the 1st place trophy at the District Track Meet held Friday, April 10th at Jayton. In a field of 13 teams, they showed true grit! It took the combined efforts of the following Lady Thinclads to accomplish this feat:

- Seniors: Shelby Gutierrez, Mea Abila;
 - Juniors: Katelin Reed, Holly McCrary, Brittany Baker, Brittney Gonzales, Michelle Espinosa, Laura Vasquez;
 - Sophomores: Camille Ward, Lacey Pierce, Sabrina Benavides, Kaley Ainsworth;
 - Freshman: Cassidy Carter, Reagan Clark, Destini Billington, Tiffany Esquivel.
- Because of injuries, we were not able to see Whitney Collins (So.) or Toni Brown (Fr.) in action, but expect great things from them in the future.
- 3200m run = Michelle Espinosa 16:22 Tiffany Esquivel 17:31 Sabrina Benavides
 - *400 Sprint Relay = 1st place (Camille Ward, Shelby Gutierrez, Katelin Reed, Holly McCrary) 51.5
 - 800m run = Lacey Pierce 2:49 Brittany Baker 2:50 Cassidy Carter 2:54

- 100m Hurdles = 5th place (Reagan Clark) 19.29
- *100m dash = 1st place (Shelby Gutierrez) 12.42
- 4th place (Brittney Gonzales) 13.57
- *800 Relay = 1st place (Lacey Pierce, Katelin Reed, Camille Ward, Holly McCrary) 1:53.6
- 400m dash = Destini Billington 1:24
- 300m Hurdles = Reagan Clark 59.47
- *200m dash = 1st place (Shelby Gutierrez) 26.9
- Cassidy Carter 30.65 Brittney Gonzales 30.75
- 1600m run = Michelle Espinosa 6:54 Sabrina Benavides 7:23 Tiffany Esquivel 7:35
- *Mile Relay = 3rd place (Lacey Pierce, Cassidy Carter, Camille Ward, Holly McCrary) 4:32.7
- *Long Jump = 2nd place (Camille Ward) 15' 2 3/4"
- Destini Billington 13'6"
- Triple Jump = Reagan Clark 27'6", Destini Billington 27'6", Mea Abila 27'1"
- High Jump = 5th place (Cassidy Carter) 4'6"
- Discus = Laura Vasquez 52'
- Kaley Ainsworth 51'
- Shot Put = Mea Abila, Laura Vasquez, Kaley Ainsworth

Hounds Run in District Meet

The Knox City Greyhounds did very well this past week at the district track meet in Jayton. Placing Second the hounds showed that they are a force to be reckoned with and should not be over looked.

- District Track results:
- Derrick Coleman: 1st 400M 52.3, 2nd Triple Jump 41'3"
 - Jordan Carter: 1st High Jump 5'10"
 - Lannie Coleman: 4th 100m Dash 11.6
 - Marcell Lewis: 4th 200m Dash 23.6
 - Clay Clark: 5th 110 Hurdles 17.96,
 - Shane Strickland: 6th Shot Put
 - 400m Relay 1st place 45.1, Jordan Carter, Derrick Coleman, Zach Shaver, Marcell Lewis
 - 1600m Relay 1st Place

- 3,40,30, Jordan Carter, Derrick Coleman, Lannie Coleman, Ryan Ledesma
- The area meet is this week on Thursday, the running starts at 3:30 and the Field Events at 10:00 am at Trent Highschool. Qualifying for the area meet was:
- Derrick Coleman- Triple jump, 400m Dash, 400M Relay, 1600M Relay
 - Jordan Carter- High Jump, 400m Relay, 1600m Relay
 - Lannie Coleman- 100m Dash, 1600m Relay
 - Marcell Lewis, 200m Dash, 400m Relay
 - Zach Shaver- 400m Relay
 - Bandy Moeller-1600m Relay
 - Relay Alternates are Ryan Ledesma, Hosiel Rodriguez, MJ Abila

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State Capital HIGHLIGHTS



By Ed Sterling

AUSTIN - Legislators packed the four-day workweek leading up to the Easter and Passover holidays with long lists of bills to be considered in committees.

But the march of bills will grind down to a lower gear April 17 when the appropriations bill, HB 1, hits the House floor for a debate sure to be contentious.

Whatever the House ends up with will have to be reconciled with the Senate's CSSB 1, their \$182.2 billion version of a state budget for 2010-2011.

Meanwhile, other issues abound, such as road funding, projected to run out in 2012. The Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee met April 8, and Sen. John Carona, R-Dallas, who chairs the committee, said, "The course we're on will result in no new roads in Texas in the very near future."

The committee's vice chair, Sen. Kirk Watson, D-Austin, attributed the dwindling road construction fund balance to:

- The state gas tax, which has not been increased since 1991 to make up for ongoing cost increases in construction and maintenance;
- The bleed-off of dollars from the highway fund to pay for other state programs; and
- Too much debt.

So, Carona is proposing a funding solution via SB 855, a bill given tentative approval by the committee on April 8.

Carona's bill would permit a local governmental body to hold an election so voters could decide for themselves to raise funds through a bond issue or create fees to pay for local road projects. Such fees might include increases to the gas tax, vehicle registration fees or tailpipe emissions fees.

Under Carona's bill, an election ballot would list:

- Each proposed project that fee increases will fund;
- How much the project costs;
- When the project will be completed; and
- When the fee increases will expire.

Senate passes air quality bill The Senate on April 8 approved a

bill by Sen. Kip Averitt, R-Waco that would enhance air quality improvement efforts in Texas.

Averitt's SB 16, which now moves to the House for consideration, creates incentive programs for the purchase or development of so-called green technologies from plug-in hybrid vehicles to more efficient appliances and equipment for businesses.

SB 16 requires four agencies: the state comptroller, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Public Utilities Commission and the Texas Railroad Commission, to work together with the goal of lowering toxic emissions into the air and to negotiate with the federal government in regulating greenhouse gas emissions.

DPS challenges court ruling The Texas Department of Public Safety on April 10 announced its appeal of an April 9 ruling by Travis County state District Judge Orlinda Naranjo ordering the agency to issue driver licenses to temporary visitors and non-citizens who apply.

The ruling stems from a case brought by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

The appeal, the DPS said, means that DPS rules will remain in effect; non-citizens or temporary visitors to the U.S. who appear at DPS driver license offices will not be issued driver licenses if they do not meet the agency's current identification rules.

The DPS said one reason it is appealing the ruling is that it "could shut down the agency's ability to appropriately and securely identify driver license applicants."

State agency notifies peanut plant The Texas Department of State Health Services announced April 9 it assessed \$14.6 million in administrative penalties against Plainview Peanut Co. LLC.

On April 8, the agency notified the company of "alleged violations" including unsanitary conditions, product contamination, illnesses linked to consumption of peanuts from the plant and for operating almost four years without a food manufacturer's license from the state.

The DSHS on Feb. 12 ordered the plant to close and to recall all products shipped since it opened in 2005.

Lawmaker regrets remark made State Rep. Betty Brown, R-Athens, on April 11 issued an apology for a remark she made April 7 in a House Elections Committee meeting during which she asked if Asian Americans could adopt names "we could deal with more readily here."

THE UNSPOKEN ABUSE - NEGLECT

According to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), in 2008, 213 children died in Texas from abuse or neglect at the hands of their parents, guardians or caregivers. Neglect is the most frequent form of child abuse.

Last year, more than 83,000 allegations of abuse or neglect were confirmed, including:

- 50,310 confirmed allegations of neglectful supervision
- 14,858 confirmed allegations of physical abuse
- 7,714 confirmed allegations of physical neglect
- 6,468 confirmed allegations of sexual abuse
- 2,235 confirmed allegations of medical neglect

Nearly 200,000 Texas children are reported abused or neglected every year according to Child Protective Services, a division of DFPS. More than 14,000 children had to be removed from their homes in 2008 because of abuse or neglect.

BCFS offers several programs throughout Texas that provide counseling and training to parents in order to prevent child abuse, including Services to At-Risk Youth and its Universal Child Abuse Prevention program, Great Start, Families for a Future, Healthy Start, and Precious Minds New Connections. All are free of charge.

Communities can stop abuse and neglect by paying more attention to the condition of children, reporting suspected abuse, taking part in awareness campaigns, and supporting parenting education.

Suspect Neglect When You See:

- Obvious malnourishment
- Lack of personal cleanliness
- Torn or dirty clothing
- Stealing or begging for food
- Child unattended for long periods of time
- Need for glasses, dental care, or other medical attention
- Frequent tardiness or absence from school

To report child abuse or neglect, call Texas' 24-hour Abuse/ Neglect Hotline at 1-800-252-5400, or log onto

ACRE Program Enrollment Opens on April 27

Knox City, Texas, April 9, 2009 - John Rector, Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency in Knox County announced today that producers can elect and enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program beginning April 27, 2009. ACRE is a provision of the 2008 Farm Bill.

"The Average Crop Revenue Election program is an innovative alternative to the traditional farm safety net," Rector said. "This new option presents an opportunity for producers to review both programs and decide which one will work best for their operation."

Producers have until Aug. 14, 2009, to make their decision for the 2009 crop. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm agree to:

- forgo counter-cyclical payments;
- accept a 20-percent reduction of the direct payments; and
- accept a 30-percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm.

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, peanuts, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas and large chickpeas.

The ACRE program was created in the 2008 Farm Bill to give producers an option in lieu of traditional counter-cyclical payments. Producers may elect and enroll in ACRE for the 2009 crop year even if they have already accepted advance direct payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

To elect ACRE for a farm, producers must complete Form CCC-509 ACRE, which irrevocably elects ACRE for the farm through crop year 2012. Form CCC-509, the contract to participate in ACRE, must then be completed each year the producer intends to participate and receive benefits.

For more information about the ACRE program please visit your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

USDA RESPONDS TO PRODUCER CONCERNS BY EXTENDING SIGN-UP DATE FOR DCP AND ACRE PROGRAMS

Knox City, Texas, March 31, 2009 - CED - John Rector, Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency in Knox County, announced today that USDA has extended the sign-up deadline from June 1 to Aug. 14, 2009, for both the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the forthcoming Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. This action extends the sign-up deadline by 10 weeks to give producers ample time to decide whether to participate in ACRE or remain in DCP.

"Extending the sign-up deadline for both these programs ensure that America's farmers have enough information and time needed to determine if ACRE is the right program for their operational needs," said Rector. "The DCP and ACRE programs play a critical role in the farm safety net and it is vital that we act to support the hard work of the farmers we depend on."

Sign-up for ACRE is expected to start in late April, with an official sign-up announcement to be made in the coming weeks. Producers can elect ACRE at their FSA county office after the sign-up period commences. The original June 1 deadline may have forced producers to rush their decision, which is why this extension gives producers more time to make an informed decision about staying with DCP for 2009 or participating in ACRE for crop year 2009 and beyond through 2012.

The ACRE program, authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill, provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price. ACRE payments are made when both state and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments, receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. The decision to elect ACRE binds the farm to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Act.

For more information about ACRE, DCP and other price support programs, please visit your local USDA Service Center or your local FSA county office- Phone 940-658-3537. You can also obtain information on-line at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

www.txabusehotline.org. If you find a child in a life-threatening emergency, call 911 immediately.

Tracy Wayne Richardson is BCFS' Universal Child Abuse Prevention Specialist, providing education, awareness, and a clear understanding of how our community can impact the prevention of child abuse.

BCFS' four-part special feature raising awareness about child abuse will be distributed on Mondays during April. For an interview with Richardson or another certified BCFS counselor regarding child abuse prevention, please contact 210-283-5136. For more information about BCFS, please visit www.bcfs.net.

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and we're geared up and ready!

Along with our wide range of mowers, we have a full-time mechanic ready for any of your needs! We also pick up and deliver any lawn mowers purchased.

